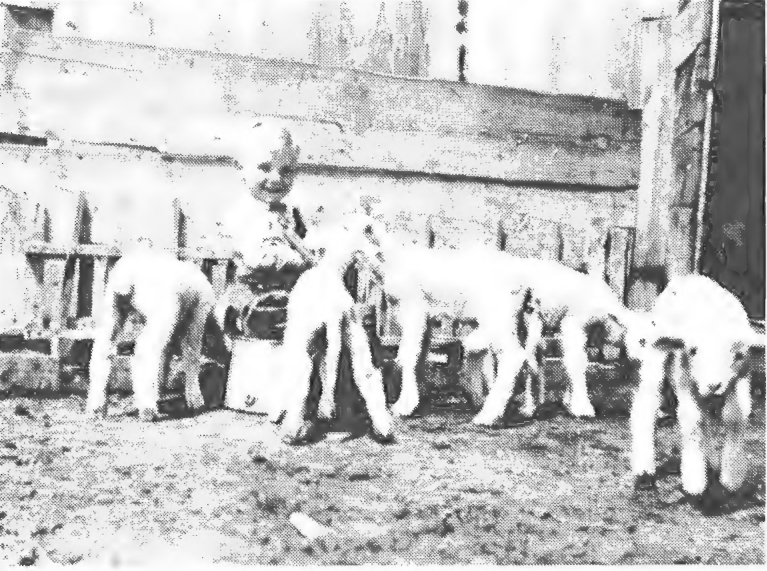
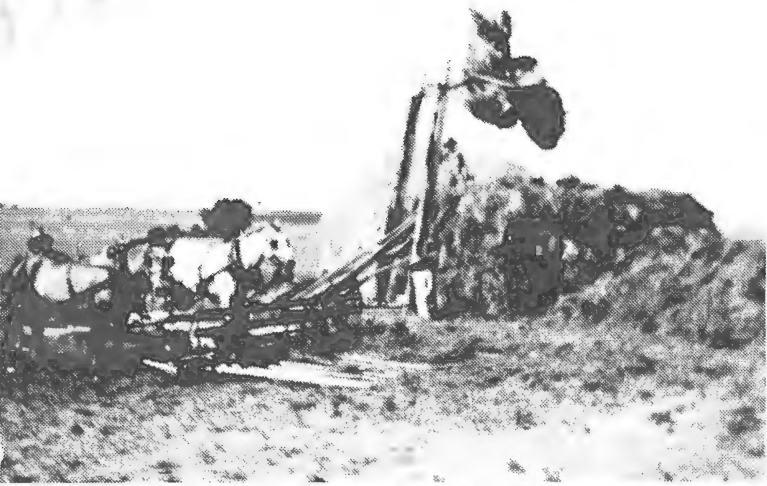


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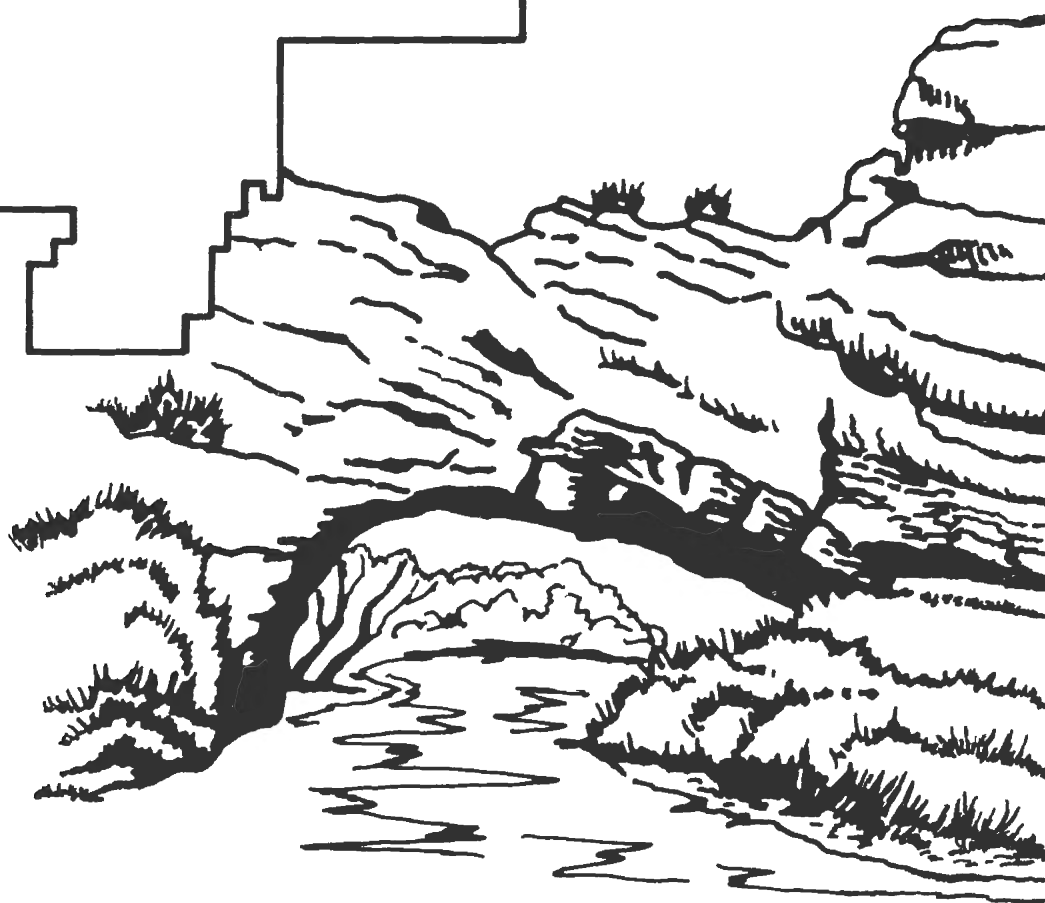
*Ray Taylor*







**PAGES FROM  
CONVERSE  
COUNTY'S  
PAST**



**1986**

**COVER:** Designed by Bill Dickerson.

Ayres Natural Bridge, located 15 miles west of Douglas, is named for the Alvah Ayres family on whose ranch it was located. LaPrele Creek flows underneath the bridge. The Ayres donated the bridge and land to Converse County for a public park.

**TITLE:** A contest was held to determine the title of this book. Ruth Lindmier Mitchell Grant of Lost Springs is the winner.

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John R. Pexton, Chairman  
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# Preface

*The story of the people of Converse County is a very interesting story. Who were they? Where did they come from? What did they do? They were fur trappers, fortune seekers, gold miners, coal miners, cowboys, cattle barons, remittance men, adventure seekers, railroaders, homesteaders, uranium miners and just plain folks. They came from all parts of the United States and the World and for many reasons, such as: health, wealth, adventure and the pursuit of happiness.*

*This then is the history of Converse County and of the people who founded it, settled it, ranched it, mined it, managed it, cried over it, fought for it, and died for it. To appreciate the County is to understand it better and how it came to be.*

# Acknowledgements

"Pages From Converse County's Past" had its beginnings several years ago when the LaBonte-Wagonhound Community had a series of meetings in which the history of its ranches and people were presented. Late in 1982 the project got further impetus when at the urging of Faun Cole a Heritage Book Committee was organized to gather the history of Converse County and its people and to put it into a published form.

The Heritage Book Committee has attempted with the cooperation of the Wyoming Pioneer Association, during the past three years, to obtain participation of all Converse County citizens, both present and past. The response was overwhelming. The histories and stories have been written by hundreds of individuals and reflect life and experiences as they remember them.

Some histories have been abridged but still retain the substance and style of each individual writer. Although the contents are historical, no attempt is made toward a documented history. Coverage is complete in so far as what information people furnished us and is only as accurate as their memories and their records.

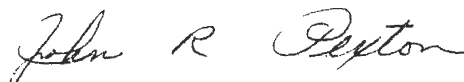
Special recognition is given to the Heritage Book Committee who planned, wrote, edited, typed, and proofread the chapters for this book. They are as follows: Sarah Nachtman, Velma Steckley, Faun Cole, Jewell Reed, Ruth Pellatz, John and Catherine Pexton, O. L. "Nick" Nicholls, Ruth Grant, Lee Ann Siebken, Gene Potter, Jacque Pexton, John Rider, June Wilchek, Agnes Higgins, Douglas Senior Citizens Center, Joan Pexton Woodin, Converse County Library, Converse County, Ada and Wilbur Wright, Vee Hageman, Gale Lane, Annie Laurie Danaher, Gladys Hill, Alice Vollman, Alice Bush, Audrey Munkres, Betty Alberts, Betty Pellatz, Esther Ryder, Ruby Preuit, Dorothy Taylor, Gerry Schmidt, Cherie Daly, Sana Conley, Sue Selby, and Len Sherwin.

A special thanks goes to Donna York for many, many hours spent on photography.

The committee is most appreciative of the cooperation and technical assistance it has received from the staff of Mountain States Lithographing Company in the publishing of this county history.

We are also very grateful for the help, encouragement and financial assistance of the Wyoming Pioneer Association.

As chairman of the Heritage Book Committee, the preparation of the book could not have been successful without the untiring efforts of my wife, Kati Pexton.



John R. Pexton  
Chairman, Heritage Book Committee

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# Converse County, Wyoming

Dakota Territory, a small part of the Louisiana Purchase, which was named after the Dakota Indians, paved the way for Converse County, Wyoming Territory.

The counties of Albany and Laramie were in Dakota Territory when the Territory of Wyoming was created in 1868. The Wyoming Legislature established the boundaries for the above counties shortly after the Territory of Wyoming received them from South Dakota. Twenty years later, in 1888, Converse County, Wyoming Territory was carved from the counties of Albany and Laramie.

The first definite move toward a county of our own was made at a mass meeting held in November 1886, at which time funds were pledged and a committee appointed comprising J. M. Wilson, DeForest Richards, C. F. Maurer, J. W. Foster, C. M. Garver, F. E. Caffey, C. H. King, C. E. Clay, W. R. Brown, and M. C. Barrow. The committee selected Clay and Barrow as being best acquainted in Cheyenne and Laramie and sent them down to visit these two towns, collect necessary data as to assessed valuation and in a general way, boost for a division. The Territorial Legislature convened January 10th following, at which Hon. C. A. Guernsey introduced the bill, which with some slight amendment, became the law where Converse County was created March 9, 1888. The new county was named after Amasa R. Converse, a Wyoming pioneer and Cheyenne banker. Governor Moonlight named E. J. Wells, J. M. Wilson, and J. K. Calkins as commissioners protem for the purpose of organization and they called an election May 15, 1888. Although a full complement of officers were to be elected the contest centered at once on the question of county seat. Douglas, Lusk, Glenrock and Fetterman were the candidates. At the last moment Fetterman withdrew and supported Lusk. The vote was counted May 18th and Douglas had won by a plurality of 1014. The following county officers were elected: Malcolm Campbell, Sheriff; C. M. Garver, Clerk; Ed J. Wells, Treasurer; F. H. Harvey, Attorney; Messrs. F. E. Wolcott, George H. Cross and E. T. David, Commissioners; W. R. Renwick, Coroner; S. Slaymaker, Assessor; and A. T. Seymour, Surveyor.

Seven new counties were added in 1911 by the State Legislature. Among these was Niobrara County, fathered by F. S. Lusk of Lusk. Niobrara was carved out of Converse County, which reduced the total area of Converse County considerably. According to "Bill Barlow's Budget" anniversary edition 1907, Converse County contained 6624 square miles of land. It stretched east and west for a distance of 170 miles and north and south for 92 miles at the widest part. The county presently covers approximately 4200 square miles. The area has historically been predominately agricultural with livestock production (beef cattle and sheep) as the principal source of agricultural income. Leasing and production of minerals is a very important source of income throughout the county.

Cattle were introduced into Wyoming Territory in the very early years. A few hundred breeding cattle were wintered on Chugwater Creek in 1852-1853 by trader Seth E. Ward. Alexander Majors reported starting the first breeding herd in Wyoming in 1862. The assessment rolls for Wyoming Territory listed 8143 head of cattle in 1870. From that time cattle numbers increased until they crested in 1884-1885 and 1886 when there were 1,500,000 head. These cattle were run pretty much on public land until the early 1880s when some barbed wire fencing was started, including fencing in of some public land by the private land owners. Cattle numbers in Converse increased proportionally with the state numbers until Converse County's assessed figures for 1984 were 81,607 head. According to 1955 figures on agricultural income in the state, 60 per cent came from cattle, 20 per cent from sheep and 20 per cent from crops.

The introduction of sheep into the country dates from the year 1878 when Jim Davis herded a small band down near Muskrat in the Rawhide Buttes. In about the year 1880, Wilson Brothers brought a band near Lusk; and about the year 1883, George Powell brought a band over to Lower LaPrele. These several ventures were unsuccessful due to a variety of causes. In 1889 John Morton and others came up from the Union Pacific Country with bands of sheep. In the year 1892 the Platte Valley Sheep Company was organized by J. M. Wilson, W. F. Hamilton and Governor DeForest Richards. The hard winter of 1892 wiped out 70 per cent of their herds. This company inaugurated the trail business from Oregon to this county; bought new herds and ultimately increased the company into a corporation worth \$200,000. The introduction of sheep met with decided opposition. Ranchmen and cattlemen objected to anyone invading what they considered their territory and the free use of the public range. Various altercations took place but the sheep business persisted and grew from a total number of sheep returned for assessment in 1890 at 10,733 to a total of 287,581 head in 1906 and the actual number of sheep was estimated at 500,000 head. The wool clip in Converse County in 1906 was over 3,500,000 pounds. Sheep numbers have fluctuated up and down over the years to a point where there are only 86,622 sheep recorded on the assessment role for 1984.

What is now Converse County, and in later years as "Fetterman Country" was, during the days of the Hudson Bay Fur Company and the life time of Laramie, Bridger and other historical trail blazers, the scene of probably the first mining excitement north of Santa Fe. These pioneers found outcroppings of silver and copper, but as they sank their prospect shafts the silver gave way to copper. Subsequently, in the days of '49, the California Argonauts on their way to the Golden Gate and soon after them the Mormons, in search of the promised land, prospected this region. They all found some silver and much copper; but owing to the lack of transportation and the low price of copper, they abandoned and left behind the treasures they had opened for future generations. Twenty years later Emanuel George, an intelligent and experienced prospector, came alone, found the old shafts and sank many of them to fifty feet. He found plenty of copper but little of the precious metals. Other prospectors would come and go but it was not until the early 1900s that any extensive and modern attempt was made to develop the mineral resources. These mines were situated throughout the county beginning at the extreme east end near Lusk and extending west to Glenrock. There were also good properties in the Laramie Peak district with ore rich in both copper and silver and developed by several open cuts and shafts, the deepest shaft being about 300 feet. Other developments were made in the LaBonte Canyon district, Warbonnet district, Elkhorn Mine south of Glenrock, the Saddle Mine in Mormon Canyon; the Surprise Mine at Hazenville and the Mewis Mine at Spring Canyon. The ore in most of the mines ran well in copper and some had good value in gold and silver.

Development of oil and gas in the Glenrock area began as early as 1910. Oil and gas is now a major industry, drawing from underground reserves in the Big Muddy Field near Glenrock, the South Glenrock Field and the newer Flat Top field on the eastern edge of the county. Other developments in more recent years make Converse County an important oil and gas producing area.

Other mineral developments such as uranium and coal have made a giant economic impact in the county. The Exxon Uranium Mine itself employed over 600 people at the time of its peak operation. Electricity, which depends for its output on some of the states largest coal deposits, is the best known manufactured commodity. Pacific Power and Light Company's Dave Johnston Steam-Electric Plant near Glenrock, was the largest in the Rocky Mountain Region when developed at a cost of over twenty-five million dollars. Other developments currently in production include Phillips Gas Plant and Bear Creek Uranium Mine. The Exxon Uranium Mine has completed its mining operation.

In the early 1900s several towns were of importance historically in the development of Converse County.

Douglas was born of industrial development, as a result of railroad extension through central Wyoming. The old Overland Trail passed within sight of the town; one of the frontier posts, Fort Fetterman, was situated only eight miles away and all travel between the Union Pacific and Fort McKinney and Fort Laramie and western points crossed here. Douglas became the county seat for the county and the hub of activity for the agricultural community.

Glenrock was a thriving coal mining camp of about 500 population and also enjoyed quite a ranch trade. The first settlement at the mouth of Deer Creek was called Mercedes. Later when coal was discovered the place was known as Nuttall after William Nuttall who first found and opened the mine. The name Glenrock was later suggested and adopted. The name had reference to the local glen which opens on the valley at that point, and a very picturesque rock just west of the town, known to early daycampers as the Rock in the Glen, where thousands of emigrants had camped enroute to the West.

Lusk was 50 miles east of Douglas, had a bank, a live newspaper, churches, schools, and probably 400 inhabitants. It depended for its trade almost entirely on surrounding ranches and the livestock industry. Lusk was originally known as Silver Cliff, from an old abandoned mine near there. The railroad later named the station after Mr. F. S. Lusk who was a prominent citizen of the town at the time.

Manville, 45 miles east of Douglas, was a thriving town of probably 250 people enjoying the trade of a thriving livestock and dry farming section. Based on the belief that a proposed northern extension of the Burlington would cross the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad, the first settlers named the town Fetterman Junction, which the railroad people changed to Manville in honor of a pioneer stockman.

In those days a politician who wished to be elected to a two-year term of office in Converse County was obliged to travel upon horseback or in a buckboard from ranch to ranch from the town of Glenrock in the western part of the county to the town of Lusk, in the eastern part of the county. Such a campaign took weeks to accomplish; therefore, even though a division of the county meant the loss of the prosperous town of Lusk and the town of Manville, Converse County officers were glad when the County of Niobrara was carved from Converse County.

Coal mining continues to play an important role in the economy of the area, mostly in Campbell County, but is becoming important in the northern part of Converse County. These mining operations prompted the Burlington Northern and Chicago Northwestern Railroads to build extensions to their lines from Orin Junction and Shawnee to the coal mines. The main line runs nearly the length of Converse County and was built in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The settlement of Bill, long a place with only a store, post office, community hall and school has taken on a new dimension. The railroad has increased activity in the area and added greatly to the valuation in the county. Tonnage on both of these railroad lines has shown a fantastic increase and has given the railroads an opportunity for a profitable operation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "O. L. Nicholls". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

O. L. Nicholls

# Land Acquisition By Homesteading

In the 1870s pioneer cattlemen depended almost entirely on free use of government land. Only one seventh of Wyoming's land had been surveyed by June 30, 1880. The territory had only the Cheyenne Land Office, 1870-1877. Other offices were opened in the state after 1877 and one was opened in Douglas in 1890. At these offices, under various laws, pioneer cattlemen acquired title to small amounts of land along streams where they established their headquarters. The Pre-emption Act of 1841 entitled citizens to squat on public land, until it was put up for sale, then they had first chance to buy up to 160 acres at \$1.25 per acre (\$2.50 within a railroad grant).

Under the Homestead Act of 1862, any person who was the head of a family or had arrived at the age of 21, was a citizen of the United States and who had never borne arms against the United States Government, was entitled to enter up to 160 acres of unappropriated public lands. He had to make an affidavit that the entry was made for purpose of actual settlement and cultivation and not for the use or benefit of anyone else. He had to maintain residence for five years. Commutation was possible after six months, (later changed to 14 months) that is, he could buy for \$1.25 per acre and thus avoid further residence and cultivation requirements. Fees had to be paid for homesteads varying from \$18.00 to \$43.00.

Under the Timber Culture Act of 1873 a person could get 160 acres free, paying the same fees as under the Homestead Act. To get these acres one had to plant, and keep growing, 40 acres of trees for eight years. In 1878 the required acreage of trees was cut to ten acres.

Another act under which land could be acquired was the Desert Land Act of 1877. Under this act one could buy up to 640 acres of desert land, (land that could not be successfully farmed without irrigation), for 25 cents per acre. The land could be occupied for three years, after which an additional one dollar per acre had to be paid to gain title. Meanwhile, water must be delivered to the desert land filing, and part of it irrigated, before patent could be obtained.

In 1909 Congress passed a 320 acre homestead law which doubled the amount of free land available to homesteaders in Wyoming. The enlarged Homestead Act brought more dry farmers to Wyoming.

In 1912 Congress lowered the homestead residence requirement from five years to three years and permitted the homesteader to absent himself from the property for five months each year.

In 1913 Congressman Frank Mondell proposed a 1280 acre grazing homestead law. Three years later, grazing homesteads were made available, but they were limited to 640 acres and the Federal Government retained the mineral rights.

The extraordinary prosperity enjoyed by farmers and ranchers in 1917 and 1918 persuaded many rural people to enlarge their holdings. Some large stockmen who were favorably situated with respect to free federal range, filed on what free land they could get under the 640 acre grazing Homestead Act.

Almost ten million acres of land were patented under the homestead laws in the decade of the 20s.



Another one and one half million acres passed to patent in the 1930s, before vacant, unreserved and unappropriated lands were withdrawn by executive order on November 26, 1934, after the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934. This executive order virtually ended homesteading, except on reclamation projects, and meant that the Federal Government would hold onto the bulk of its remaining land.

Thousands of homesteaders gave up in the 1920s and either abandoned their lands before patent or sold them to neighbors. They found it difficult to make a living because this period of farm depression reached almost everywhere and because little of Wyoming's land could be farmed successfully without irrigation and even less could be ranched successfully in 640 acre units.

Much of the deeded land in Converse County was obtained through homesteading under the various acts that were developed through the years.

Of particular interest is the LaPrele Irrigation Project, established by homesteading and in compliance with the Carey Act, which was adopted by Congress in 1894.

The Carey Act was designed to supply Federal and State aid to irrigation projects. It provided for donation, by the Federal Government, of up to one million acres of arid lands; to each state having such lands, on condition that the state cause the lands to be reclaimed and settled by actual settlers on small tracts.

Wyoming was the first state to accept the Federal Government's offer under the Carey Act. The Board of Land Commissioners and the State Engineer were given detailed assignments by the Legislature. They were to study the feasibility of proposals for irrigation works, advanced by individuals or companies, and to make contracts when the projects appeared sound. The State would charge the settler 50 cents per acre for the land and the private construction company would charge him \$20 or more, per acre, for perpetual water rights. By January 1897, eight projects had been approved in Wyoming and only two, in the Big Horn Basin, were pushed with any vigor.

The LaPrele Project had its beginning in 1905 when the LaPrele Ditch and Reservoir Company was organized to develop the irrigation system to serve 27,000 acres. Included were 18,000 acres to be developed in compliance with the Carey Act.

The LaPrele proved to be the largest irrigation development in the county and was economically important to Douglas and Converse County.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "O. L. Nicholls". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

O. L. Nicholls



# Abney, James, Frances and Opal

James M. Abney was born on January 20, 1860, in Savannah, Missouri to Jackson and Margaret Abney. His mother's maiden name was Moody.

His family moved to Nebraska where his father was a contractor on the construction of the Union Pacific R.R. in the early 1860's.

At an early age James M. joined his brother James C. in Cheyenne in a joint livestock venture. James C. was later to operate the first stage and mail line between Cheyenne and Fort Laramie. He also ran a livery barn in Cheyenne. Their sister Margaret married James Caragher.

James M. was a Rep for several of the big cow outfits in the Goshen Hole country. He worked for the Wyoming Stock Growers as an inspector in 1887.

Mrs. Frances Bacon, the widow of Billy Bacon, and James M. were married on November 19, 1886. Frances, the daughter of John and Margaret Oates Gill, was born on October 17, 1859 in Pennsylvania. Frances had an adopted daughter, Eula E. Erben.

James and Frances homesteaded on Little Boxelder Creek, close to where the Bill Barber ranch buildings are now located. A water right was filed in 1886 by James on Little Boxelder.

Eula married Percy Brockway on June 9, 1904. Previous to her marriage, she had taught school for \$15.00 a month in schools nearby.

Frances died on July 20, 1927.

James married Opal Entzminger on October 2, 1929.

Rachel Entzminger Reider, daughter of Opal tells about her mother, herself and James Abney in the following story:

In the summer of 1921, my mother, Opal Entzminger, 35 years old, and I, Rachel Entzminger Reider, nine years old, came to Douglas from southeastern Kansas. Mother wanted to file on a homestead. I suppose she came to Douglas because the land office was there. We stayed at the LaBonte Hotel our first night there.

We found a room with Mrs. Frank Malecky and lived

there a few months. Mother applied for work at all the banks. There were no vacancies but she was advised to go see L. B. Potter, an insurance agent. Mr Potter suggested that she be a public stenographer. For helping with his work she could have office space. His younger partner, H. H. "Red" Wyne let her use his typewriter for taking care of the correspondence for the commercial club of which he was secretary.

She did stenographic work for Paul Showalter, an attorney. She typed menus every day for at least one cafe. She also reconciled bank statements for small businesses that didn't have bookkeepers. Occasionally she took down court proceedings for people who were involved in suits whose offices were in other localities. It was interesting work and a very good living until other people saw the possibilities and there were too many in the business for any to make a living.

Next, she worked for a while as a clerk in the A. R. Merritt store. She much preferred bookkeeping and when there was a vacancy at the Douglas Mercantile Co., she went to work there. Billie Burgess was manager. Later she worked for Charles Clark at a plumbing shop. It was while she worked there that she met James Abney, whom she married in 1929.

Mother had the idea that one could find a square mile exactly like that - all in one piece and close to town. That wasn't the case. There were 80 acres here and there - 160 someplace else. The land parcels had to be within 20 miles of each other. This made it considerably harder to find land to file on. She finally got it put together; 80 acres were by the highway about seven miles from Douglas between Douglas and Orin; 240 acres were in the Irvine Community, partly in the "badlands"; a half section was north of Shawnee.

We built the traditional tar paper shack near a well she had drilled. The yard was fenced, a garden plowed, a clothesline put up. All those things were to make it look as if it were really a home. She used to do the washing there so people could testify they had seen clothes on the line. We did raise a garden. Since she had to work we could only go out weekends.

At first we had no car so we would ride out with Vincent Merritt as far as his place and walk over to the homestead. It was a good mile. Mr Merritt offered to drive us over, but mother refused. We had to carry our groceries. She had a black oilcloth bag with two handles. We'd carry it between us. We only had to go out seven months a year so we didn't go out in the winter. In 1926, we bought a Model T. Ford coupe. That made life easier. We also had a garage built. We often took a friend out to spend the weekend with us. Once we had all the groceries stolen, but I can't remember any really bad experiences. She finally "proved up." Eventually she sold the 80 acres to Fritz Reed; the Irvine land to T. Lee Reno; and the half section to Harry Crawford.

I attended the old North Grade School from the fifth to eighth grade and graduated from high school in 1929. That fall I entered the University of Colorado and Mother and Mr. Abney were married. They moved to the ranch in January. Mother still kept books for Mr. Clark and continued to on a part time basis as long as he was in business. The big depression was beginning, although at the time we didn't realize that was in store. Mr. Abney



L. to R. James Abney, unknown, unknown, Mrs. Frances Abney, O. D. Ferguson.

died on June 20, 1930, and we were left with a ranch, a mortgage and little experience. I continued in college for three years. At that time, money was very scarce and my own father's estate suffered losses. So I stayed home and taught school.

My first school was at Rhea Tillard's where I taught their two children. That was a result of the depression for them too. They had a house in town, but they could rent it and not keep up two households. They charged me \$20.00 a month board and had to turn it back to the school district. The district wouldn't hire a teacher for less than four pupils unless the parents paid \$10.00 per month for the students they lacked. My salary was \$76.00 per month for eight months.

The next two years I taught at the Boy Scout camp on Box Elder Creek at \$75.00 for nine months. I taught two of the Tom Brubaker children and the caretaker's grandchildren. After that I was at the Tank Farm for a year. Jim Robinson and his twin sister Elizabeth, two of Robert Hildebrand's children and Bobby Harris, who was the manager's son, were my pupils.

The last school was at Careyhurst. I was there two years. The first year a lot of children came and went during the fall when crops were being harvested and railroad work done. The Cadys and McGeehees were the permanent ones although the Cadys left that winter. The last year I had only Silas and Mabel McGeehee. My salary had been increased each year until I was making \$90.00 a month.

Mother stayed on at the ranch until 1942. We often wondered how we could meet the payments when they came due but something always seemed to happen. She sold the cattle and leased the pastures. There were a series of young men, old men and couples who worked for her.

In 1938, I was married to L. C. "Pink" Reider. He had come to Wyoming in 1933 while I was teaching at Tillards. He came with a friend, Bob Crakes, a nephew of Joe Reynolds. In the spring he went to work at the CY Ranch. Eventually he became cattle foreman. We lived on the CY for about three years. The depression was beginning to level out, and Mother was finding it harder to employ help. So we moved to the Abney ranch and lived there from 1942 to 1948.

After World War II started, Mother went to work at the Casper Air Force Base. She was transferred to Ogden, Utah, where she met and married Frank Sorensen. They owned grocery stores in New Mexico and Utah, finally settling in Hot Springs, South Dakota, where they lived until their deaths. Mother died in 1980 and he in 1982.

While we were in Wyoming, we became parents three times. Carol Rae was born in 1940, Robert J. in 1942, and Julia Ann in 1945.

In 1948 we sold the ranch to O. D. Ferguson and bought another between Edgemont and Hot Springs, South Dakota. We ranched there until 1975 when ill health forced us to retire. We sold the ranch and are now living in Hot Springs, South Dakota.

Rachel Entzminger Reider

## Adams, John Q. and Lydia

John Q. Adams was born Nov. 28, 1839 in Georgetown, Ohio. He was in the jewelry business in Ohio and came to Douglas in 1889 with his wife Lydia Howater. They had three children: William, Earl and Edna.

He had a jewelry store in Douglas — "Watch Repair a Specialty" — and also served two terms as Converse County Treasurer from Jan. 1897 to Jan. 1901. His salary was \$250. per quarter. He left Douglas and in 1902 was appointed first Postmaster in Tucumcari, New Mexico.

Son William Ernest Adams, born in Harrisonville, Ohio Jan. 29, 1881, received his early education in Douglas and attended the University of Wyoming. He joined the U.S. fighting forces in 1898 for service in the Spanish-American War and served 17 months.

In April 1905, Ernest married Josephine Jarchow; they had two sons: William E. Adams, now of Austin, Texas, and John Q. Adams, now of Glendo. Josephine died in 1910, and the two young boys were cared for by their grandmother, Mrs. William Jarchow.

Ernest, for many years, was foreman for the Platte Valley Ranch near McKinley, Wyoming. In early summer Ernest and other hired men would go to Hepner, Oregon for the Platte Valley Ranch and buy 60,000 sheep, divide them into 10 bunches of 6000 and drive them home to sell.

In 1935 Ernest became nationally known as the busiest mayor in the United States and was depicted in the American Magazine "Who's Who". He was mayor of Glendo for several years.

Joanna Lawrence

## Alberts, Henry and Mary

Henry H. Alberts, an early-day resident of Converse County, was ranch foreman for one of the largest ranches in the county in the early 1900's. He arrived in Wyoming with a buckboard, one horse and all his belongings packed in one trunk.

Henry was born to Genie and Mary Alberts in Deadwood, South Dakota on February 14, 1885. His parents had emigrated from Germany a few years before and lived and worked in the Deadwood, South Dakota area. Mary's health was not good so the family returned to Germany when Henry was about five or six years old. At age 16, Henry decided to return to South Dakota so he boarded a ship for the United States. He worked on various jobs in the Deadwood area, then worked on ranches in Niobrara County, Wyoming before coming to Converse County. In Converse County he hired out to the Mountain Home Ranch owned by Roscoe Cray of New York. The ranch headquarters were located west of Glenrock and is now owned by the Valentine family. Ed and Helga Smith were managers of the Mountain Home at that time as Cray spent most of his time in New York.

On one of Henry's trips to the 1924 Wyoming State Fair in Douglas he met Mary Rudloff at the LaBonte Hotel where she was staying after arriving from Illinois



Henry H. Alberts

to homestead in Wyoming. He invited her to a day at the fair. Since he had no car he had to rent one for the occasion! Henry and Mary were married June 1, 1925 in Douglas.

Their first home on the Mountain Home Ranch was a small place on Sand Creek about a mile from Monkey Mountain north of Glenrock. In the fall of 1925 Henry and Mary moved to Fort Fetterman (then a part of the Mountain Home Ranch) where they lived in the fort headquarters supervising this end of the ranch operation. There was lots of hay to be put up, so Mary cooked for the crew on her new blue enamel stove which was a dream in itself! Some of the "hands" were life-long residents of Douglas including William Sundquist, Rodney Sundquist, Leslie Sundquist, Jack Bennett, Slim Richards, Ralph Olds and Harry Brewer to name a few. When the hay crew finished, the sheep crew moved in to work sheep in the fall, so there was always plenty of cooking to do on the

dream stove.

While living at Fort Fetterman, Lila Mae was born March 9, 1926 and Henry Eugene, March 6, 1931. One morning after Lila was born, Mary mentioned to Henry that she was worried there was not going to be enough milk for the baby. Henry was just walking out the door to feed their cow who had a new-born calf. He didn't come back for the longest time and Mary began to wonder what in the world he was doing. When he did come in he had a bucket of milk in his hand and said "We'll have enough milk now." He had killed the calf and buried it.

In 1929, the Mountain Home Co. sold the Fort Fetterman Ranch so Henry and his family had to leave. When they left, Ed and Helga gave them a team and wagon, a cow and the chickens that were on the Fort. Henry and Mary moved to a small place close to Orpha and farmed there for about a year and a half. Robert Allen was born at Orpha on September 26, 1934. After Robert was born, Henry took a job herding sheep for Frank Amspoker and Mary moved into Douglas.

While working on the Amspoker Ranch, Henry saw one of the strangest episodes he had ever seen in Germany, South Dakota or Wyoming! Gertrude Sundquist had been watching the sheep for Henry while he was doing another job. Gertrude came tearing up on her wild-eyed horse shouting that a coyote was chasing a bear and they were BOTH headed for the band of sheep. Henry yelled at other workers on the ranch and they started in the direction of the bear and coyote to head them off. The bear, seeing this "wild bunch" coming (two on horseback, four in an auto), promptly turned tail. The coyote facing the bear, horsebackers and auto decided it was in his best interest to turn tail too...so now the bear is chasing the coyote! After a speedy chase the bear was killed. The story was printed in issues of the "Douglas Budget" on June 16 and July 21, 1938. A photograph substantiating the story shows the group with the bear at the Amspoker Ranch after the excitement had cooled. The bear was footsore from his long travels and is the only known bear around here to have been seen in such open country as Sage Creek.

Henry passed away suddenly on October 13, 1938, however, many of his children and their children spent their entire lives in Converse County.

After his death, Mary married Fayette Harris. Robert Allen was a small child when he lost his father and could not remember him, so was adopted by Fay Harris and then had the name of Robert "Beeb" Harris. The children grew to manhood and womanhood and Lila Mae married Alvin "Sonny" Burgland in June 1944. They divorced and she married George Tarrant on May 28, 1949. To this union two children were born, Chris and Steve. Lila was killed in an accident December 22, 1972 in Casper, Wyoming. Henry Eugene married Betty Tiedt on October 4, 1951 whose children were Dale LeRoy and Deborah Dee. Robert Allen married Janet VanDine, October 7, 1953 and they had two boys, Greg and Richard and three girls, Joyce, Julie and Judy.

Betty Alberts



## Alexander, Joe and Bea Family

This story of Joe and Bea Alexander is written by their daughter, Iris, who makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of her memory.

Joe's father, Benjamin Norman Alexander, was a farmer in South Carolina. Cotton and corn were their cash crops. They gardened and raised hogs to feed the three boys and four girls that they raised.

Joe was born February 15, 1895, in Pickens County, South Carolina.

Joe, as a boy and young man, wanted most of all, to be a railroad engineer. When he graduated from high school he applied and was accepted at a school that trained engineers. He had to have \$20.00 cash for his first month's rent and food. He was unable to raise the cash, therefore he was not able to attend the school. To his dying day he loved trains.

Joe first came to Converse County in 1915. He followed his uncle, E. Crayton Alexander to Wyoming, as did his brothers, Walter Lee and Elbert Houston Alexander. I do not know where Joe first worked, but I remember stories of his driving teams of mules and horses to carry freight from town to the ranch. And stories of cooking for cowboys were related, too.

He went into the United States Navy during World War I and served aboard the *USS Rhyandam*. He crossed the Atlantic Ocean 28 times. He shoveled coal in the boiler rooms. Can you imagine the hot, back breaking job that must have been?

After the war, in January of 1922, he returned to Wyoming and went to work for Bill Eastman. A pretty young woman named Beatrice Elaine Runnion, daughter of Ace Ellio and Jennie E. Runnion (born February 9, 1902 in Ponca City, Oklahoma) followed her sister, Hallie Smith, to Douglas and she went to work for Mrs. Eastman where she and Joe met. They were married September 16, 1922 at the Presbyterian Church in Douglas.

Joe went to work for a Mr. Johnson on a dairy on the north edge of town. They were furnished a teeny little



Joe Alexander and his first milk wagon at the Pershing Dairy, Douglas, 1922.

house, milk products and were paid a salary of \$1.00 per day.

Joe went to work for a Mr. Judevine at the Judevine Creamery and he and Bea moved to a little brick house on North Fourth and Antelope Creek. Their daughter, Iris, was born while they lived there.

Joe and Bill Ames, of Casper, formed a partnership and bought the Creamery from Mr. Judevine. Mr. Ames owned a malt shop-restaurant in Casper. He used the creamery products in the shop and also distributed the products to customers in Casper (wholesale/retail). Joe operated the Creamery.

Somewhere in those years, they started buying registered Golden Guernseys and had a nice dairy herd at the Johnson Dairy north of Douglas. One evening, due to the spontaneous combustion of hay kept in the loft (it was reported), the barn caught on fire and they lost most of their herd.

They moved the remainder of the herd to a ranch out of Casper and a Mr. Willie came into the partnership and they rebuilt their herd. Later, the partnership broke up so Joe bought the Henry Bolln Ranch and brought his cattle there. Hugh and Beulah Alexander ran the ranch for him and they frequently let a little "city girl" (Iris) come stay with them.

Later Joe sold the Bolln Ranch and bought a ranch west of the river and had his dairy there. During World War II, the U.S. Government confiscated a large portion of his acreage to build a prisoner of war camp. With his acreage limited, Joe sold his beloved Guernseys to ranchers and farmers in the area in order that he could keep the cows in the area to buy their milk for the Creamery. He also sold the ranch.

He bought Bill Ames' share of the Creamery in the 1940's and sold the business to Meadow Gold Company in 1954.

He worked hard all of his life. He manufactured a prime product at fair prices and never cheated anybody in his life.

In days when Douglas' water supply was not as dependable as it probably is now, many a summer evening, after supper, we'd all drive down to "check the ice machines". That was supposed to take "only a minute" but if water pressure was low, he'd spend hours down there trying to keep the ice machines and refrigeration machinery going.

Warren and I frequently went out to the car and went



Joe and Bea Alexander on their 50th wedding anniversary.

to sleep in the car. No matter how hot it was, we'd roll up the windows and lock all the doors because we were afraid of the hobos who rode the rails. When the freight trains came through town, the hobos would drop off and go around town looking for work or for something to eat. Dad always carried the day's money and that always worried Mother. I guess they didn't have night depositories in those days and anyway he needed cash to start the next day's business.

He worked 12, 14, 16 hours a day (and more) seven days a week. Even in the evening some restaurant or cafe would call up for something if they hadn't ordered enough during the day. Winter or summer he'd deliver it to them.

He was a 50-year member of the Samuel Mares Post of the American Legion.

He furnished and packed more gallons of free ice cream to churches and service clubs than I care to think about.

Prior to World War II, when things were economical-ly tough, many a family got milk for their children whether they could pay their bills or not.

Bea and Joe purchased a house at 409 North 5th Street in about 1929. Their son, Warren, was born while they lived there. In 1941 they bought the Speer house at 700 South 5th Street where they lived until their deaths, Bea on July 27, 1974 and Joe on June 29, 1977.

Bea would have liked to have been a nurse, however she did not have the opportunity to pursue that career. Her dad died and left her mother with a bunch of little kids. Bea left school early and went to work to help her mother with the kids. Then she came to Wyoming, got married and her husband, kids and family became her "career", as ladies did in those days. She was a fine daughter, wife and mother. She was a good cook, a good housekeeper, she gardened and raised flowers. She did beautiful embroidery and crocheting. She belonged to the American Legion Auxiliary. She enjoyed her family and friends.

Their daughter, Iris, married David Dean Ditzler of Douglas on January 12, 1947. Dave was in the U.S. Navy until 1964 when he retired and they moved to Mountlake Terrace, Washington. They have four sons and one grandson.

Their son, Warren, married Lanora Mathis of Gainesville, Florida on April 12, 1952. Warren served in the Air Force during the Korean War, and now lives in Kalispell, Montana. He and Lanora have three sons and one grandson.

Iris Alexander Ditzler

## Alexander, Walter L. Sr. and Edna Family

Dad was the second child of seven born to Benjamin Norman and Martha Ann Alexander on January 1, 1897, in Pickens, South Carolina.

After attending schools in North and South Carolina, his adventuresome spirit brought him to Wyoming with an uncle in the spring of 1916 at the age of 19. He went to work as a roustabout for the Lightning Creek Livestock Company until the fall of 1916 when he returned to South

Carolina. He remained there until spring of 1918 and again returned to Douglas to make it his permanent home.

He went to work for Mike Williams, north of Douglas, on the Williams Sheep Company Ranch. This was the beginning of his love for Wyoming and his desire to be a landowner and raise cattle one day. He became foreman at Williams Sheep Company and worked there for eight years. He took up a homestead in the Walker Creek community, later selling to the Williams Sheep Company as many of the employees did. He used this money to get started on his own place on LaBonte Creek later on.

He used to tell me tales of his travels to the town of Douglas by horse and wagon for supplies for the ranch and of the whiskey staches along the way which the revenuers were always looking for. He loved to tell stories about the old time dances and referred to them as good "boot stomping" times. He also told of his trapping for wolves (not coyotes) and using his money from the sale of these furs to buy his first car.

On November 30, 1925, he married Edna Ann Pfeifer, daughter of Andreas and Anna Pfeifer. They made their home on Duck Creek. I remember Mom telling me of their first home they had - how it had been used as a sheep barn, and they had to chase the sheep out and clean it up to make the home livable.

To this couple were born two sons and one daughter, Walter Lee Alexander, Jr. (deceased), born September 17, 1926, died April 12, 1982, Donald Andrew Alexander, born April 4, 1936, and Shirley Ann Alexander Forgey born March 30, 1946.

In 1940, Dad purchased the Archie Picklesimer ranch on LaBonte Creek from Saul & Zimmerman. On the Picklesimer place, an old two story horse barn and hay mow had been built in the late 1800's. It was a huge barn with two large storage sheds attached to each end. This barn withstood many winds and floods until the flood of 1970. That flood took every last bit of the old barn including the rock foundation and scattered bits and pieces up and down the LaBonte Creek. I remember the flood also took the bridge out, and I still have visions of the people from neighboring communities and town coming out and parking on top of the hill at the White School House and walking down the road to see the debris left by the flood. The water managed to reach as high as the foundation of the house which was an old timer too. Dad and Mom had built on additions but the main kitchen, porch area and dining room had been an old dance hall at one time. At least it withstood the flood. Because of the high water, when the time came for my husband and me to build a home, we moved and elevated the new house to where it now stands because of the memories of this flood.

Dad and Mom lived here on the LaBonte until 1975, raising Hereford cattle and crossbreeding them with Charolais bulls. In 1975 they retired and moved to 231 North Fifth Street in Douglas and lived there until their tragic car accident on September 22, 1976, which claimed both of their lives.

Shirley Alexander Forgey

## Allen, Harvey and Edith Family

Originally the plantation home of Hugh and Mary E. (Driscoll) Allen was in Virginia. The family, of Scottish descent, consisting of the parents and two children, a son and a daughter, evidently became weary of the terrible fighting between the Union and Confederate Armies. When the son, Harvey Preston, was a very young boy the family moved to Lawrence, Kansas. Of course they couldn't escape from the conflict because in 1863 Quantrill's Raiders burned Lawrence to the ground.

Harvey, born on November 25, 1860, received his common school education in the public schools of Kansas; his schooling was not extensive. As was the case with many families of that time, Hugh and Mary were not able to afford to support their children after they were old enough to support themselves. Therefore, Harvey made his way to the west, arriving in Colorado when he was but 16 years of age. He lived in Denver for a time and later was hired by a man named Bell who ran a freighting business. Beginning in 1880 and continuing until 1887, Harvey worked as a bull whacker. "Preacher Bull Whacker" Bell would not hitch up on Sundays. Instead, he would hold prayer meetings and preach to his bull whackers. It was said that no man could drive bulls unless he could swear, and though Bell was a religious man, he sometimes forgot himself, especially when his wagon got stuck.

Harvey freighted out of Colorado for a time, but later in the summer of 1882, drove the road from Rock Creek on the Union Pacific Railroad to Fort McKinney near Buffalo. Eventually, in the interest of saving time, the bull teams were replaced by mule teams. They freighted the Rock Creek to Ft. McKinney route, also known as the



Mrs. Harvey (Edith) Allen at the state fair.



Harvey Allen Sr. and Harvey Allen Jr. at the Buckshot Ranch.

Ft. Fetterman Road, until the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad reached Douglas in 1886. Then they freighted from Douglas to Buffalo.

Harvey quit the freighting business in favor of homesteading in 1887. He filed on a claim southwest of Douglas, which he named the "Buckshot". He also opened a livery stable in the same year in the town of Douglas, part of which is still standing on Center Street, east of the railroad tracks. Harvey kept his homestead for five years, raising cattle and sheep; but in 1892, disposed of his land to the Cross family and devoted his time exclusively to the livery barn.

Edith Clair McAllister, a full-blooded Scotswoman, was united in marriage to Harvey P. Allen in Stockville (or Curtis), Nebraska on September 23, 1889. Edith was born May 25, 1873 in Sedan, Chautaugua County, Kansas. When Edith was a young child, the family traveled to Camp Supply, Oklahoma by covered wagon. Here her father, George McAllister, was commissary manager for Stith and Watkins, a large ranch outfit.

Edith and her brother Vern attended the Osage Mission School. Edith remembered a herd of about 2,700 head of Longhorn steers was brought to the ranch from Texas. Her mother, Mary Jane Crosby McAllister, was given the honor of branding the first steer, which had a horn spread of over six feet. The cowboys had to cut twelve inches off of each horn in order to run the animal down the chute, and even then, his head had to be turned sideways so he could pass.

Later, the McAllister family moved to Rico, Colorado, a mining camp where Mr. McAllister was manager and his wife cooked for the miners. After completing this job, Mr. McAllister went to Arizona in search of work and his family moved to Kingston, Illinois. During that winter, while George was eating his supper in his bunkhouse, he was shot by an Indian.

Mrs. McAllister subsequently went to Nebraska to visit friends, and while there, filed on a homestead. Edith helped with the plowing and planting. The dwelling on the homestead was of sod. The family lived there for about

three years, and then the mother went to Curtis, Nebraska to cook for cash at a hotel. Vern worked for the friends and Edith stayed alone at the homestead.

Drawn by stories of Douglas, described as a bustling, growing western town, Mrs. McAllister and Edith traveled in 1887 to Wendover by train and then by stagecoach to Douglas. Enroute, the stage became stuck in the mud at the McDermott Ranch, where Mr. McDermott pulled the stage out of the mud for \$5.00. The passengers had to take up a collection to pay for the service.

In Douglas, Mrs. McAllister bought a restaurant, financing the venture with money borrowed against her homestead. The restaurant was located on North Second Street.

Edith and Harvey met each other in front of the College Inn, underneath the cottonwood tree by the town pump. Edith was 16 years old when she and Harvey were married in Stockville, Nebraska. On the trip back to Douglas, the stagecoach driver became intoxicated. Another passenger, W. C. "Billy" Irvine, persuaded Harvey to take over the reins. So, as Mrs. Allen said, "the young Lochinvar of the West drove his bride into the cow town of Douglas."

The Allens were the parents of four children, two boys and two girls. The eldest was Verna, who was born on May 26, 1890. Doris was the second child, followed by Robert, and then Harvey Preston, Jr. All these children were born in Douglas.

Mrs. Allen was active in many projects in the young town of Douglas, including membership on the first board committee of the Wyoming State Fair along with Miss Dickson, Dr. Wilson, John Flynn and L. J. Swan. She was active in the needlework and culinary departments, being in charge of the entering and displaying of the exhibits.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen belonged to the Dancing Club in the early 1900's. Upon completion of the Temple Ballroom, members wore evening dress — tuxedos for the men and train gowns for the ladies.

Mr. Allen at one time was Mayor of Douglas, Converse County Commissioner, and deputy-sheriff under Malcolm Campbell, during which time Harvey arrested Mike Shonsey, the killer of Dudley Champion.

Harvey apparently had a quick temper. At one time, he took offense at something Merris Barrow had printed in "The Budget." He met Mr. Barrow in front of the J.J. Steffen Drug Store and words were exchanged. The words became heated and Harvey promptly hit Barrow and knocked him through the plate glass window.

In their later years, Mr. and Mrs. Allen spent much of their time, especially their winters, in southern California. Harvey died in 1948 at the age of 88. Edith continued to live in California in the winters and spent the summers in Douglas until she died on January 15, 1966 in Los Angeles. She was 92 years old. Both are buried in the Douglas Park Cemetery, along with Mrs. Allen's mother.

Their eldest daughter, Verna, married Ronald L. Swan, the son of another prominent Douglas pioneer family, the L. J. Swans.

Ruth Grant

## Amend, Heinrich and Anna Family

The German-Russian is in fact a pure German who moved to the United States from Russia. Their history in Russia goes back to the 16th century when Czar Ivan The Terrible invited German officers, technicians, craftsmen, merchants, and scholars, particularly to Moscow to help build the city.

Nearly 200 years after Ivan, the Empress Catherine II The Great, issued a manifesto inviting rural-agriculture Germans to settle in her adopted land of Russia. Catherine, born Princess Sophia Augusta Frederica at Stettin in the German state of Anhalt-Zerbst, remembered the hard working intelligent people of her native land of Germany when she realized the need for increased cultivation of vast areas of untilled lands in Russia. The manifesto dated July 22, 1763 guaranteed freedom of religion, enforced military service, taxation, and the right to leave Russia whenever they desired. In addition, each family was granted land, not ownership of the land, but the right to use the land forever. Fathers were also allowed a parcel of the land for each son with the youngest son inheriting his father's land rights.

The response to Catherine's invitation was large. Whole villages sometimes emigrated "en masse". Frequently an entire family unit, such as the Amends, moved to the Black Sea and Volga River areas. They kept close to themselves, retaining their language and customs, and marrying only Germans.

For about 100 years the arrangement of special privileges for Germans in Russia was preserved, but a sharp reversal in official policy came in 1871 with the abrogation of Catherine's manifesto. From that time on, taxes were due, enforced military service was required, records were to be kept in the Russian language, and under Alexander III, a Danish Emperor, an anti-German policy began.

Unrest in the country spread rapidly. Cruel treatment was common. One story is that Russian soldiers living off the land could ride into a farmstead, order a meal of "turkey oysters" (that delicate round morsel of dark meat nestled on either side of the spine of a turkey) and require the farmer to slaughter enough of his flock to provide a meal of this delicacy. As the soldier rode off, the farmer, with no refrigeration to preserve the remaining parts of the birds, could only watch the winter food supply spoil. With the increased tensions, a few of the German-Russians left Russia to settle elsewhere and those few were followed by a flood.

They left at first with the consent of the Russians going to Canada where an 1872 law allowed a homestead of 160 acres to be taken for ten dollars, or to America where the Homestead Act of 1862 opened up the Mid-West to settlement. As their numbers increased, they were sometimes forced to leave Russia in darkness and secrecy. Sometimes they sold all their possessions, bought passage on a ship, and sailed for the freedom of America.

The Adam and Elizabeth Amend family were German-Russian. Their son Heinrich Fredrick Amend was born May 14, 1879 at Saratoff, Russia. Alexander II was in power at this time and Nicholas II was his

successor in 1894 bringing with him governmental inefficiency and corruption. Conditions became unbearable; and according to the Amend passport papers, which are written in Russian, they left Saratoff for America on June 19, 1893. All of the Amend family left Russia at this time except for one daughter who chose to remain behind.

Anna Catherine Giess, who later became Heinrich Amend's wife in America, was also born in Saratoff, Russia in 1879. She also left Russia with her family and parents, Adam and Barbara Giess, for the land of hope and freedom. After almost a month's ship voyage, they landed at a Canadian port where they then took the railroad to Quebec, Canada arriving July 5, 1893. Through the help of the German-Russian headquarters for emigrants located at Lincoln, Nebraska, the Amend and Giess families and others took the railroad to Lincoln, arriving July 8, 1893. These specific dates were reported in Heinrich Amend's Petition for Naturalization papers. The Amends stayed in Lincoln buying a house, and the Giess family slowly moved to Colorado where they took up farming near Greeley.

Heinrich Amend and Anna Giess were married in Lincoln, Nebraska, on January 11, 1900. They lived there for eight years working on the railroad. Their first four children were born in Lincoln: Katy on June 4, 1901, John on October 27, 1903, Henry on September 27, 1905, and Maria on October 28, 1907.

On March 30, 1908, Heinrich Amend declared his intentions of becoming a citizen of the United States of America in the District Court, Lancaster County, Nebraska. He became a citizen on June 24, 1914 at Lusk, Wyoming. Anna became a citizen later.

Heinrich's dream of owning his own land was finally realized when he moved his family by railroad from Lincoln, Nebraska to Keeline, Wyoming, where he had bought a homestead of 160 acres, five miles southwest of the town. He moved his family from Lincoln on the Chicago Northwestern Railroad. Anna Amend who could speak little English and the four small children were the first to arrive at the Keeline depot. They were met by their new neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Bopp, where they stayed until Heinrich arrived. These arrangements were made by Heinrich on an earlier visit when the homestead was filed. The family remained at the Carl Bopp place for about three weeks until a one room house could be built on the homestead.

The journey from Lincoln took Heinrich several days longer since he came on the emigration car with their household goods and livestock. His late arrival caused much concern for Henry, age three, who cried those several days thinking he would never see his father again. April 2, 1908, is the official arrival date of the Amends to Wyoming where they remained for the rest of their lives.

The move from the beautiful green settlement around Lincoln to the barren prairies of the Wyoming homestead was difficult for Anna to adjust to and accept. She spent many times those first few years behind the one room homestead shack crying to herself. Two more children were born after their move to Wyoming; Emma was born on January 29, 1910 and Fred on January 30, 1912.

The entire first summer was spent turning the tough

sod for farming, building fences and shelter for the livestock. Heinrich walked to work the first two winters at a coal mine north of Lost Springs, Wyoming for added income. The family's first Christmas was celebrated at the Fred Runser homestead with many of the neighbors attending. The Heinrich Amends close neighbors included: Jacob Amend, a brother; Joe Panno; George Amen; Walter Galbraith; James and Albert Brink, brothers who homesteaded and taught school; the Dieleman family; and many others.

On May 10, 1909, a General Land Office receipt shows an additional application by Heinrich Amend for 160 acres in Section 26 was made at \$1.25 per acre plus \$10 for filing fees and \$6 for the commission. At this time the one room homestead house was moved one-half mile west to this additional homestead. Three rooms were added to the house which still remains at this location today. A patent for these homestead rights was granted for 320 acres on January 17, 1913 by President Woodrow Wilson. Forty acres were later purchased from James and Leila Brink for \$200 in 1942. This final addition brought the total acres of Heinrich Amend's place to 360 acres.

Somehow, Heinrich and Anna Amend raised their six children and kept their bills and land taxes paid even during the depression and drought years when so many of their neighbors were forced to move off their homesteads. However, land mortgages were made to Lucy Jones Bergeson for \$500 in 1914; the Federal Land Bank of Omaha for \$1,600 in 1917, and the First National Bank of Manville for \$2,500 in 1921; and some mortgages were made on the cattle and other chattels. One such mortgage, dated 1927, listed all livestock as nine red milk cows, one heifer, one red bull, and seven work horses all branded  $\nabla$  as collateral. The Federal Land Bank Loan was the last mortgage to be paid 30 years later in 1956.

The first doctor of the rural community was Dr. Christiansen. Anna Amend was a much needed and loved midwife and nurse. Sickness and epidemics played a large role in the life of these people. The year of 1909 brought scarlet fever and Maria, at the age of one and one-half years was the only one of the family to have this dreaded disease and her entire body peeled from the sickness. "The Black Death" (diphtheria) came in 1916 and 1917. Somehow the Heinrich Amend family escaped this disease, but the entire family of George Amen had diphtheria. Their small daughter, along with many other children, died. After the funeral, Mrs. George Amen walked over the hill and gave the little girl's china bisque head doll to Katy, the oldest girl, who never had a doll. Katy inherited her mother's skill for caring for the sick and soon took over as the family nurse. The terrible flu epidemic came in 1918. Once again, the Amend family escaped the sickness without a tragedy. Although both Henry and Grandfather Adam Amend, who was visiting at the time, had the flu. One book, "The People's Home Library", played a large role in the lives of the Amends. The well worn pages explained everything from farming, cooking, and especially illness, birth, and death.

The winters were very severe. The snow fall was so heavy that sometimes the family had to tunnel from the house to the barn to care for the livestock. Grandfather Amend was visiting once during a blizzard and became lost a short distance from the house, but the family's pet



dog found him and brought him to the house. Regardless of the weather, the Amend children walked a mile and a half to the Prairie View School for class. In the winter, they wrapped papers and burlap sacks around their feet to keep them from freezing and carried their lunch which was packed in a lard pail. Emma was the only child to ever ride a bus, which she did for her last three years of high school at Manville. She went to Keeline for her first year of high school. Emma later taught at the Prairie View School that she attended as a girl.

Most of the family's social life centered around the Prairie View Church and School where the community had carry-in dinners, box socials, plays, etc. The Fourth of July celebration in Lost Springs was something not to be missed. They attended Lutheran Church services and catechism classes at the Peterson School which was south and east of the Amend place. One of the very old traditions was dropped when all the Amend children learned their Lutheran catechism in English rather than the traditional German language. An Evangelical Lutheran Church was finally established in Keeline in the creamery building which still remains.

Anna Amend passed away on April 7, 1947, at the age of 68 years, and Heinrich Amend passed away on July 30, 1958, at the age of 79 years. They spent their remaining lives on the homestead after their children were raised. This homestead was sold to their son, Henry Amend of Lost Springs in 1959. They were both laid to rest in the Lusk Cemetery.

Katy's wedding was the first of the Amend children. At the age of eighteen, she was married to Marvin V. Skillings of Manville. For two years after their marriage, Marvin drove a truck for Frank Kettler and Katy rode with him, camping along the way. Marvin then got a job with Ohio Oil Company at Lance Creek where they lived until after their retirement. They had no children of their own but were a very devoted Aunt and Uncle. Katherine Skillings passed away in January 1965 and Marvin in August 1970.

John married Marie Hahn and they had two daughters, Darlene and Dorothy. John worked on the railroad for a few years and then went to work in oil fields. He passed away in September 1970 at Cody, Wyoming.

Maria was married to Burnice Cox in 1928. He was starting out as a young farmer in the Keeline community. He finally gave this up and went to work at Lance Creek for Ohio and Marathon Oil Company. They had one daughter, Lyola, born in 1929. Upon his retirement in May of 1966, they moved to Cody, Wyoming, where they still reside.

Emma married Allen C. Gaukel in 1929. His parents were also homesteaders in the Jireh community. Shortly after their marriage, they moved to Twin Falls, Idaho, where he was employed by the city. They had two children, a daughter, Patricia Ann, born in 1938 and a son, Allen Charles Jr., born in 1941. They still live in Twin Falls, where they have retired.

Fred was the only son to serve in the armed forces. He joined the army in 1943 and served three years. He was never sent overseas but spent most of his time in Florida. After his discharge, Fred and his father lived on the homestead until Heinrich passed away. He then moved to Newcastle, Wyoming, where he did oil field

work. He later moved to Cody where he lived until his death in May, 1972.

Henry married Gladys Sims on May 31, 1930.

Mary Amend Engebretsen

## Amend, Henry and Gladys

Henry Amend, son of Heinrich and Anna Amend, attended the Prairie View School and worked on his parents' homestead as a young boy. In 1927, he helped drill on one of the first wooden rotary drilling rigs in the discovery of the huge Lance Creek Oil Field. He married Gladys M. Sims, daughter of Albert and Della Sims who owned the Twenty Mile Ranch north of Lost Springs. Gladys was a school teacher having attended the University of Wyoming for two years prior to their marriage on May 31, 1930. The young married couple went into ranching with the Sims for about three years.

The dry years of the 30's forced Hank, as he was better known, to seek employment in the oil fields again. They lived in Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming, and they were constantly moving with the drilling rigs. They first lived in a tent with a wooden floor but later got a small trailer house to follow the work. A daughter, Mae Ann was born in 1932. The family continued to follow the oil field work during the depression and before the war. They lived at Medicine Bow for a while and at Lovell when a wild cat well which Hank was working "blew out" for several months. Many acquaintanceships were made during these times, and many stories could be told about early day oil exploration in Wyoming.

Hank and Gladys had been saving their money for a ranch; and in 1938, they purchased the Harry B. Card Ranch one mile south of Lost Springs, Wyoming. The historic ranch had gone into receivership and Frank Barrett, a Lusk attorney, made the sale. The two main buildings of the ranch were a huge two story barn which measured 30 feet by 80 feet and a long log bunk house and cook house combined that was used by the men who worked the ranch. The barn was built in 1918 for the many teams of horses that were used in haying the meadows. The original Lost Springs is located below the barn and is the head of Lost Creek which rarely flows except for the springs.

Gladys' brother, Cecil Sims, of Manville wintered his cattle on the newly purchased ranch for a while; but in 1941, Hank had purchased enough cattle to stock the ranch. So they quit the oil field work and moved into the log house until a two story house could be moved onto the ranch from the town of Lost Springs. A son, Marvin A., and daughter, Mary A., were born in 1941 and 1945 respectively.

Hank and Gladys continued to increase their land by purchasing adjoining property. The purchases included early day homesteads of such people as James Brink, Walter Galbraith, Moses Galbraith, William Bohnenkemper, Albert Brink, W. R. Bridgroom, Delford McGrew, Raymond White, and others. In 1959, Heinrich Amend's homestead was also purchased. The ranch land now lies in both Niobrara and Converse counties.

Mae Ann Amend married Robert Manning on February 11, 1951. They purchased the Twenty Mile Ranch from her grandmother, Della Sims, in 1952. They have two children, Alvin and Debra.

Marvin Amend was killed in an auto accident in July, 1970 at Fresno, California where he lived with his wife the former Patricia Lovgren, whom he married in 1969. Marvin had been employed by Pacific, Gas and Electric Company for seven years. He spent three years in the U.S. Army and was stationed in New Jersey.

Mary Amend married Charles Engebretsen on September 5, 1965. They have two children, Merritt and Marlisa. Chuck graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration, and Mary attended the University of Wyoming and Chadron State College. She graduated from the Academy Beauty College in 1967. The family now lives on the Amend Ranch at Lost Springs.

Gladys Amend died in May 1963 and Henry Amend died in December 1970. They were laid to rest with their son Marvin in the family plot at the Lusk Cemetery.

Mary A. Engebretsen

## Amspoker, William, John and Frank

When the Amspokers first came to Wyoming, William Edward, or Ed as he was better known, came through with a trail herd from Texas to Montana. Ed was the son of Samuel and Mary Jane Amspoker of Cadiz, Ohio. He was the oldest of nine children.

Ed made three trips trailing cattle in the years 1885-1887. He worked for big cattle barons such as Abel Pierce. It was said that Mr. Pierce owned 50,000 head of cattle but owned only 11 acres of land. Ed also trailed longhorns for Dudley Snyder. Mr. Snyder was very strict and did not allow his employees to drink whiskey, play cards, or swear in his presence or in his camp.

Ed Amspoker decided to stay in Wyoming while herding horses north of Lusk for John B. Kendrick (future U.S. Senator). Ed married a school teacher, Hattie Brooks. About two years later, she caught typhoid fever and passed away. He moved to Douglas and then drove freight wagons from Casper to Lander. With one line, he drove twenty horses and pulled four wagons. He used to tell that it took seven days to go one way, and it was mighty cold!

Then two of his brothers, John and Frank Amspoker, came to Wyoming. They opened a livery barn on Center Street in Douglas where the Burlington Railroad lawn was.

When the railroad company bought them out, Frank started to ranch where the Sage Creek Stage Station was then. It was on the Bozeman Trail some 25 miles northwest of Douglas. Frank raised cattle and sheep and put together a nice ranch. He was Converse County Commissioner for eight years. He married Grace and had one adopted daughter, Gertrude. Frank resided in Converse County some fifty years. Frank died in Tucson, Arizona on March 2, 1952. His ranch was sold to Wm. J. Smith who ranches in that same community.

John Amspoker became Converse County Clerk in the 1920's and served six years. He married Carrie Robertson and lived some time in Glenrock. He had an active business career and had substantial business interests in Douglas and Glenrock. He died December 18, 1962 in Denver at the age of 97. He had no children.

Ed Amspoker moved back to Douglas and married Lillian Hormel. He worked in the oil fields in the Brenning Basin just north of Natural Bridge.

While he was there, he traded a mule for a horse from a co-worker. When the fellow told his wife she had to ride behind a mule, she declared she wasn't going to. Ed told the man he would meet him on the road and would trade back making his wife more pleased. Ed picked up a hitchhiker who was walking to town. Ed and the other horse trader met and stopped without saying a word. They unhitched the mule and horse, made the trade, returned to their wagons and went on their way. The hitchhiker sat there a short while and then said, "Sir, I've seen a lot of horse trading in my time, but never seen anything such as that". No one ever told him any different.

Ed got the job of hauling the cement for the LaPrele Dam in 1904. He hauled all of the cement, part of the gravel, and later built part of the ditches for the ditch company. He later worked on the county road crew.

Ed and his wife, Lillian, rented the Peyton place on LaPrele Creek for a few years. There was a small school house there that also served as a Sunday School and Literary. (That same school house has since been moved to the State Fairgrounds in Douglas). Literary was where all the people had a part in a play, gave speeches, recited poetry, or just had a good sociable to visit and have fun. Ed liked to play jokes. He would turn the girls' saddles backwards on their horses and then get into a water fight with them. He usually lost the battle.

Ed and Guy Burson played for dances around the country. Ed played the organ and the harmonica at the same time while Guy played the fiddle.

About 1914 Ed bought a small ranch on Six Mile Creek west of Douglas. He raised horses and cattle until his death on December 24, 1935. His two children, Lois and Sam went to a country school and later to Douglas.

In 1922 Lois married Edgar McClurg, a mail carrier in Douglas, moved to Deadwood, South Dakota, and after a divorce, came back to Douglas. Later she married Bob McMillan of Sheridan and lived there until her death in 1982.

Sam Amspoker worked on a number of ranches until he graduated from school. Then he was a bookkeeper for Coliseum Motors Company until he took charge of his father's ranch. He raised registered horses and pureblood sheep and also did contract hauling. He married Patricia Brow of Douglas on August 4, 1935. Four daughters were born to this family.

Sam lost his right arm in a tractor accident in April of 1953. He continued his ranching business and was elected Converse County Assessor in 1959. After 16 years of serving the county, he sold his ranch, retired and moved to Hulett, Wyoming in 1976. He enjoys his four daughters: Mrs. Thea Nuckolls, Mrs. Sherry Sims, Mrs. Bonnie Henson, and Mrs. Seba Clayton, and his eleven grandchildren.

Samuel Amspoker

## Anderson, Burch and Sadie

Phillip and Clara Anderson, parents of Burch Phillip came to Douglas, Wyoming in 1907. There they settled on a ranch northwest of Douglas and raised their family. Burch Phillip was born in Kearney, Nebraska on June 29, 1888, coming to Douglas with his parents when he was 19 years old. There he met Sadie Theresa Schloss, and they were married January 17, 1917. They homesteaded on some land seven miles west of Douglas. They bought horses and farm equipment and raised hay and grain. They raised five children.

Mr. Anderson belonged to the Woodman of the World and participated in their activities. We were also active in community meetings and had a concession at the State Fair, where we sold soft drinks and popcorn; we also had the concession at the Ayres Natural Bridge Park, selling homemade ice cream and popcorn. Burch had a team of horses that took first prize at the State Fair in 1920.

We attended many community dances and won first prize for the waltz at the Temple Hall - also won a blue ribbon for square dancing. We held community dances in our hay loft for as many as 50 people. We danced from sundown to sunup after which everyone drank the rest of the coffee and finished up the cakes and then went home to do the necessary work that must be done on a farm.

In 1937 we moved to Astoria, Oregon, where we worked in fish canneries. Mr. Anderson passed away in October 1957. At that time, I moved to Eugene, Oregon to make my home with my daughter Reta, and I am residing there at this time. Elmer is deceased, Edward lives in Silverdale, Washington, Allan lives in Eugene, Oregon, and Maxine Schreul lives in Camarillo, California.

I have ten grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Sadie Anderson



Wedding picture: Sadie Schloss and Burch Anderson, 1917.

## Anderson, Charles and Charlotte

Charles Anderson lived on a homestead in Nebraska near Blue Hill. Mrs. Anderson's father homesteaded at Exeter, Nebraska. Her maiden name was Charlotte Sweely. Charles and Charlotte were married at Clay Center, Nebraska on December 31, 1901.

They lived near Nelson, Nebraska where their son, Wayne, was born on March 3, 1903.

They lived on rented farms, and they moved three miles out of Fairfield where Lucille was born on April 6, 1907. Lois was born January 7, 1916.

Charles went to Wyoming and filed on a homestead in February of 1917 in the Walker Creek vicinity. They moved there in April 1917. They lived on the homestead until in the 1940's. When Charles' health failed they sold the place and moved into Douglas.

When we arrived in Douglas on April 26, 1917 it was snowing. The snow was knee deep. We stayed in Douglas until May 5, 1917 when we made it to the homestead, twenty-five miles out.

Several cabins were already built along the way. The Lemly cabin had the stove pipe sticking out of the window, as they were living in it with no chimney.

We lived in a tent and kept our chickens in a dry goods box. Our cabin was ready to live in on the second of June.

There were two ranches in the vicinity: the Roy Baughn's ranch was 1½ miles up the creek and the Mike Williams' ranch was five miles down the creek.

The first picnic was held on the school section. Those present were the Marion Whiting, Nate Barrett, C. Sharder, Fern Lemly and Charles Anderson families.

The first school was held in the fall of 1917 at Mrs. Nicholl's homestead until the Walker Creek School was built. The first teacher to teach in the Walker Creek School was Maude Goldsby. Pupils were Lucille Anderson, James and Gerald Sawyer and Howard Lemly.

Farmers Union was organized in 1921.

A mail route was also established in 1921, and the post office was up north at Bill Kinder's and was called Janet. The first mail carrier was Roy Lathrop.

The Hageman's, Spragers, and Vesseys homesteaded west of the school house, also the Johnsons and the Herricks.

The Thatchers and Wilemans came in 1918. The George Gillespies came a little later. The Lewendowskis, the Crams, and Willard Vernons had homes in this vicinity. Mr. Vernon was a disabled veteran of World War I. After he passed away, Mrs. Vernon married Roy Elder. The place is now called the Kimball place. The Crams were an elderly couple who had three sons, Raymond, Orlando, and Harold who all had homesteads.

The five Beaver Boys homesteaded on Piney Creek east and south of the George Gillespies. They were Ernest, Raymond, Charles, William, and Irette. Their places joined except for Irette's whose place was farther north.

Wayne Anderson graduated from Douglas High School in 1921. He was married to Bethel Smith on June 28, 1926.

Lucille Anderson was married to William Beaver on November 6, 1924.

Lois Anderson was married to Virgil Lore on October 16, 1937.

Lois passed away July 30, 1958; Charlotte Anderson passed away September 24, 1960; Charles Anderson passed away June 27, 1961; Wayne Anderson died October 4, 1964; and Bethel Anderson died on June 27, 1978.

Lucille Anderson Beaver

## Anderson, "Soapy"

Fetterman, Wyoming, was a railroad station named after Colonel W. J. Fetterman. It was located about five miles east of Inez, Wyoming. It was a livestock shipping point for the country around. A large set of corrals and loading chutes was built by Northwestern Railroad. A section house and several other buildings made up the small settlement. At one time, plans were made to build a refinery and pipe oil from Brenning Basin area. This was a small oil field to the southwest. However, the oil was low grade and failed to produce the quantity as planned so the plans were abandoned.

One couple, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, lived at Fetterman in the early thirties. He received the name "Soapy" as he had a formula for making soap that was a good grease remover and at the same time was easy on the hands. He also invented a letter opener. This was a knife mounted on a stand, when pressed down it would cut one end off a letter.

Another invention was a machine run from an air compressor that fluffed feather pillows and mattresses.

Besides his inventions, he used the upper floor of his two story house for a dance hall. An outside stairway led to the room and this made a good size community dance hall.

The Andersons moved to Douglas, and railway station and section employees transferred to other areas. The stockyards remained and were used for shipping livestock.

Bea Philbrick

## Anson, John and Mamie

John William Anson, known as "John Will" was the son of John William and Margaret (Golightly) Anson, a coal miner who migrated to the United States about 1838. John Will was born at Pittston, Pennsylvania in 1872. He came west to Williamsburg, Colorado, with his parents where he grew up and became a coal miner.

He came to Glenrock, Wyoming, about 1890 to work in the newly opened coal mine there under the direction of his brother-in-law, Noah Young, who was mine foreman. (Later appointed State Mine Inspector by then Governor Richards).

On April 13, 1896, John Will married Mamie Williams. Mamie, the daughter of Sara and Nathaniel Williams, was born in Hubbard, Ohio, in 1878. She came west to Williamsburg, Colorado, with her parents. Here, her mother divorced Nathaniel and married George

Walkinshaw. With her new stepfather Mamie migrated to Glenrock, Wyoming. To John Will and Mamie Anson five children were born: Margaret, Noah, Thomas, Paula, and Sara.

Noah died in infancy. Margaret married Bill Wood and lived their life in Glenrock; where Bill owned and operated the Chevrolet garage until his death in 1964. Thomas lived most of his life in Glenrock as an electrical repairman. He died in 1983. Paula and Sara live in Casper as a retired beautician and retired school teacher, respectively.

John Will and Mamie left Glenrock soon after the death of their baby, Noah, to accept the position of mine foreman at Diamondville, Wyoming. Thomas was born here April 2, 1902. In 1904, the family moved on to Dietz, then to Crosby, Wyoming, where Paula was born in 1910. Here, John Will ran the coal mine and a butcher shop he had bought. Mamie established and ran a boarding house for miners. Finally, about 1912, the family returned to Glenrock.

At this time a ranch on Deer Creek, a few miles south of Glenrock, was purchased. Sara, their last child was born here on January 31, 1916. A year later, in 1917, the ranch was sold and the family moved for the last time, to Glenrock. They bought a garage and the Chrysler Sales Agency for John Will to run and an apartment building for Mamie to run. Later the garage was sold to Bill Wood, and John Will became the owner and operator of the Canondale Meat and Grocery Market. He remained in this business until his death, in 1941.

John Will was known and respected in the communities in which he lived as a hardworking, capable business man. He was a willing supporter of community activities with his time and his money. He served as Mayor of Glenrock four terms and was a member of the town council and the Glenrock School Board. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Physically he was about five feet, eight inches tall, a bit on the over-weight side, but very muscular and active. He was well-known for his witty personality and cleverness at labeling his friends with saucy titles. He was always sure to laugh with people and never at them. He was generous to a fault. Life for the business man was rough during the depression years of the 1930's; but John Will never let lack of money interfere with his concern and charity for the less fortunate. He could always find a bag of oranges or a box of cracker jack for a hungry child. Many Christmas boxes of food were delivered to the needy with no trace of the donor. Fortunately, during these times, Mamie, the thrifty one of this partnership, and a clever operator of the apartment house, could always come up with the cash to pay the bills.

Mamie outlived John Will 19 years. She continued to operate her apartment building and care for herself until she died on December 23, 1960. Mamie was a thrifty, hard-working, and dependable woman, a faithful member of the Community Baptist Church. She served as the chaplain of the Golden West Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star for over 25 years. She was an exceptionally good cook, a stern, but loving mother, set in her ways of what was proper and good for her children. She is buried beside her husband at Glenrock, Wyoming.

Sara A. Brubaker

## Anthony, Fred and Cora Family

Fred W. Anthony was born in Escanaba, Michigan on December 2, 1861. As a surveyor for the Fremont, Elkhorn, and Missouri Valley Railroad, he helped lay out the railroad through Nebraska and Wyoming.

He first came to the Converse County area in 1886, but returned to O'Neil, Nebraska where he married Cora Parker. Cora a daughter of Judge Parker was born May 16, 1860. He was back in Wyoming with his wife within the year. After working and following the railroad to it's completion in Casper he returned to Douglas where he opened a livery stable.

During the several years that he operated the stable, he built and lived in a house on 4th and Poplar Streets.

Fred and Cora had seven children: Belle, Wallis, Lura (1871), Rick (Jan. 27, 1896), Nell J. (Nov. 20, 1900), Frank and Freddie.

When Lura (Mrs. Victor DeMott) died in childbirth, Fred and Cora took their 4-year-old grandson to raise.

After many years in Douglas, Fred Anthony moved to Washington, D.C. where he died on Oct. 4, 1933. Cora lived until Sept. 9, 1941.

Rick Anthony stayed in Douglas working as a cowboy for the Fiddleback Ranch. He served with General Pershing in the Mexican War and in France during World War 1. After the war he worked for the Chicago, Northwestern Railroad and for Barrett's Creamery in Lusk. He spent many years with the Douglas Cavalry Troop of the Wyoming National Guard and was greatly disappointed when he could not accompany them into active service in World War II because of his age. At the time of his death on May 21, 1951 he was a State Probation and Parole Officer living in Cheyenne.

Rick and Viola Jane Sater were married in Douglas. She was the daughter of Henry and Irma A. Sater having been born May 24, 1902 and dying Nov. 22, 1965. They had 3 sons: Doug (June 24, 1924), Rick (June 26, 1927) and Udean (Nov. 10, 1929).

For several years the three Anthony brothers ran a service station "Doug's Super Service" on the corner of 3rd and Center Streets. At this time Udean is the only Anthony living in Converse County. Rick Jr. lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan working for the federal government. Doug passed away on February 26, 1971.

Udean Anthony

## Ashby, William and Mona Browning, Dana and Edith

William Henry Ashby was born June 15, 1848, in Northampton, England. In 1862, at the age of 14 years, he signed on as a cabin boy and came to America. He arrived first at Ottawa, Canada, going from there to New York City, then on to Iowa. On October 8, 1867, in West Union, Iowa, he became a naturalized citizen of the United States. Continuing westward he reached Wyoming in 1868, where he worked for the Union Pacific Railroad.

Later, from Cheyenne northward to various points in Wyoming, he took up freighting and hauling supplies with a four- or six-horse team and wagon. The railroads did not come to central Wyoming until the 1880's and prior to that the only way to get supplies, such as groceries, building supplies, clothing or materials of any kind, was by freighters.

In 1872, Ashby became a range rider for cattle owners and later was foreman for the Fox Creek outfit (using the Bridle Bit brand) of the Union Cattle Company. Fox Creek is a tributary of Bear Creek, which is a tributary of Horse Creek, which in turn runs into the North Platte River near the Wyoming-Nebraska state line. The Union Cattle Company ran altogether some 35,000 head of cattle. They used the open government range, but had buildings and headquarters at various



Dana Browning in lower left at Jireh College.

points, usually along creeks where water was readily available. According to old brand books, their range extended from North Wood, Johnson County, throughout the Goshen Hole Country, and northern Laramie County.

On January 1, 1890, William Ashby married Mona Furnall. Mona Furnall was born May 20, 1853, in Keigs County, Ohio. Some time after their marriage they moved to Grant, Oregon where Mr. Ashby started a cattle fattening operation in connection with a distillery which was run by his partner. They used the mash and residue from the distillery in fattening the cattle, along with other usual feed. A terrible flood wiped out their entire operation, cattle and all. With nothing left they returned to Wyoming and Ashby managed the Van Tassel Cattle Company outfit near Lusk, Wyoming for several years.

Wanting to be on their own, they used \$5,000 from a savings account of Mona's and purchased land on Moss Agate and LaPrele Creek from George LeVasseur, closing the deal on July 22, 1898. Later he homesteaded some land in that area and purchased state land, which made up the ranch holdings.



George LeVasseur was a bachelor at the time, and the building used for a house was just a shack. It had a dirt floor, so it didn't need scrubbing. It wasn't much of a house, but Mona made do while their log house was being built. The floor was worn hard and smooth from use, but Mona spoke about how hard it was to keep house with a dirt floor to sweep. It was 1902 before their log house was finished and they moved into it. The house was built on Moss Agate Creek and they named their ranch "Moss Agate Ranch."

The Ashbys had no children of their own, but all the children in the neighborhood knew and loved Mona Ashby. If there were sick children and someone had to sit up with them at night so their folks could get some sleep, it was Mona who went to help. They kept diaries during all their years on the ranch and these show Mona sitting up with May Cross and with Bessie Horr at different times when they had long sick periods. At Christmas there was always a candle lit tree at the Beaver school house and the school children put on a Christmas program. Under the tree was a small gift for every child from Mona. They weren't expensive gifts, but just small things a child would like. Many of them were handmade, but they always made Christmas special.

To show how many more people lived in the country in the early days than do now, I notice in one of the diaries an entry dated November 6, 1906, that showed 87 votes were cast at the Beaver school house in the election that year.

On December 16, 1905, Mona Ashby went to visit her relatives in Chicago. Her sister, Alice Furnall Browning, was living there with another sister. Frank Browning, her husband, had deserted her at an earlier date. Frank Browning had worked for cattlemen around Torrington and had a cattle outfit of his own in that area for a number of years, but a terrible storm had wiped out all his cattle, and about the same time, floods in Ohio had destroyed or ruined rental properties he had there.

Alice was seriously ill at the time with a heart condition. Mona made a lot over her son, Dana, and when Mona got ready to return home, she told Alice she had always wanted a red-headed boy. Alice said, "Why don't you take my red-headed boy home with you?" Alice Browning died January 29, 1906. The boy who came to visit stayed with his aunt and uncle, who were from that time on, the same as parents to him. They wanted to legally adopt him, but his father would not consent as he wanted him to carry on the Browning name. Dana was born September 30, 1898, at Waltman, Ohio.

Mona and Dana arrived in Douglas on January 1, 1906, but it wasn't until January 3 that they got home. At that time there were only a couple phones in the neighborhood. For Mona to let Billie know she was home, she had to phone a neighbor, who in turn had to ride to Ashbys with the news that Mona was in town. Then the trip to town by horse and buggy had to be made. Usually, if roads were at all bad, 20 miles was about all a team could easily make in a day. Consequently, one stayed overnight and went home the following day.

In the 1920's, Dana and Mr. Ashby took up homesteads in the 20 Mile country in Albany County, Wyoming adding mountain range to their ranch holdings.

In 1928, Mona and Billie Ashby left the ranch when

Mona's health was failing. They spent several months in San Bernardino, California, and then in Morrill, Nebraska. Neither place seemed like home, so in the spring of 1929, they returned to Douglas and rented an apartment. William Ashby died August 16, 1929, shortly after spending several weeks at the ranch. In the fall of 1928 they had turned their ranch over to Dana Browning to run for them. Mona Ashby continued to live in Douglas until her death in April of 1936.

Dana Browning and Edith Leman were married on January 17, 1929, at Douglas, Wyoming. Dana and Edith had attended the Beaver School in the same grade through elementary school. Dana took the 8th grade over again as the Ashbys thought he was too young to go away from home. Edith went to the Holy Child Academy in Cheyenne for four years of high school. Dana spent his first year in high school with his sister in California. The next three years he went to Jireh College, a school run by the Christian Church at Jireh, Wyoming.

When Edith first went to the convent to school, Dana wrote her, signing his name as "Daisy," as boys were not supposed to correspond with girls there. He received letters in return. John (Joan) Kennedy and Thomas (Teresa) Virden decided to get into the act and they started writing to Grace Leman (now Bartshe) and Emma Cross (now Morton). They weren't so careful and the nuns caught on and we were in trouble. We had to write the boys and tell them not to write any more and had some other penalties attached.

The first child of this marriage was Donna Louise born October 23, 1929, the day before the stock crash on October 24 which ushered in the GREAT DEPRESSION. Their second child, Marilyn Elizabeth, was born October 8, 1933.

The years 1932, 1934, and 1936 were drought years. During those years there was one year when the drought was so widespread and the depression so deep that there was no sale for livestock of any kind and no feed for all the livestock on the ranches. To help out, the Government agreed to buy all livestock that owners could not carry over to the next year. They paid \$20.00 per head per cow, \$12.00 for a yearling, \$8.00 for a calf, and \$5.00 for a ewe or a lamb and then sent men around to shoot the animals so purchased. Donna watched them and says it took ten shots to bring down the milkcow who just stood and bellowed. To see all those animals, one had raised and cared for, lying around dead was a terrible sight. Only a small part of the meat could be kept. There were no freezers in those days.

Tragedy of a different kind struck in 1935 in the form of a hunting accident. Dana and Stewart Horr had planned on going hunting on October 31, the last day of the legal hunting season. It snowed off and on all day long. On November 1, even though the season was over, they decided to go to the Downey Park area and see if they could find some game. They took off on a cold sunny day in high spirits about midmorning. The two of them had hunted together for a number of years and Dana said they had worked out a number of bird calls to be used in signaling the sighting of game or a change in direction when they separated.

They spent a number of hours hunting by vehicle or on foot and found nothing. They were about to give up and

return home when they came onto deer tracks leading into a rather large thicket of trees. they decided to try to track the deer down and it was decided that Dana would follow the tracks into the thicket while Stewart was to position himself on a hill at the edge of the thicket so if the deer broke cover he would get a shot at it.

It was very cold and there was about three or four inches of new snow on the ground and it was hard to move without making a noise, so Dana slowly trailed the deer. Suddenly there was a movement in the trees directly in front of him and he raised his gun and fired. The target was not a deer, but his friend. Stewart called out to him and told him he had been hit and Dana hurried to his side. Stewart was fully conscious and told Dana he had no business being in there and that he hoped he (Dana) would not get in trouble for hunting out of season. Stewart didn't think anything could save him as he had taken the shot in the side.

Dana stayed with him a short while and then he knew he had to go for help. The pickup was some distance from where they were and there was no chance of his being able to carry or drag Stewart from among the trees. He took off his coat and covered Stewart the best he could and headed for a neighboring ranch some five miles away. By the time he got help and a makeshift stretcher lined up and got back, Stewart was dead. There were no regulations requiring bright colored hunting clothes in those days and Stewart was wearing a brown shearling sheep skin jacket and a brown cap of the same material. Dana had on dark clothing also.

From the tracks in the snow, as the scene was traced the following day by the sheriff's office, it appeared that Stewart had stayed at the upper part of the hill for some time as there were a number of cigarette butts on the ground there. He then had moved about half way down and smoked a couple cigarettes and then, for some reason, with long running steps he had gone into the thicket directly in front of Dana. Why he did it no one will ever know. Evidently he had seen some movement he thought might be the deer. He had not given the usual signal to denote a change in position or to warn that he was on the move. Dana lost a good neighbor and a friend.

In 1936 the drought was almost total. What little grass or hay that managed to grow was eaten by grasshoppers. They were everywhere and poisoning them only seemed to make room for others. After rains came in early September the lilacs, which had been stripped of leaves by the grasshoppers, leafed out and bloomed in September.

The sheep were summered in the mountains, but there was no feed to come home to. Dana had to take the sheep to Wheatland to winter. Dana had to stay with them. He had to have the pickup and so there was no way to get Donna to school. Edith had a chance to get her position back that she had left to get married, and so in September of 1936 she and the two girls moved into Douglas and into a house that her mother owned. Dana kept on with the ranch with his family helping as they could over weekends and vacations and he spent what time he could in town with them.

Dana loved life and loved people. He had a keen sense of humor and a quick and ready wit. Somehow he always seemed to see the funny and sunny side of life. He loved

music and had a good ear for it. For a number of years a trio made up of Arthur Horr with an accordion, Stanley Lass with a banjo, and Dana with a saxophone played for country dances throughout the county. Dana also liked the great outdoors, hunting, fishing, and trapping, or just watching crops and livestock grow.

Many of the neighbors stopped by to visit Dana and among them was his neighbor and friend, Sandy Cross. Sandy said a visit with Dana did him more good than a visit to a doctor. After Dana's death following a coronary on August 2, 1952, Sandy wrote and sent to Dana's family the following poem:

#### OH! WHERE HAS HE GONE TODAY?

Oh, where has he gone today?

To the fields to gather new mown hay,  
Where the larks assert their musical sway,  
Where the cricket chirps  
The summer hours away?

Oh no, farther still - quite away.

Oh, where has he gone today?

To yon pasture green  
Where the lowing cow is seen  
Browsing grasses sweet and lush,  
Where the colt romps the time away?

Oh no, farther still - quite away.

Oh, where has he gone today?

To lofty mountains of pine  
Where dwells the lonely porcupine,  
Where the coyotes mocking howl defies all,  
Where you can hear the wolf's beving call?

Oh no, farther still - quite away.

Oh, where has he gone today?

To the village where all is gossip and heresay  
Where the wine glass  
Is the devil's tool?

Oh no, farther still - quite away.

Oh, where has he gone today?

To starlit skies,  
A celestial being that never dies  
He with friends wait  
Those they love

Ever anxious for them  
To come above.

- Alex (Sandy) Cross -

Edith L. Browning

## Austin, Charles and Tillie

Charles Leander (Lee) Austin, born in Kalamazoo, Michigan July 10, 1854, was married on July 3, 1880 in Beatrice, Nebraska to Mathilda (Tillie) Campbell who was born in Canada in 1860. Joining the westward movement, they homesteaded near Fetterman west of Douglas in Converse County, Wyoming. In addition to ranch activities, Austin operated a freighting business. He was killed in May 1916 when a freight wagon he was driving was struck by a train at a blind crossing near Douglas. His wife, Tillie, had preceded him in death in 1911 of



natural causes. Three children, Lee, Willard and Norma died in infancy or early childhood. Other children are Charles Ronald, Donald Harrison (Harry), Sarah Helen (Davenport), Katie Ellen (Davies), Elbert Roy, John Basil, and Margaret Blanche (Averill). Surviving at this writing are Harry of Lusk, Wyoming, John of Apache Junction, Arizona, and Margaret of Porterville, California.

Donald Harrison (Harry) Austin was born December 21, 1888 in Douglas and grew up on the family homestead at Fetterman west of Douglas. At an early age he worked as a cowboy/ranchhand for the Lee Moore Cattle Company and for Pax Irvine at the Ogalalla Ranch. He was married to Edna Vivian Senters of Douglas on April 24, 1918. The daughter of Charles E. and Etta (Thralls) Senters, Edna was born October 11, 1897 in Long Pine, Nebraska. Because of Senters' longtime employment with the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, the family lived in several towns along the line in Nebraska and South Dakota before coming to Douglas when Edna was a young girl.

During World War I Harry served with Veterinary Hospital No. 9 at Saint-Nazaire, France; and Edna, who prior to her marriage had taught at the Bedtick School south of Douglas, continued her teaching career at Spanish Diggings School south of Keeline. After his discharge, Harry returned to Douglas where he and Edna established a home and he worked for Peyton-Bolln Grocery Co. until 1930 when the family moved to Lusk, Wyoming.

Daughters Maxine Elizabeth and Charletta Louise were born in Douglas, and Donna Marie was born in Lusk. After a few years farming and as custodian of Lusk Grade School, their years in Lusk were spent as owners and operators of Gay's Cafe and Lusk Econ-o-Wash. Daughter Donna died at age 20 in 1954. Maxine married Bruce H. (Bud) Koch of Harrison, Nebraska, now deceased, and has been a Congressional Secretary since 1953 when she went to Washington, D.C. as personal secretary to U.S. Senator Frank A. Barrett. She lives in Arlington, Virginia and has no children. Louise, a registered nurse, married Lester William Lawrence of Brooklyn, New York. They lived in Porterville, California and have six children, Leslie Louise (Woodstra), Donald William, Dorothy, Paula (Kleitman), Robert Francis, and Wendy Louise, and one grandson Christopher Damien (Woodstra).

Harry and Edna retired from business in 1973, and in early retirement years enjoyed travel in the United States and have remained active in St. Leo's Catholic Church, American Legion and Auxiliary, and other civic organizations.

Maxine Koch

## Ayres, Alvah and Sallie Family

Alvah Washington Ayres, one of Wyoming Territory's early residents and one of the early settlers on LaPrele Creek in Converse County, first came to Wyoming in 1865. He was born in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania on December 28, 1841, the second eldest of seven



Ayres Natural Bridge.

children born to James L. and Patience M. (Vincent) Ayres, who were both born in the State of New York. They were married November 11, 1837, in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, moved to Illinois in 1857, then in 1858 moved to Missouri, then on to Kansas. In 1860 they moved to Nebraska, their permanent home being in Beatrice.

In 1860, Alvah Ayres came West to Colorado, there following teaming until 1882, the last four years being in business for himself making his first trip to Wyoming in 1865, Fort Laramie being his destination, going on to Fort Fetterman in 1867, he was exceedingly troubled by Indians upon this trip.

In 1882 he located his ranch home on LaPrele Creek, with a rare scenic attraction, the Natural Bridge, being on the ranch. He built up a fine ranch, with irrigated land along LaPrele Creek, and pasture land adjacent thereto, on which he raised cattle and horses.

He must have had many dangerous encounters in his work. One account found in a family scrapbook tells of an experience on one trip from Cheyenne to Deadwood, South Dakota, as follows: "The writer remembers one queer and exciting experience well. A man named Leighton in Ayres' train shot a Mexican just for the sake of being bad, and when about to escape on the best horse in the outfit, when the other boys, sixteen of us, who had been too excited to be watchful, saw Al lying under a wagon with his needle gun through the spokes of a wagon wheel, and he said coolly; "Drop that bridle Jimmie, and don't go near the horses." Jimmie dropped the bridle quick as he looked down the barrel of the rifle. Leighton was afterwards hung in Deadwood."

On April 6, 1890, Alvah W. Ayres and Mrs. Sallie O. (Clay) Button, a native of Virginia, were married in

Douglas, Wyoming, her maiden name being Clay and her first husband being William D. Button, a native of Vermont. Mr. and Mrs. Ayres had one son, Andrew Clement, who was born of her first marriage, at Brandon, Vermont, August 26, 1886.

Mrs. Ayres traced her American ancestry to the seventeenth century, when four brothers, John, Charles, Henry and Thomas Clay, emigrated from England. They settled in Virginia; her grandfather, Reverend Charles Clay, a brother of the grandfather of the eminent Henry Clay of Kentucky, being one of the first Episcopal clergymen of America, had to cross the Atlantic to London to be ordained. He was a close and intimate friend of Thomas Jefferson. Mrs. Ayres brought with her to Wyoming an original letter written, during his presidency, to her grandfather, who lived on an adjoining plantation. I think the subject matter especially fascinating; it read as follows:

"Washington January 11 - 07

Dear Sir:

Yours of December 10, has been duly received, and I thank you for your friendly attention to the offer of lands adjoining me for sale. It is true that I have always wished to purchase a part of what was Murray's tract, which

would straiten the lines of the Poplar Forest, but I really am not able to make a purchase. I had hoped to keep the expenses of my office within the limits of my salary, so as to apply my private income entirely to the improvement and enlargement of my estate, but I have not been able to do it. Our affairs with Spain, after which you inquire, do not promise the result we wish, not that war will take place immediately; but they may go off without a settlement, and leave us in constant bickering about indemnification for spoils, the navigation of the Mobile and the limits of Louisiana.

"Burr's enterprise is the most extraordinary since the days of Don Quixote. It is so extravagant that those who know his understanding would not believe it if the proofs admitted doubt. He has meant to place himself on the throne of Montezuma, and extend his empire to the Allegany, siezing on New Orleans as the instrument of compulsion for our western states. I think his undertaking effectively crippled by the activity of Ohio. Whether Kentucky will give him the coup de grace is doubtful, but if he is able to descend the river with any means, we are sufficiently prepared at New Orleans. I hope, however, Kentucky will do it's duty and finish the matter for the honour of popular government, and the discouragement of all arguments for standing armies.



L. to R. Eula Abney, Mrs. Al Ayres, Doc Safely, Al Ayres, Clement Ayres.

Accept my friendly salutations and assurances of great esteem and respect.

Mr. Clay

Thos. Jefferson"

Mrs. Ayres died April 5, 1911 and is buried in the Douglas Cemetery.

Sally Ayres had a sister, Nannie E. Steele, and two brothers, William L. Clay and Charles E. Clay, who all played a part in settling Wyoming. Nannie and William lived in the Chugwater area and in Cheyenne later.

Mrs. Ayres died before I was born and Mr. Ayres the year after my birth, and I really regret not having the chance to know them. Aunt Nannie Steele is the only relative of my father's that I knew, and I was only about six or seven when she spent several years with us at the ranch. My brother, Alvah, learned to talk with a southern accent from listening to her. She told many interesting stories of her childhood on a Virginia plantation. She was an excellent seamstress and had made many shirts for the cowboys around Cheyenne.

In 1892, Al Ayres was elected to serve as State Representative from Converse County.

In 1914, Al Ayres built a new home on the ranch, and the following is a memo of this, as found in a cornerstone when the house was torn down, years later:

"October 17, 1914

At the time this box is found may the contents of same be of interest to all who took part in building this house.

"The owner, Al W. Ayres, came to this county in 1865. Lars Johnson of LaPrele, head carpenter. Curley Ayres, brother of Al, of Beatrice, Nebraska, was assistant carpenter. Henry Matsel of Willow Creek, assistant carpenter and stone mason. Ed Breuer, stone mason. Geo. Kelley of Chicago, painter. Nick Burke of Douglas, Wyoming, plasterer. Mrs. Curley Ayres and daughter, Ruth, also of Beatrice, Nebraska, were the first housekeepers.

"May we add that at the time this house was completed, it was a model in house building and a credit to the country."

This house was the family home from then until the ranch was sold in 1949. It had eight rooms and a bath downstairs, and four bedrooms with walk-in closets upstairs, with plumbing in the house and electric lights, powered by a Delco light plant.

Mr. Ayres died August 13, 1918 in Douglas, as the result of injuries received on a trip from the ranch to Douglas with a team and wagon, when an automobile frightened the horses and they ran away.

My mother and father, Andrew Clement Ayres and Edna May Howard, were married April 14, 1908 at her parents' home at Beaver, Wyoming. She was one of ten children born to William and Georgia (Rice) Howard, and the oldest living girl, so she had to take lots of responsibility and the work of caring for the family when her mother's health began to fail at a rather young age. William Howard was born in Iowa, June 14, 1853. He married Georgia Rice on October 21, 1880, and shortly after that came to Wyoming Territory to check out the opportunities it might offer. He returned to Iowa and he and his wife and baby son, Fred, traveled to Wyoming by wagon

and settled in the LaPrele area known as Beaver, their ranch now being the Bill Leman ranch. William built many of the early roads in the area and had one of the first threshing machines in the county. He was killed in a logging accident November 13, 1925, and Georgia died December 29, 1929.

I think that for some years after their marriage, Edna and Clement spent summers on his homestead on Willow Creek, south of Glenrock, and winters at the home ranch on LaPrele. Mother loved to fish and was good at it, and I remember following her and watching until I was big enough to hold a pole and fish too.

Another special memory of my childhood was going along when cattle were trailed to the homestead for summer pasture. It took about three days, first gathering the cattle and then head them up the Windy Ridge road. We camped the first night usually on top of Windy Ridge, then went on the next day, and turned in to the pasture, then worked them around into the pastures the next day. Dick Burks also had a homestead adjoining ours, so we trailed together. Our families were always very close, and I was named for Ida Burks.

Mother and Dad worked hard, as the haying and farming was done with teams of horses, and there were always extra men to cook for, and she raised a large garden, which she canned and preserved for winter use. She also raised chicken and turkeys, which they sold around Thanksgiving.

Their first child was born in 1917, Ida May, and six years later a boy, Alvah William (named for both grandfathers) was born.

In May 1920, Andrew C. and Edna M. Ayres gave a deed to Converse County for the land known as Ayres Natural Bridge Park, dedicated to the memory and work of the men and women who pioneered this western country.

There were very trying times during the "thirties" as evidenced by sale receipts that Dad had saved, when cattle sold for give away prices, and in 1934 during the Depression and the drought years. There is a record of 29 head of cattle sold to the government for \$322 under an emergency cattle agreement.

They managed to have fun times too, with neighbors and friends, getting together to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, or other excuses for a party, and always ready to lend a hand and food in times of illness or need. It was a closely knit community, and the neighbors got together and built the LaPrele Community Hall, with kitchen and dance floor large enough for neighborhood activities and public dances.

Mother belonged to the LaPrele Homemakers for many years, until her death.

Dad was always interested in community affairs and was always trying to find some new crop or way to bring more income into the community. There were several years that peas were grown and marketed through the Woodruff Seed Co. in Douglas. Then for a number of years, most of the neighbors and my folks as well, raised dairy cattle and sold milk. This brought in some cash income, but was hard work for the returns.

Dad served on the School Board of District 6 for many years, and hauled children, water for the school and built fires in the morning in the school house stove for a

number of teachers. Mother boarded several of the teachers. Alvah and I attended school in the school house now located on the State Fair Grounds in Douglas, then graduated from Douglas High School with Alvah graduating from Denver University.

Dad and Mother worked hard to get the Wyoming Pioneer Association organized and the first museum built, which is the log cabin. I remember the buffalo barbecue put on to raise money for the building, with Robert D. Carey donating the meat and Mother and Dad in charge of the meal.

In 1938, Ida May Ayres and Joe L. Carmin were married and have continued to live in Converse County. They raised three children, Andrea Richardson, Joe Carmin and Jim Carmin, who are all married and have families and are living in Wyoming.

In 1943, Alvah married Marguerite Holstein, and they have two children, Robert and Kathleen. They have lived in East Alton, Illinois, for a number of years.

Mother became ill during the 1949 blizzard and we had a difficult time getting her to the hospital and going to Douglas to see her. She died January 29, 1949, at the age of 60. The love that neighbors and friends had for her was evidenced by the number that came to her funeral, even though roads were almost impassible. Dad sold the ranch in the spring of 1949.

In later years, he moved to Thermopolis and when he could no longer live alone, he went into the Pioneer Home there, where he lived until his death on January 15, 1968.

Ida May Carmin

## Bacon, Billy and Frances

Many stories have been told about Billy Bacon. Many of them are true but some of them have been fabricated.

The first we know of Billy is in an account by Charley Horr in a letter to Clark Bishop. Charley writes, "The first I ever heard of Billy Bacon was by Billie Ashby, who was foreman of the Bridle Bit Outfit in Goshen Hole. Bacon and Jimmy Abney both worked for him. They used to have some fun with him, they would saddle Bacon up and Jimmy would try to ride him. Bacon came to LaBonte in about 1879 and ran a road ranch at the LaBonte Crossing."

The next we hear of Bacon is in a story of Bacon's adopted daughter, Eula E. Erben, by Eula's granddaughter, Shirley Bear Chase. She writes, "In November, 1880, in Omaha, Nebraska, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Bacon watched Mr. and Mrs. Amell Erben lay their small daughter, Eula, down on a street corner on a pillow and walk away. Eula E. Erben was born August 9, 1880. She was a colicky baby who cried alot. She was picked up by her Aunt Frances Bacon and husband Billy and put in their wagon."

Charley Horr tells of the Bacons after they left the LaBonte Road Ranch. "Bacon sold his ranch to Harry Pollard's father in the spring of 1883 for \$5,000 then he went to Cheyenne. He was drinking and gambling but some of his friends got him to leave so he went back to LaBonte and bought a bunch of cows. He took the cows up

to Bacon Park in June 1884. He traded the cattle to Frank 'Sodcorn' Gore. 100 head for Frank's saloon in Fetterman."

Frank Gore relates the rest of Billy Bacon's life in his letter to Tom Rowley. "Jack Sanders did not build Hog Ranch. Harrison Kane built it about 1880. John Lawrence and Jack Sanders ran the Hog Ranch in the fall of 1883 until the winter of 1884. I was running a saloon in Fetterman and sold it to Bacon in November, 1884. I think it was December, 1884 that Bacon and Sanders went into partnership, they fixed up the old government hospital for a dance hall. Bacon and Sanders had a fight and Bacon killed Sanders. Sanders shot Bacon in the chin. The doctor was probing for the bullet when it dropped in his windpipe and Bacon choked to death. He lived two or three days longer than Sanders. I was in Fetterman when Sanders died."

Bacon's widow, Frances, married James Milton Abney on November 19, 1886. (For the rest of Frances and her niece's story see James Abney.)

John R. Pexton

## Baker, Ralph and Anastasia

Ralph Olin Baker was born in Nebraska on December 14, 1902. He came to Wyoming to teach the Walker Creek School for the 1926-27 term. Some of his students were children of the Porter and Hansen families. He boarded with the Amsdens and Whittings.

Anastasia Elizabeth McCarthy became his wife on December 30, 1926 in Broken Bow, Nebraska.

During the 1927-28 term, Ralph continued teaching the Walker Creek School while "Stasia" taught the Hanlin School. They lived in John and Peg Poulson's cement house up the hill from the bridge on Willow Creek.

Raymond White was Superintendent of School District #17 and Marsha Hollindrake was Converse County Superintendent during this time. The salary for teaching a term of school was \$90.00 a month.

Ralph homesteaded at the foot of Flat Top. Stasia's sister Gata McCarthy (Beaulieu) stayed with the Bakers during the summers.

For the school term of 1928 - 1929, Stasia taught the Ayres school while Ralph worked for Clement Ayres on his ranch.

In the spring of 1929, the Bakers moved to Casper where Ralph found work. In 1930 - 31 Stasia taught the Morton School and stayed at the Westons.

Ralph worked for Safeway Stores until he retired in the 1950's while Stasia continued teaching schools.

They have two boys, Ralph and Howard.

Leone Beaulieu Olds

## Baker, Raymond and Lucille

Raymond C. Baker was born in Clay County, Nebraska on September 4, 1898 to Samuel Ferguson and Amanda Z. Overturf Baker, of strong Dutch, French and Irish descendants.

The Bakers came from Indiana, but the Overturf grandparents were homesteaders in early Nebraska





**L. to R. Beverly Baker and Shirley Baker "The Bounty Meant A Lot"**

history with a wanderlust that took them to the Pacific Coast by train and back in a covered wagon in 1906. The Great Grandfather, George Overturf, went west to Virginia City to find his fortune in gold and there he did quite well.

He bought two teams of mules and wagons there, and with others, started back to Nebraska, but the Indians overtook them. Seeing they had been surrounded, they all put the bare necessities and ammunition into one wagon, turned the horses and mules loose and burned all the rest of the wagons and possessions. The women and children took turns riding in the one wagon that the men of the wagon train pulled to the next fort.

All these pioneering stories and experiences meant much to Raymond so it was little wonder that he too wanted to go west and homestead in Wyoming. When just of age, he did so and filed on his portion of land in 1919, about 37 miles north and west of Douglas, Wyoming. Raymond and I, Lucille Cress Baker, were married at Eustis, Nebraska on August 22, 1925.

While some would say, a homestead was a "free gift" those who stayed and proved up, can tell stories of hardships of that early day and experiences that I know, it was not such a free gift in any sense of the word, and the problems and trials which were still afloat since 1931, stagger the minds of many today as being quite unreal.

Raymond would work in the beet harvest around Bayard, Nebraska, in lumber camps around Kellogg, Idaho, also in California as a carpenter's helper in the months away, to make a grubstake for the months on the homestead.

The homesteader's homes were, for the most part, shacks. At least for the single guys, many were built much like the railroad boxcar, at least with that type of roof, and they were covered with tar paper.

Most of these "castles" boasted of a trap door in the floor where a small hole was dug out and a few of the more perishable foods could be kept a might cooler or warmer, as the case might be.

Many a homesteader could tell how his fence would be cut, by the already established cattlemen, who resented him coming and fencing land he had been using for free grazing, or a road he had used to go to his holdings.

Wooden apple boxes and orange crates made many a cupboard, a "topsy stove" some having an oven in the stovepipe to bake in, nail kegs served as extra chairs and maybe the only chairs. The gals who took claims, fixed theirs up more homey, little curtains on the windows, etc., but the guys were more interested in getting the job done and getting out.

Varied were the types of people who came to homestead, in fact from all walks of life! There was always that one, who could embellish his stories so vividly, that after repeated tellings, he believed himself.

One old man would tell how he was caught in a sudden Wyoming hail storm when out fencing, he jumped into his wagon and headed for his shack. He made it, but looked in the back of his wagon and the wagon box was half full of hail and the storm was gone and not a one ever hit him!

Raymond returned to Nebraska while homesteading and was asked if the wind blew in Wyoming. His answer was, "I'll let you be the judge, I rode up to the shack one day, threw my hat down on the ground, the wind blew it up against the shack and six months later it was still there!" I was never sure what he did without his hat that long. Must have been what started the bare head fashion!

Although 1931 was not exactly early day as settling of the country is concerned, the depression years made many hardships for people in a new country. Raymond had come back with his family to the homestead he had proved up, the froggy water holes and a spring he dug out on top of a hill a mile from his new building place, provided water until a well was drilled in 1933 by another earlier homesteader, Mr. Ernest Nauman from south of Douglas. Raymond heard that Mrs. Peter Clausen could locate water by witching, using a gold ring, a string, and a glass of water. We couldn't afford a dry hole, so we went after her and then marked the place she said would be abundant water. Mr. Nauman had little faith on such, but did agree to drill there and on June 30, 1933 found water that he couldn't pump dry at 77 feet. Raymond paid Mr. Nauman \$29.00 and the Log Book states \$26.00 to be paid when the hogs were sold and was then paid in August of 1933 in full.

Money in the '30s was as scarce as hens teeth, but words were good. Raymond realizing that "necessity, the



**Raymond Baker Homestead**

mother of invention", set about to build his own windmill. He had borrowed a pump from the neighbor, Mrs. Cliff Powell, who had moved to town, but to pump that handle up and down to provide water for the household and stock, wasted energy, when Wyoming had a lot of wind for free. So with a Lodgepole pine pole from the mountains for an axle, some 12" about eight feet long for fins, some two feet by four feet for the arms, he built a reel, not unlike the reels on the modern combine or the paddle wheel of a steam boat principle. He built a box around this reel so the wind would catch the top fins only, and in turn, run the large wheel rigged up so it would lift the rods and pump the water.

It was somewhat difficult to stop this wheel in a hard wind. We would wear leather mittens to keep from burning our hands or getting splinters. Even so, it would almost lift us over when the wind was hard before it could be stopped and chained to a post. Again, lack of money, Raymond took a cottonwood block from a 10" diameter tree, hollowed out a cup in one end, then bored a hole to the cup for a pipe and thus was a lead pipe fixed to carry water from well to tank, and it worked. I still have that wooden block yet today.

About two years later, we did get a mill and a tower as the other version was wearing out. It wasn't always windy enough when the water was needed and even though much axle grease was used, the axle was wearing out.

Quite a number went on relief, but with our gardens and friends, who shared what their families out grew, we made it through the depression. We did, however, have to let our new John Deere tractor go back to Gene L. Payne Co., but we had horses and when the crops didn't grow, Russian Thistle (tumbleweed) grew and we put them up for hay. Many an insole was cut from the waxed lard boxes, but they barely lasted half a day and foot was on the ground again.

There was a time when "horse power" meant horse flesh for plowing, planting, harvesting, and hauling. Each fall meant trips to the coal mine, a three day affair for Raymond. He had a good team but usually took the third horse along in case one played out. The price of coal seems so small now but plenty then. I'm sure we did get some for \$1.50 a ton but it went up along with the years but even in the 40s only \$3.50 a ton. There were three different mines we went to, the Badger, Antelope and Sand Creek Mines.

On one trip Raymond saw his first ghost. He was making camp near a water hole as it was just getting dark when his horse snorted and nearly broke loose from him. He tightened his hold on their lead ropes and looked up to see a figure in white flowing robes coming straight towards him. Although he didn't believe in ghosts, this was almost too much and he ached to run, but he had to hold onto his horses as they were not yet hobbled and he was miles from nowhere. His heart pounded in his ears as the creature continued his way. How long could he stand there, when the pressure was so great! What sweet relief filled his soul when a familiar sound came from the sheeted figure, the bleat of an Angora Billy Goat coming to the water hole for a drink. The next morning he found he had made camp just over the hill from another homesteader.

When trips such as this were made and he was overdue getting home, I'd become concerned so lying down on the ground with my ear pressed close to the earth, I could hear the rumble of the wagon and the hoofs of the horses as they plodded homeward some miles away. I was relieved and then could patiently wait his return, thankful for that means of communication.

Sheepherders would build monuments of rocks on the highest hills where rocks were available to pass lonely hours and use as land marks out in isolated unfenced areas. These enabled them to keep their bearing and were as important to them as the lighthouse to the sailors. Many have been destroyed over the years by people who didn't know what they really were.

One time in the night, Raymond rode up to a shack hoping to spend the night and as he raised his hand to knock, it froze in mid air as he heard the first cry of a new born baby, then other sounds. He silently mounted his horse and rode the several miles on to his humble shack, he didn't even know the guy was married before.

The Christmas of 1933, I believe, Raymond put the side boards on the wagon box, filled it with straw and covered the straw with a bed tarpaulin and we drove seven miles to a school program. It was a beautiful moon-lite night and the children and I were quite cozy covered with quilts in the bottom of the wagon nestled together for warmth.

Raymond didn't seem to mind the long drive there and back. We had a car but to buy the gas in the '30s was a problem of its own. Truthfully the car was used for the longer trip to town.

It would take many a book to hold all the stories that could well be told of the hard, but many good times also. Like the hail storms that took all the crops, but the cows were driven in and milked and we made ice cream with the hail stones to freeze it, and made all the ice cream we could eat. The American Sunday School Union Picnic, when people came from all around with carry-in-dinners, visiting and services were enjoyed by all. School programs, where someone would pull a boo boo, made for a good laugh.

A Sad iron or hot rock wrapped in paper and cloth helped warm a cold bed. Each morning the bucket of water gave forth refreshing ice water. Bed clothes would be frozen to the outside walls and each nail in the ceiling could easily be counted with its coating of frost that would soon turn to drops of water after the fire was built. Wiping the table for breakfast with a wet dish cloth made an ideal skating rink for dishes. In fact, I saw a pint-sized sugar bowl scoot across the table and land upside down on the floor. The bowl was saved and so was the precious sugar. It was cleaned up, boiled for syrup to kill any germs from the floor because precious food could never be wasted.

Badly frozen legs but too far to a doctor, a three day blizzard when it took us four hours to go seven miles, a fire in 40 below weather and no fire department, no telephone or close neighbors!

In 1935, I believe, Raymond and four or five other men took the running gear of the wagons and teams, grub boxes, bed rolls, horse feed, and headed for the mountains to cut poles, a trip of ten to 14 days. It was a welcome and beautiful sight to see those wagons come



back with poles for corrals. In 1937 Raymond bought the two homesteads he had been leasing from Mrs. Mabel Powell and her father, Malcolm Johnson, which joined him on the south and west.

Because many were leaving the isolated area and since the surveyed Gillette Highway was to be built east of us which we had hoped for, Raymond sold out and bought the Jerry Evans place seven miles from Douglas where his children could go to school more easily. Mr. Evans had been gone from the place a number of years so it was again a time of rebuilding as well as a long move, tearing down buildings and rebuilding was hard.

Raymond never bore arms for his country, but often wished he had enlisted. World War I closed just after he had been called for his physical, then the other wars, he was farming and was exempt. Neither did he belong to any lodges, but was a born-again Christian, one of First Share Holders in a Bible Camp at Fletcher Park, served in various places in Calvary Baptist Church in Douglas, where he was one of the charter members.

Raymond passed away after a long illness November 18, 1983, leaving his wife and five daughters; Mrs. Shirley Jean Reed of Douglas, Beverly Rae Chamberlain, Lucille Marjorie (Teil) Chamberlain of LaPrele Community west of Douglas, Delores Lorraine Gutherie of Boone, Colorado and Sharon Patricia Quam of Woodland, California. He also left 25 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren.

Lucille Cress Baker

## Ballard, Arthur E. and Ethel Family

Arthur E. Ballard, wife Ethel M. Ballard and family, Dale Arbor, Forest O., and Marianne, came to Wyoming in the spring of 1917. They had farmed in western Kansas until cyclones touched down three times in one year on their farm. They decided a homestead in Wyoming sounded better.

They came to Wyoming in style, in a Saxon Six car. The trip took a week with camping out at night. After filing on a homestead 30 miles north of Douglas, the family lived in a tent until a homestead shack could be built and a well could be dug with a post-hole digger. A ten-acre sagebrush flat was broken up with a borrowed team and walking plow. The first crop was Wyoming corn and a garden. The dry land was not Kansas soil. The first crop was a terrible disappointment. Arthur went to Douglas and went to work in the Northwestern Coal Chutes. When the homestead was proved up on, the family moved to Douglas. Arthur worked at the Coal Chutes until they were torn down. He then worked at various jobs until 1930, when he went to work as a janitor at the North Grade School. He worked at the school until his family had graduated from high school.

Marianne was killed in a car accident near Wheatland the fall of 1938. Forest moved to California in 1941. Arthur moved to California and went to work at Lockheed in 1942. Dale married and remained in Douglas. Arthur died in California in January, 1953. Ethel spent her winters in California and summers in Wyoming. When Irwin Towers was completed she moved in and made her home in Wyoming until her death in 1984.

Wilma Ballard

## Ballard, D.W. and Mary

Daniel William Ballard    Mary Elizabeth Markel 1902  
1881-1958                      1884-1944  
Born Iowa or Kansas        Born Wisconsin or Kansas

Melvin Arthur, 1903, Pomeroy, WA  
m. Anna Louise Shick, Chicago, IL  
William Emmett, 1904, Mankato, KS  
m. Elisabeth R. Shick, WI  
Mabel E., 1907, Dresden, KS  
m. William S. Dixon, NE  
Carroll E., 1911, Dresden, KS  
m. Lela Ellen Craven, IA  
Daniel Otis, 1919, Douglas, WY  
m. Flora Jean Miles, WY

D.W., as he preferred to be called by his friends, was a wheat farmer in western Kansas (Decatur County). After nine years of poor crops, drought, dry winds and hail he decided to try the mercantile business in the town of Jennings. He had an auction sale, selling everything but the household goods. He had traded the farm of about 380 acres for this establishment and we moved to town the summer of 1914. This was the life of Riley for us kids as we had lived in a sod house on the farm and had to carry water. Here we had a frame house with lots of room and a supply tank in the tower. This was not so with the folks, as they discovered at the end of the year that they had lost \$1,000 and more, and decided to try something else. Dad had a quitting business sale and traded the store building, warehouse and lot for a half section of prairie land at Burlington, Colorado. We moved back to Dresden to a rented place and were literally back to farming. This was the spring of 1916. There was a great deal of unrest. World War I was in progress. Pancho Villa had raided the border. Arizona and New Mexico had become states in 1912 and were advertising that homesteads were available as were Colorado and Wyoming.

The stockraising homestead act had been enacted and a section of land was available per family. It sounded great. The folks had their fill of dryland farming and never once considered moving onto the land at Burlington. I have heard them say that it was so level that one could stand at any one corner post and see the other three markers. It was just too bleak. They had decided to homestead and Dad preferred Colorado so he put the title to this land in Mother's name and went to Craig, Colorado in the fall of 1916. He did not like the big sage around Maybelle and farther west and had heard of land available in Wyoming, so he came cross country by Baggs and Rawlins to Douglas to look at land. He was shown this land by A.P. Knight who was working as a locator in conjunction with the C.B. & Q. Railroad. The land he chose was Section 1, Township 36 N-R 71W of 6 P.M. which is 4 miles east and 26 miles north of Douglas. I think Mr. Knight's fee was about \$40 and of course there was a government filing charge also. I do not know the exact filing date, but it had to be very late November or early December of 1916, which made it necessary for us to be in Wyoming in mid-1917.

Brother Emmet and I were thrilled on learning we were going to Wyoming and knew we would need a sad-

dle. We had been trapping during the winter with quite a bit of success. Our product was skunk hides with occasional badger. We tended our traps on the way to school as our quarry might get loose if left too long. We walked about a mile to school and a time or two things got a bit odoriferous. We got \$87 for our pelts. We had a Fred Mueller Saddle & Harness catalog and had literally memorized its contents. There was a saddle with a 14" swell and 14" seat which was the one we wanted. The price was \$114 and dad made up the difference. So it was ordered out of Denver and sent to Dresden. Was it beautiful! It was shipped with the freight car and was in use for many years.

The Burlington Railroad was completed through Douglas and they were pushing a settler program to increase their revenue. One inducement was the emigrant car. One could ship housegoods, livestock, machinery, hay and grain, and "what have you" in this car for one lump sum and a passage for a hostler was included.

The folks had another auction, selling everything they figured they wouldn't need or couldn't get into the car. Four horses and four cows, household goods, two lumber wagons, farm machinery, hay and grain for the livestock, a small tank and some barrels of water were shipped. Our town of Dresden was on the Rock Island and Norcat was on the Burlington, 24 miles distant. Dad loaded there and saved any car transferring. The car was on the way and a neighbor, Wren Wright, went along as hostler. He had been through Gillette in 1911 and was anxious for the trip. This was about the middle of April and we left in the touring car.

A short time after the sale, an old hen showed up with nine or 10 little chicks. Mother was undaunted, she merely made a crate and we brought them along on the running board of the car. We visited relatives at Eckley, Colorado and drove cross country to Sidney, Nebraska and stayed all night there. There was a lot of prairie between Sidney and Eckley. Very few fences. We went from Sidney to Cheyenne and there I saw my first street cars and the mountains west of Cheyenne were black with timber. It was a beautiful sight. Dad thought we could make it to Wheatland or perhaps Douglas, as we had whizzed right along from Sidney, but we ran into rain and sleet at Chugwater so we stayed there. The next morning was no better but we took off and it was nearly noon when we got to Wheatland which had the first trees I had ever seen that leaned with the wind as they grew. Mud all the way. Wheatland to Dwyer to Wendover and up the river to Glendo. We crossed the river at the Platte Valley Ranch and across Shawnee Creek then to Orin, between the tracks. It was here I saw my first irrigation ditches and I was sure they ran uphill. We got stuck near George Jewell's homestead and he pulled us out with a four horse team. Such gumbo we had never seen. We got into Douglas after 11 that night. We went to the LaBonte Hotel and registered. They were full so put us in the Annex. We ate at Art Wiker's restaurant and put the car in Rice's garage. We stayed several days at the Annex as the wagons had to be assembled, loaded and everything made ready for the trip to the homestead. Mr. Wright had learned of some cows for sale and Dad bought seven head.

On the sixth of May, 1917 the folks figured they were

ready to start for the homestead and Emmet and I left about 7, driving the cattle. We were on foot and pushed them right along. The folks were to load the wagons with some minor items and then overtake us, but they didn't. We boys were about two miles past the E.B. Combs' ranch (about 12 miles out) when we met a chap with a trap wagon and told him our problem. We were tired, hungry and scared and it was getting late. He thought we should go back as far as the ranch and wait. He said he was going to town and would let the folks know where we were. We started back and met the folks directly across from the ranch and we camped there. I have never been so glad to see my folks as I was then. One of the horses (a tried and true draft horse) had balked and took several hours to coax him out of it. He had never balked before and never did so afterwards.

The next day we arrived at the homestead about 3 p.m. We set up a tent in which we lived until the house was finished, about late August. There was not a fence all the way, just the Fiddleback's telephone line. When we arrived we found the Fiddleback was lambing a band of about 3,000 sheep on the place and were using some waterholes. We used them too and later hauled water from Box Creek until a well was drilled. J.G. Bushey drilled our well and it was quite late in the fall. The water was hard as a rock. We grubbed about two acres for the building site and were surprised at the pile of cactus and sagebrush. The house was two rooms and an attic, with the entrance door in the west which proved to be a very poor idea.

When freighting materials for the house and barn that summer, Dad had me go along once, intending to bring back the car which he had left at Rices' garage when we arrived in Douglas. I could drive since I was 14 but was to bring the wagon back. He had asked them to do some kind of repair and was presented with a bill of more than \$300.00, which he couldn't or wouldn't pay so he gave them the car. Mother was furious and vowed she wouldn't come to town in a freight wagon. She stuck by her guns and never left the ranch until 1921 when Dad bought a Model T touring car. During this time our transportation was horses or on foot. You really get to know the country this way.

Fencing was needed and one could get a permit for cutting timber by writing Cheyenne. Most of the posts for the homestead came from the Cow Buttes and Twenty Mile area and were pitch pine or cedar. There were no near neighbors with children so we had no school. The closest was the O'Leary school. Angelina O'Leary was the teacher. She later married Rhea Tillard, our neighbor to the north. Emmet, Mabel and Carroll rode cross country six miles to this school our first year here.

This same fall the folks bought 100 head of Corriedale-Rambouillet cross ewes from Vic DeMott, partner-manager of the Fiddleback Co. They were hand-picked and very good ones. The price was \$17 per head. Since the other kids were in school, the herding job fell to me and Mother, since Dad had gone to town shortly after this to work in Charley George's livery barn. He got to know many old-time ranchers and also newcomers. When he returned in the spring we plowed about 30 or 40 acres and planted it mostly to GEHU corn. It was sure to mature in this short-season country and besides it would

make good stock feed and save lots of freighting. If you have never harvested GEHU corn you don't know what you've missed. Somehow, during the winter I had 14 head of these sheep get away and, of course, when we found them the coyotes had killed them all. The lamb crop was good and they sheared well. The folks decided that sheep were what they wanted and that they should get more so that they could have a full-time herder.

I started high school the fall of 1918 so was in town the spring of 1919 when Dad made a deal with A.A. (Humpy) Johnson for 500 head of ewes, gate run. We worked them on a Saturday so that I could help. Humpy's ranch was west of town on Five Mile Creek and we trailed them into town and put them in the Burlington stockyards. We had barely got up town when here comes Humpy claiming we had 100 head too many sheep. It was late in the afternoon and they agreed to work them Sunday. It started snowing that night and continued all day Sunday and most of Monday. One of the heaviest snows I have seen here, about 14" on the level, wet and heavy with no wind. Dad was in those yards about 10 days and had Slonakers Dray haul hay from the B.J. Erwin ranch (about 2 miles) and cotton cake from the Grain and Storage Co. which was run by Freeman and Witt. The sheep had not been worked so everything was fed. There was a big loss of sheep. Dad and Humpy were never too friendly after this. Laughing about it in later years, Dad said all he made out of that deal was the pleasure of buying cotton cake out of the first carload shipped into Douglas. The price delivered was about \$44 per ton, but I don't know if it was the hay or the cake. If I remember correctly it started snowing the ninth of April.

The homestead law allowed the time World War I veterans had spent in the service to be applied as time spent on their claims and by 1922 land was becoming patented and some was for sale. Land was bought when available and many homesteads were leased. There were lots of free roaming horses and cattle and a fencing program was needed to protect what one was paying for. We had very good neighbors and they cooperated and many could use fencing as an improvement when proving their claim. When completed, we had 44 miles of fence to maintain. By 1928 just about everything in the north country was fenced. These were perimeter fences as all the sheep outfits were still using herders. The big barn was built in 1923 and the poles and dimension stuff were hauled from the Dawes and Marshall Mill at Cold Springs by teams.

We mined and hauled our coal from the Mountain Home coal bank (Cow Buttes, which later caught fire and was abandoned) or from the Woody Creek mine. These were about a 24-mile haul. When Dad got a truck, he hauled from the Antelope mines which were operated by Jess Morsch or Felix Niemcyk. They did not weigh, just guessed a five ton load for \$5. We used about seven tons a month.

Dances were one of the popular social activities and were held wherever they could find room. Albert Spellman had a big barn and held some dances. He lived west of us, up on the Hyland flats and Frank Rothleutner had a big barn where he often had dances. He lived at Dull Center. Both these places were quite some distance. When Dad enlarged the ranch house in 1925 and added on a big front room and two bedrooms, he put

hinges on the partitions so they could be swung back for dances and people came for miles to them. We had a pet antelope that had free run of the place and at one of these dances, while everyone was having their sandwiches and coffee, she came through the kitchen door, marched across the dance floor, looked the crowd over and went out the front door. She stole the show. We called her Betty and always thought she knew her name. Many baseball games were held at the ranch. After the Dry Creek Community Hall was built, the dances were held there.

The great depression of the late twenties and early thirties was here, and drought also. Farming was given up as a bad risk. The railroad companies made one pay the freight in advance on old ewes when you shipped. Lots of families left for greener pastures. Wheat was worth 17 cents a bushel when you sold. I have personally sold and delivered wheat for 25 cents a bushel during this time. Then there was a grasshopper invasion. At this time the Fiddleback Co. decided to disperse and in spite of the troubled times, Dad bought their Arnold ranch in Niobrara County, which the family still owns.

Coyotes got to be very bad about this time and Dad, Jack Morton and Rhea Tillard organized their own predator control program. They hired an old trapper named Breckenridge, each paid him \$50 a month and he could have the pelts. They bought 300 "coyote getters" for him. These were 38 caliber cyanide guns and very effective. Jack Morton furnished the sheep wagon, Rhea Tillard an old horse and Dad some old ewes. He was a good trapper and for many years we did not have many coyotes.

A fire in January 1944 destroyed the ranch house (homestead house) and mother perished. Nothing was saved other than what was in the bunk house and sheep wagons. The house was replaced and brother Carroll ran the ranch until it was sold in 1955. Dad was a member of the District 17 School Board for many years and resigned when he retired and moved to Phoenix where he died in 1958. Mother and he are buried in the cemetery at Douglas.

There were lots of incidents, both amusing and sorrowful, and one cannot look back at these years without a tinge of regret. It was a different era, an age of opportunity. A place for young people with courage and ambition. Honesty, reliability and self-sufficiency were their assets. Unemployment on a sheep ranch was unheard of.

Melvin A. Ballard

## Ballard, Samuel and Elizabeth Family

Samuel "Sam" Ausborn Ballard was born in New-castle County, Brandywine, Delaware on May 12, 1848, the son of George and Anna Deal Ballard. George was born in England.

At the age of 15 Samuel entered service in the Union Army by claiming to be 17. He served the majority of his time fighting for his country in the Civil War in Alabama.

After being mustered out in 1865, Sam moved to Missouri where he entered law school and later was admitted to the bar.



Bottom row: Esther Johnson, Bertha Feller, Virginia Reeder, Dorothy Logan, Mary Mardsen, Jennie Westwick, Florence Hollday. Middle Row: Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Sam Ballard, Bob Garfield. Top Row: Fredrick \_\_\_\_\_, Jim Martin, Charlie \_\_\_\_\_, Walter Reed, Mr. Fleming, teacher. D.H.S. 1923

Elizabeth Roberts of Missouri became his bride there. A son, Samuel A. Jr., was born on June 24, 1878 in Stansbury, Missouri.

The family moved to Chadron, Nebraska where Sam Sr. practiced law and also served as a judge for six years.

Coming to Wyoming in either 1898 or 1902, the Ballards settled on homesteads in T32, R73, Sections 34 and 35 near the future LaPrele Dam. Later in 1915 parts of the land were sold to their neighbor, Melvin Stinson, who in turn sold it to the Douglas Reservoir Company in 1922. The Ballard-Jones Oil Company also purchased part of the land.

Samuel Jr. married Ida J. Ward in 1903. Ida was born on January 13, 1881. Their children were: Ethel (b. March 17, 1904), Nellie (b. July 5, 1905, d. June 3, 1919), Ralph, Samuel A. III (b. March 31, 1908), George W. (b. May 27, 1910, d. May 27, 1934) and Leslie (b. July 31, 1917, d. December 17, 1923).

Samuel A. Sr. and Elizabeth moved to Douglas shortly after they sold their lands on LaPrele. Elizabeth died on August 11, 1915; Samuel on January 27, 1940 in Eaton, Colorado.

Samuel A. Jr. and his wife, Ida, also lived in Douglas. He died on December 21, 1936; Ida on June 7, 1938.

Ethel, daughter of Samuel A. Jr., married Clarence Clark. Three daughters, Vivan, Virginia and Helen and

one son, Lee, were born to them. Ethel lives today in Dubois, Wyoming.

Samuel A. III married Mabel Gitthens, daughter of Frank and Mary Gitthens on August 20, 1932. Their children were Samuel IV, Monte and Barbara. Samuel A. III, a longtime employee of the Postal Service, died in 1953; Mabel on April 4, 1978.

John R. Pexton

From information given by Ethel Ballard Clark

## Bansept, John B. and Emma

My father, John B. Bansept, was born in Haute Rombach, Alsace, France, June 16, 1866, the son of Jean Bansept and Barbe Noel Bansept.

In 1871, as a boy of five, with his mother and two sisters and all the women and children of the town, watched from a hilltop the takeover of Alsace by the Germans. The French fought valiantly to prevent this but the German forces were much stronger and the battle was over in a few hours. It was not until after World War I that Alsace was returned to France.

He received his elementary and secondary education

in Rombach. After graduation he attended a machinist trade school in Strassburg, Germany.

Germany had compulsory military training and Dad served under three Kaisers, the last being Kaiser Wilhelm of World War I days. He received a six month early discharge for good behavior.

My grandfather and his two brothers had been to the States a couple times, once to fight for the South during the Civil War. Dad's uncles returned to the states after the war and at least one followed the gold rush to California. Grandfather wanted to return to America but grandmother had a fear of crossing the ocean so they remained in Europe. But Grandfather always encouraged Dad to come to America.

After the death of his parents in the 1880's, he made plans to emigrate to America. In 1888, after visiting Paris, he set sail on the ship "La Normandie" for the United States. Since he had friends in Missouri he traveled there in order to get his bearings.

I think that it must have been there that he met two Frenchmen, Emil and Eugene Poirot and two Germans Andreas and Joe Pfeifer. Dad was the only one who spoke both languages fluently and he served as interpreter. All five began the business of learning English—all were self taught. All were lifelong friends.

Since the Pfeifer boys had a sister who was married to a Werner (I'm not sure but I think he was a Captain) who was serving at Ft. Fetterman, they took the train to Sheridan which at the time was the closest place by rail to the Fort. They bought horses and rode from Sheridan to Ft. Fetterman. Dad and the Poirots intended to go to California, so they headed for San Francisco. They found jobs in the vineyards but had not been there very long when they contracted typhoid fever. When they recovered they headed back to Wyoming.

Back in Wyoming, they filed on homesteads in what is now Converse County. They had several encounters with the Indians. Dad had a string of horses and he always thought that they might appropriate them but they never bothered him.

His original homestead was in the Pumpkin Buttes area, but since that location was a long way from any town, he relinquished it and filed on land about three and a half miles north of Douglas.

By this time he had met some more French speaking people—the Jules LeVasseurs and Mrs. Lea Cross and he started working for one of them (I don't recall which one). It was while working there that he met my mother.

My mother was born May 21, 1871 in St. Charles of Caplan, Gaspé, Quebec, Canada. She was the daughter of Joseph and Angélique Day Briere. She was one of ten children. Her father was of French descent and her mother was of English Irish extraction. Grandmother's parents had come to Canada to escape the religious persecutions in England.

Mother received her elementary and secondary education in St. Charles. After passing the strict Dominion teacher's examinations, she started teaching in Bonaventure county in Quebec. She was an outstanding teacher and was the recipient of two Prince of Wales Awards for being an outstanding teacher.

Meanwhile her sister Florence met and married Jules LeVasseur who brought his bride to the LaPrele

area in Converse County sometime after the turn of the century.

Mother decided to come out to Wyoming and visit her sister. She arrived at Orin Junction, a trip which took seven days. She became a governess for the older George Cross children and the next year she taught the Boxelder School. Some of her pupils were the Hiser and Robbins children. There were a couple other families but I can't remember who they were.

My parents were married in 1904 and their first home was on the Foxton place west of the river. They then moved to the Bolln place about three miles north of Douglas on the east bank of the Platte River. My brother John and sister Juliette were born when we lived at this place.

Dad started buying sheep and had acquired a nice flock, but the blizzard of 1909-1910 hit us, along with every other sheep owner in the area. We lost nearly everything. Some of the growers were completely wiped out, but by pulling the wool after the thaw and selling the few sheep Dad was able to save; he was able to pay off the mortgage he had signed to buy the sheep. My parents always felt that they were fortunate to do so.

It was very difficult for parents of that era to get a school. The larger stockgrowers had no children and didn't want to pay the extra taxes needed for education. But with a lot of determination and hard work, the community was finally able to build a small school about two and one half miles north of Douglas just south of Harvey Gulch.

Among the children who attended this school were the Frank and Milton Gitthens children, the Emil Poirot children, the Bansept children and the John Hartman children.

Some teachers that I remember were Mrs. John Amspoker, Edna Smith (Mrs. Bob David), Lottie Sleight (Mrs. Tucker), Hettie Sleight (Mrs. Vinson Merritt), Amber Feezer of Glenrock, Mildred McMahon (Mrs. Emil Schulte of Brunswick, Nebraska.)

Some of the neighbors that I remember vividly besides the above named parents, were the Chelewski family, Henry Von Appen (Dutch Henry) a German titled person. Nearest neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Richard Clark, but after spending a hard Wyoming winter, they decided to go back to Liscomb, Iowa. The Jamisons (he was a photographer) and Nels Perry whose avocation was prospecting for gold and copper in the Downey Park area. He had formed a mining company known as the "Copper King" with Carl Green and Ben Campbell. Ben was Malcolm Campbell's brother and when he had a disagreement with his brother he would come out to stay with us for a while.

Some of my early memories were the big Bull Durham sign on the north side of a livery barn on North Second. It was there for many years. The first funeral I remember was that of Bill Barlow which was held from Temple Hall. I remember that I had never seen so many flowers in my life. Catholic services (and probably those of other denominations) were in the same hall. So were community and other social affairs. I remember the Old Opera House and C.W. (Fatty) Hardenbrook's car. I remember that for a few cents he would give rides to interested residents. I also remember the five cent jitney dances held on a dance pavillion built on a vacant lot on



main street.

The dry farm years were rough what with hail, drought, grasshopper infestations, World War I and the strict rationing and very severe winters.

I remember Dad getting up at 4:30 a.m., riding into town and working with Fred Cannon building the LaBonte Hotel. They worked ten hours a day at fifty cents an hour, after which he would ride another three and a half miles home. Mother stayed home and did the gardening, the chores and everything else that a farm wife was expected to do. Like everyone else they were able to cope.

Even though times were difficult, we children never felt deprived. We had strict but very loving parents who endeavored to give us a sense of security, desire for reading, an education, love of country (I don't remember my parents every failing to vote), moral values and above all, a love of God.

In 1918, they sold the farm to Albert Sims and an army horse buyer bought all of our horses for the unbelievable sum at that time of \$165.00 each. I remember being so relieved that the war ended before the horses had time to be shipped overseas, so they did not have to be killed in combat.

They bought the house at 333 North Fifth St. The main reason my parents sold the farm was education. I was in junior high and they wanted us to have the benefits of better schooling instead of just six months of rural school.

In retrospect, though, I think that we had a good foundation during our rural school days. If we had any trouble in understanding anything at school, Mother gave us some concentrated tutoring. She was a super teacher and after her drilling, we never had any problems with math, reading comprehension or rhetoric.

Dad worked for many years at the fairgrounds. After that he was in charge of the city park—that was the original park where the hospital now stands. It was a pretty park and he had a way with flowers. They were always beautiful.

Although George Snyder and I were both born in Douglas, we did not meet until 1929. At that time I was teaching school in Glendo and George was employed by the Wyoming State Highway Department.

We were married December 31, 1931 and had three daughters.

George started working for the Wyoming Highway Dept. in 1927 and worked continuously with the state except for the World War II years when he was doing defense work in South Dakota and Utah. He retired in 1974 with 43 years of service. He served as Project Engineer and Resident Engineer in Fremont County for 26 years.

Mother passed away July 17, 1938, just 15 hours after the death of her sister, Florence LeVasseur, who had died at the Casper hospital.

Dad continued to live in Douglas for several years but eventually sold his home and moved to Lander to make his home with our family.

I deem it one of the privileges of my life to have had him with us. He had a nice disposition, enjoyed gardening and beautifying our yard, enjoyed his grandchildren and lived to enjoy 17 of his 20 great grandchildren and they in turn all loved him. Even today after nineteen years since his passing, the older great grandchildren have fond memories of him. He loved to read and kept up with cur-

rent events, never lived in the past and was very interested in politics and the emerging Space Age. He was interested and enjoyed life until his last illness just two weeks before his death in April 1965 at the age of 99. My parents final resting place is in Douglas Park Cemetery.

Emma W. Bansept Snyder

## Barger, Roy and Fern

Roy Ward Barger was born February 9, 1898, to Isaiah and Annetta Barger, the ninth of ten children, on their farm 10 miles southwest of Chariton, Iowa. I, Fern Wilma Lemley, was born June 9, 1901 to Jacob and Cavilla Horner Lemley, on a farm eight miles east of Russell, Iowa. We both lived in Iowa until we finished school there. I worked for Roy's sister, Adda Wright and family, on a farm 12 miles south of Chariton, Iowa for two summers. Roy worked there, too. That was how we got acquainted. I finished taking a one-year business course at Simpson College at Indianola, Iowa. I went to live with my sister, Margaret Stewart and family, in Absarokee, Montana where I worked. Roy was staying at his sister's, Jennie Patterson and family, farm 18 miles north of Mitchell, Nebraska. Roy wanted to live there. He wanted me to come to Scottsbluff, Nebraska to get married at the home of his sister, Ida Singleton.

On November 27, 1919, Thanksgiving morning, we were married in Ida and Bill Singleton's home at 10 a.m. It was snowing, blowing, and really cold. They took us in their two-seated model T Ford car, with no heat, and loose side curtains to the home of Roy's sister, Jennie and Lee Patterson, north of Mitchell to a wonderful wedding and Thanksgiving dinner. Bill and Ida had a little white dog named Fritz. He took turns laying on Ida's feet, then my feet, to keep our feet from freezing. Fritz was not happy changing feet while Roy and Bill were out of the car digging it out of snow drifts.

Roy rented a house in Mitchell, Nebraska and worked in a lumber yard there for \$100.00 a month until the following spring. Roy bought a big team of horses, dump



Roy and Fern Barger with their Model T Ford.



boards, and sugar-beet rack for the wagon wheels. He hauled beets from farms to railroad cars. His brother, Jay Barger, from Chariton, Iowa, came out to help Roy haul cement to build a new sugar beet factory outside of Mitchell. Roy hauled sugar beets from farms to the factory after it was built, and shoveled beets with a hand shovel at the factory until the sugar beet factory shut down in January 1921 and there was no work.

Roy's brother-in-law and sister, Bill and Ida Singleton, were staying with us. Bill wanted Roy to file on a homestead. He had filed on a homestead 54 miles north of Douglas, Wyoming. Roy filed on one about five miles southwest of Bill's. It was a cold January in 1921. Roy and Bill loaded our furniture, etc., on the beet rack, then with the horses went to Douglas, Wyoming out to the homestead, 184 miles from Mitchell, Nebraska. They hauled lumber fifty-four miles from Douglas with horses and beet rack. It took four days to make a trip — two days to go to Douglas, sleep on the ground or in someone's home, and two days to go back to the homestead. They built two shacks, 10 by 20 feet on each homestead.

Ida stayed with her sister Jennie and family at Mitchell, Nebraska. I went to the home of my sister Margaret Stewart at Absarokee, Montana and stayed with them until May. While there, on April 14, 1921, Kenneth Roy was born, a still-birth. The burial was in Absarokee. I came to the homestead in May. I walked many times to Bill and Ida's homestead five miles northeast of our place. There was a big prairie dog town on a flat going to their place. In summer, there were a lot of rattle snakes. Southeast of our place, straight east of a spring on a bright red shale hill that could be seen from our place, was a den of rattle snakes. One hot day Roy went over to it and started to kill some of them. They were everywhere, so he got away from there.

We had a nice view and close neighbors. William (called Bill) Boehler lived one-quarter to one-half mile north. Daddy Wilson lived about one block west of Boehler. Lawrence "Mickey" and Eva Allen lived one mile straight north of us and Boehler on a higher hill. We could see all of them from our place. Roy went ten miles north to Antelope Creek to get free coal. There was a thirty-two foot vein in the high creek bank and below ground vein. He drove close to the high bank with a team and wagon, dump boards, and knocked it off with a pick into the wagon. Roy went northeast of Antelope Creek where there were trees to get posts, and some longer poles. He made a barn in the side of the bank with poles and dirt on top for the roof, and a hen house in the bank with lumber on it, also.

I had made some pumpkin pies; and friends John and Rubie Wohlford lived about one mile south of the Cheyenne River (about 15 to 20 miles away) came with team and wagon to spend the weekend with us. She thought those pies were so good. I made them using no eggs or fresh milk, just canned milk.

We hauled water from the spring one-quarter to one-half mile south on the hill with a team, sled and barrel. Sometimes I took Kate and the sled, when I was there alone and Roy was away working. (Kate was a gentle old riding race horse I rode).

On April 15, 1922, Maudra Maxine was born in a snow storm. Roy went with the team and wagon to get his sister

Ida. It took him two and one-half hours. She lived four hours. We could not get to Douglas. Easter Sunday, April 16th, we buried her a little way northwest of the house where there was the least amount of snow. It was so hard to do that. We never got her moved to the Douglas cemetery which I wanted to do. We put a tombstone with her name on it, a fence around it, and a box for flowers on the grave. Thanks so much to Velma and Lou Steckley for taking care of the grave. I appreciate it very much.

One summer Roy herded sheep, or buck herd, around ninety-five head for Bass Jacobs. I stayed on our homestead alone. Bill Boehler and Roy had a trap line one winter and caught a lot of coyotes and two badgers. They would take turns riding horseback every day to check them. There was a ranch house northeast of our place where they would stop and get warm. The man there would always give them hot hot chili that warmed them up, which they enjoyed. Roy would come home telling about something like an ear phone they put to their ears and could hear faint music. He was so excited about it. Our neighbors, Lawrence and Eva Allen, took Roy and me over to the ranch in their car to hear it. We thought it was so wonderful to hear a faint sound of music.

We first got mail at Teckla, through Gillette, and later had a Post Office at Verse, at Bill Boehler's place. It came from Douglas to Bill.

Our neighbor, Mickey Allen, and Roy took our team, beet rack, and wagon to Mitchell, Nebraska, to work in sugar beets there one fall. Eva Allen and I stayed on our homestead. One fall I went too and worked at the hospital in Mitchell, Nebraska. Roy's sister lived on a farm there. We canned a lot of fruit and vegetables. I took a lot to our homestead. One winter we rented a room in Douglas, Roy washed dishes in a restaurant there. I baby sat, and took in sewing. Fall and winter of 1923 and 1924, Roy worked as a welder at a tank farm west of Douglas and northeast of Glenrock. We lived at first in a tent, eight-by-ten feet. I ripped up gunny sacks and sewed them together and nailed them to the ground for a floor.

After a time, a large piece of steel fell on Roy's foot and broke several toes. He was in the hospital in Casper for several days. There was no way to lock up the tent, only tied it from the outside. A man that worked with Roy lived with his wife in a ten-by-twelve shack. She said to me, "Fern, you are not staying alone in that tent at night without a lock on it. You are staying with us." They had one bed, so I slept next to the wall, she slept in the middle, and he slept on the outside. I turned my face to the wall when he got up and dressed. He went outside while she and I got up and dressed.

When Roy got out of the hospital, he had a cast on his foot up to his knee and walked with crutches. He could not work. We decided to go to our homestead and stay until he was O.K. again. We had bought a one-seated Ford car with a box in back, the first car we had bought since we were married. We packed tent and all in box in the back of the car and started out. Roy thought we should take a short-cut to the homestead, go north and east, instead of going through Douglas. It was the first time we had gone this way. There was a long steep hill not far from the tank farm to go over. I could not drive. It was so hard for him to drive with one foot and leg in a cast. He would make a run for the hill and get almost to the top and no farther. I

was out pushing and putting stuff behind the wheels. We were there until almost dark before we got over the hill. Roy was trying to make up for lost time before dark and was driving fast for those days. The trail was level, no traffic, and BANG, we hit a narrow washed-out deep ditch we didn't see. It broke the axle on a front wheel, and we could not go on. As there was no house in sight, and Roy was on crutches; we got out and put the tent on ground with the bedding inside of the tent by the side of the road. In the night it began to snow. By morning it had snowed several inches. Roy could not go any place in the snow with crutches. There was no way to get anything to eat. (I was expecting.) I covered Roy up the best I could with the tent and started out walking. It was still snowing. I saw one house, but before I could get there, they drove the other way with a sled and team of horses. I walked and walked, five or six miles, until I came to a house where someone was home. I was exhausted. They took me in, gave me tea and toast. The men took a team and sled to get Roy. We stayed there five or six days until we could get repairs for the car on the mail route from Douglas. The people we stayed with fixed the car. We were so thankful to the people who took us in and helped us.

Spring of 1924, Roy's brother Virgil (Bert) Barger and family lived on a farm north of Palisade, Nebraska. He wrote Roy that he had gotten a piece of corn stalk in his eye and lost sight in it. The eye doctor said he could lose sight in the other eye, too, so he wanted Roy to come down and stay with them to put in his crops, corn and cane. We took our car and stayed with them until the crop was laid by in June. He wanted Roy to go back to the homestead and get our furniture and move to Nebraska. He put our furniture on the beet rack with the team and wagon. It was hot weather. It took several weeks for it was 379 miles from our homestead to Palisade, Nebraska. I stayed with Roy's brother and family on the farm while he was gone. We rented a house in Palisade. On July 11, 1924, Veta Marlene was born. She was a perfect baby, but only lived one week before she died. Burial was in Palisade Cemetery.

Fall of 1924, Roy's sister Ida and Bill Singleton came to Palisade, Nebraska from their Wyoming homestead. He was sick with TB and died the last of January 1925. Burial was in a lot close to our baby in the Palisade Cemetery.

We lived in a rented house in Palisade until the spring of 1925, when we moved to a rented farm northwest of Benkelman, Nebraska, for four years. In the meantime we sold our homestead for \$1000.00, to Fred Dilts and put the money into cattle, sold the cattle, and put money into a farm. Later, we bought more. We had 560 acres before we sold it. It was 15 miles northwest of Benkelman, Nebraska. We lived there 16 years.

On April 15, 1926, Leland LeRoy Barger was born on the Star place. On April 13, 1927, Lyle LeRoyce Barger was born on the Star place also. We farmed mostly corn at first with horses. We had great big piles of cobs, and burned them in the cook stove and heater.

When Roy farmed with a tractor, he farmed around 400 acres of corn. Leland and Lyle helped him. On August 22, 1931, Dickie Dean was born, lived one week and was buried by side of Veta Marlene in Palisade Cemetery. We

lived on the farm until Leland and Lyle were through school, and Leland was in the Merchant Marines. We sold the farm and had a big sale. We lived in Benkelman, Nebraska for one year. Roy bought a big truck and trucked for one year.

On February 22, 1946, Lyle married Ila Mae Cline of Parks, Nebraska. They lived on a farm four miles east of Haigler, Nebraska. In June 1946, we moved to a farm six miles east of Salem, Oregon. We lived on this farm for five years. In 1951, we moved to a new house in east Salem. Roy worked at Blue Lake Cannery in West Salem until he retired at 62 years of age. We lived there 15 years.

On May 8, 1948, Leland married Edna May Thackery at Needy, Oregon. They lived in Portland, Oregon in a new house Leland had built until July 1959 when they bought 238 acres close to Eagle Creek, Oregon.

While in Portland, Leland had a big logging truck and hauled logs from the mountains to the valley; he continued trucking several years after they moved to the ranch. After the children were married and gone from home, in September 1981 they moved to a new house in Portland which their oldest boy Bill had built and their oldest son Bill and family moved on the ranch and live there now.

Lyle and his wife Ila lived on a farm in Nebraska for one year then moved to Oregon. They lived in Salem, Oregon in a new house he built, then on a farm south of Stayton, Oregon. He raised wheat for three years, then moved to Renton, Washington where he built houses. They still live in a lovely home he built himself.

On February 22, 1966, we moved to Woodburn, Oregon from our home in Salem, Oregon to Senior Estates. Roy loved to fish; we went to the ocean, mountains and lakes fishing.

On November 27th, 1969, we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary at Senior Estates Club House. There was a big crowd. It was a nice day, with surprise program put on by the men's chorus. Everyone enjoyed it so much. So many people said it was the best program they had ever been to. I made my dress and some of the flowers. We had a big dinner at our home after it was over. We got a lot of nice gifts and money.

On March 12, 1977, Roy went to be with Jesus and loved ones in Heaven. Roy saw Heaven before he went. He said it was a wonderful place and the angels were going to take him there. Burial was in Rest Lawn Cemetery in Salem, Oregon.

I am just past 83 years old. I have been in this home in the Senior Estates for over 18 years. I have many happy memories of life on the Wyoming homestead and had many wonderful and true friends there, for which I am so thankful.

Fern Barger

## Barnes, Ross and Phoebe Family

Herbert Erwin and Matilda Maria Spencer Barnes came to Wyoming from Sibley, Iowa in 1908 to homestead south of Lusk, Wyoming. The youngest son, Ross Ellis, who had been born in Iowa on Feb. 10, 1895, found work herding buck sheep for the Elliot Sheep Ranch that year. The following year, he started riding the "rough string"

on the roundup for Tom Bell. Besides breaking horses, he acted as a representative for the Bell outfit at roundups held by other cattlemen in the vicinity.

Ross' older brother, Fred, along with their mother, Matilda, and their sisters had taken homesteads on 20-Mile Creek. When Ross and his younger brother, Emmert, were old enough, they took homesteads on Walker Creek. The three brothers worked together improving their claims, though Fred and Ross did not always get along well with one another. Once, while the brothers were building Ross' homestead shack, they all went to the timber to cut a load of logs. At the end of a long, hard day, as they were returning home, Fred and Ross commenced to argue about which of them would climb down off the load and open a gate in a line fence which was built across their road. Upon arriving at the gate, both Ross and Fred got off the wagon and began to fight. Emmert, the third brother, watched them for a while, climbed down, opened the gate and proceeded to go on home. Finally, Fred and Ross decided that they had had enough, only to realize that their brother had deserted them. They were obliged to walk home. When they arrived, they both piled on the luckless Emmert for having left them afoot.

When World War I began, Ross and his brother, Fred, enlisted in the army. Ross was stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington, where he acted as a horse orderly for the officers, as well as breaking horses to be used by the Cavalry. Fred was sent overseas, serving in France with the Infantry.

The influenza epidemic of 1918 claimed the lives of the younger brother, Emmert, his sister Mary's husband and their baby son. Ross' parents were unable to tend their home place near Lusk, and in addition, look after the homesteads of the other members of the family on Walker and 20-Mile Creek, so Ross was given an honorable discharge from the military and allowed to return home to help his family with the work.

Ross, while riding after some estrayed horses in the fall of 1920, met Phoebe Shrader, whose family lived on the Dry Creek Flats. Phoebe Hazel Shrader had been born in Humbolt County, Nebraska on Nov. 19, 1899. She lost her mother when she was but eight years old. Her baby brother, Paul, was only 6 months old. It fell to Phoebe to care for the baby as well as to cook for her father, and older brothers. She was obliged to stand on a stool in order to knead her bread or to cook at the kitchen range.

Phoebe finished her common school education in Nebraska, and attended one year of Normal Training before coming to Wyoming with the family in 1918. Her father, Nathaniel Sanders Shrader, brought his motherless family to the Dry Creek Flats where he had taken up a homestead. Nathaniel decided that his first task must be the construction of a barn to house his livestock against the winter storms which would soon be upon them, since it was late fall at the time they arrived. The family dwelling could be constructed later. As a result, Phoebe and two of her brothers were very seriously ill. They caught the measels, and the illness was intensified due to the fact that they had no adequate shelter.

On April 10, 1921, Phoebe and Ross were married in Casper, Wyoming. Phoebe's brother, Lafe, and his sweetheart, Rhua, were married at the same time, the

two couples having a double wedding. It is of interest to note that only one child was born to each couple, and in each case, the child was a daughter.

Besides his duties on the homestead, Ross worked as a ranch foreman for various outfits. At the time of the birth of his daughter, Irene, on Feb. 25, 1926, Ross was employed by the John T. Williams Sheep Company, whose land joined that of the Barnes' on the west.

The winter of 1926 was very severe, with much snow and cold. When it was time for Phoebe to give birth to her baby, she was taken to Douglas by Mike Williams in a Model T. Ford. The maternity home in Douglas was located in a section house between the railroad tracks. Ross loved to tease Irene about being born "on the wrong side of the tracks". The section house has been long since moved to another part of Douglas, where it is used as a family dwelling.

Phoebe accidentally broke her arm when Irene was about 6 months old. Phoebe was on her way, horseback, to attend a dance at the time. The horse hit a fence, and in the course of events, Phoebe was left with the injury. For several weeks she was unable to pin a diaper on her infant daughter, so the task fell to two young men, Bill Nuttall and Clyde Strand, who were working for the Barnes at the time. They assumed the duties of baby-tender and nursemaid until Phoebe was once again able to manage.

Ross Barnes followed the rodeo circuit as well as caring for his own place and working for other established ranchers. It was said of him that he could ride anything with four feet and covered with hair. Ross also clowning at several State Fair rodeos in Douglas in the late '20's and early '30's. His act included a small Shetland pony named Jerry, and a Spitz dog Phoebe, who accompanied Ross to these performances, rode in horse races, as did her sister, Dorothy.

Ross, determined to build up a ranch of some size, would work at any job to make a dollar or two. Many of the other homesteaders were starving out and giving up their land. Some of it brought as much as \$2.00 per acre, while other tracts brought as little as 50¢. Ross, by hard work and frugal management, was able to buy out seven different homesteaders, and later on he was able to buy part of a larger ranch which was called the Kitchen Cattle Company. With this land, Ross also got part of the mineral rights.

It was the duty of Phoebe and her young daughter to care for the home place while Ross was working away from home. Besides looking after the range cattle, Phoebe and Irene milked cows and fed bum lambs which Irene herded during the day to protect them from the threat of coyotes.

During the depression and drought of the 1930's, the Barnes were obliged to sell their cattle and sheep to the government, as did so many others who were engaged in the agricultural business. A price of \$2.00 per head was paid for the sheep, while the cattle brought from \$5.00 to \$7.00 per head. The ultimate heartbreak came, however, when the agents of the Government took the stock over the hill and shot them. The Barnes were among the relatively few small operators who managed to hold on to their land in spite of the severe financial loss.

For most children reared in rural Wyoming at that time, education was very costly and placed a heavy

burden upon parents who were trying to "make ends meet". In addition, the small children had to travel several miles each day to attend school, either by foot or by horseback.

For the Barnes' daughter, Irene, school began when she reached the age of five years. She rode horseback some 2½ miles to her first school, making the trip on a one-eyed mare. The mare, part Shetland and part Indian pony, raised a colt annually. The foal was left at home when Irene set off to school. It took all the physical strength which the girl possessed to "persuade" the mare to leave her foal for the morning trip, but in the evening the distance was covered in record time. Enroute to the school, Irene had to pass through two fences. In order to make it easier for his daughter, Ross built wooden gates in these fences and placed a wooden mounting block on either side of the fence.

Mable Townsend taught the first school which Irene attended. There was an enrollment of nine children. However, all nine of the students were obliged to repeat this year of schooling since Mabel Townsend married a Government trapper and left — her term was uncompleted.

During her second year, Irene "boarded" with the Zip Thompson family. The schoolhouse, made of sod, was located about a mile distant, and Irene could walk to school. Esther Whitman taught that year.

The following two and a half years, Irene lived at her own home, riding her one-eyed pony a distance of five miles to school. It was on a cold, wintery day just before Christmas in 1935 that the child came near to disaster. She had made the trip to school, arriving half-frozen, only to find that the teacher had not come. She climbed back on her pony and returned to her home. Upon arriving there, she was so bitterly cold she could not get off her horse. She had frozen her face, hands and feet very badly. Had it not been for her trusty mare, she probably would not have gotten home at all.

This incident convinced Ross and Phoebe that other arrangements would have to be made for their daughter, and therefore Irene was sent to Lusk to stay with her widowed Aunt Mary. She delivered the Denver Post and did other jobs to earn her keep.

To complete the sixth and seventh grades, Irene lived once more at home and rode 2½ miles to a bus line which ran to the Walker Creek School. Phoebe moved to Douglas when Irene entered the eighth grade. Her teachers were Ruth Numerich and Clara Owens.

Irene boarded and roomed at the L. D. Wallis home when she started to high school. She saw the Wallis' oldest son, Robert, only occasionally, since he was employed by the William E. Taylor Ranch, and seldom at home. The following year, however, Bob and Irene began dating. Then Bob enlisted in the Signal Corps of the Air Force and was shipped out to England in the early spring of 1944. It was on a practice range in England that Bob lost the sight in his right eye. He was struck by a shotgun pellet. The eye became infected and later had to be removed. He feels that he lost his eye to save his life, however, for the crew members of the B-24 to which he had previously been assigned failed to return to England. Bob and Irene were married in September of 1944.

Ross Barnes died at his ranch home on Walker

Creek, where he had spent so many years of his life working to build a flourishing cattle ranch. He passed away in April of 1964 two months less than four years before his wife, Phoebe died. She lived her last years in the nursing home in Douglas. Both Ross and Phoebe are buried in the Douglas Cemetery.

Ross' place on Walker Creek is now operated by his eldest grandson, Richard, who continues to raise black Angus cattle as did his parents before him.

Irene Wallis

## Barrow, Merris C. and Minnie

Merris C. Barrow was born at Canton, Bradford County, Pennsylvania, on October 4, 1860, the son of Rev. Robert C. and Helen Harding Barrow. Robert was born in New York and was educated for the ministerial life. He entered the ministry of the Christian Church in Pennsylvania and was also married there. Later the family moved to Missouri and then to Nebraska.

Merris received his education in Nebraska and learned the printer's trade at Tecumseh, Nebraska. He leased the "Tecumseh Chieftain" for two years.

He married Minnie F. Combs, daughter of Ellsworth B. Combs, on March 1, 1877. They had three children: Elizabeth, Helen and Merris C. Jr.

In 1878 he received an appointment of U. S. Postal Clerk in Omaha. He was then transferred to Wyoming with headquarters in Laramie. In 1879 he became the city editor for the Laramie "Daily Times" and was later associated with the "Laramie Boomerang." In 1884 he left Laramie to go to Rawlins to work for the "Wyoming Tribune." Upon hearing that a new railway was being built through central Wyoming, and Fort Fetterman in particular, he decided to move his family to the abandoned fort in 1886.

Upon arriving in Fort Fetterman he started publishing a newspaper and called it "Bill Barlow's Budget." Merris had earlier taken up the pen name "Bill Barlow."

On September 15, 1886 he moved his family and newspaper to the new town of Douglas which had been started by the Pioneer Townsite Co.

Minnie took an active part in the publishing of the paper as well as running a stationery store adjacent to the Budget office on South Third Street.

Merris was active in local politics serving as the first clerk of the town of Douglas and in 1890 as its mayor. In July 1889 Barrow was selected as a member of the Constitutional Convention for the new state of Wyoming.

Barrow also published the "Sagebrush Philosophy." He did most of the writing for it at his new house west of Douglas. It was located northeast of Forrest West's buildings. A fire destroyed it later.

Mr. Barrow died on October 9, 1910. His funeral was one of the biggest in Douglas. Douglas school children, dismissed from classes, marched as part of the funeral procession from Unity Temple to the cemetery.

Minnie lived until 1944 when she died on October 24 in Thermopolis.

John R. Pexton

## Barry, Sydney and Effie Family

Sydney Field Barry was born on January 23, 1864 in Bromley, Kent, England, son of James and Amelia Barry.

Mr. Barry came to Douglas in 1886 after receiving his education at Tumbridge Wells College and working in a London mercantile house for a time. Upon his arrival in Converse County he became associated with the Phillips



Mrs. Sydney "Effie" Barry

brothers in their cattle venture. In 1900 he purchased a ranch on upper LaPrele Creek.

Sydney married Effie Williamson. Their children were: Margaret (born May 6, 1895) and Constance (died March 18, 1921). Sydney died on May 2, 1935.

Margaret was educated in the Douglas schools and attended the University of Wyoming. She served as County Superintendent of Schools for Converse County from 1919 to 1921.

In 1922 she married Harold Park. They moved to Salt Lake City in 1923 to make their home. Four children were born to them: Evelyn, Bob, Barry and Marilyn. Bob married Shirley Jo Currier in 1956. He died on January 14, 1973. Marilyn married Harold Carothers and after their divorce she married E. Justin Werner.

Margaret came back to Converse County to live on the family ranch in 1943. She died on October 20, 1970.

John R. Pexton

## Bartshe, Henry and Grace Family

Henry Hamilton Bartshe was born in Iowa on August 21, 1860, the youngest of seven children. Grace Augusta Wood was born in Ohio on April 20, 1866, the youngest of nine children, to Captain William and Mary Wood.

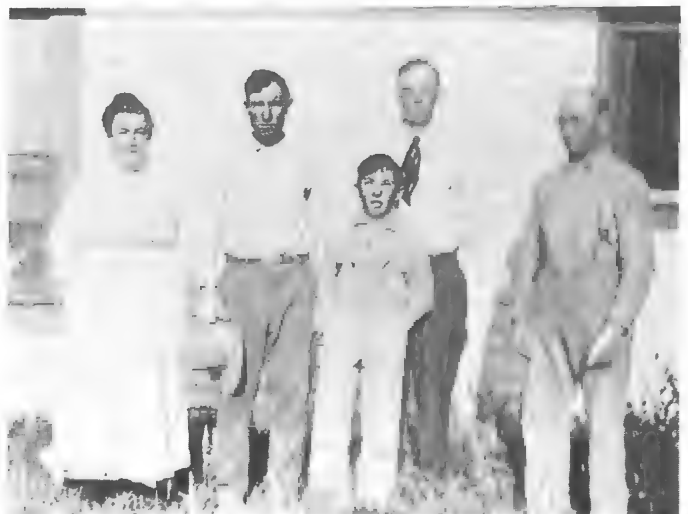
Because Wood was in the Union Army during the Civil War, he moved his family to a number of locations: Mississippi, Louisiana, and later to Buffalo, Missouri. It was in Buffalo that Henry met Grace; they were married in 1884. Two sons, Leonard Henry, born October 8, 1885 and Tracy David, born March 26, 1887, were born in Buffalo, Missouri.

In 1891 they moved to Wyoming where Grace's brothers, Batchelar Wood and Charles Wood had moved earlier, each filing on a homestead. They lived with her brother, Charlie, and his wife, Flora, at the Vernon Brown Stone Company Camp where Henry worked at the Red Rock quarry. Grace helped Flora run an eating establishment at this camp. At the quarry they cut huge blocks of stone from the hillside located northeast of the Boxelder Road, below what is known as Clayton Hill. There was a railroad spur to Glenrock which joined the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad. Much of the grade is still visible. Up until a few years ago a number of the stones were still piled in the Hugh Duncan ranch pasture.

After a short time they moved to Garfield, Washington. Henry worked for his brother David in his blacksmith shop. Leonard attended school there. One day a pack of hounds attacked him. His Uncle David heard them and was able to beat off the dogs.

Grace often mentioned their dislike of the weather and homesickness for Missouri which caused them to move back to Missouri.

Henry still wished to acquire some land and came back to Wyoming where he filed on a homestead near where he bought his brother-in-law's place. It is now a part of the Lester Grant ranch in Boxelder Park. Many years later Leonard and Tracy would recall that on February 14, 1894, Grace and the boys got off the train at Inez, Wyoming. Henry met them with a team and wagon, borrowed from Grace's brother, "Batch". With their belongings and supplies, they started their long cold journey to their new home, via Spring Canyon route, a distance of about 40 miles. The nine and seven year old boys, covered with a tarp, felt this was the longest and coldest trip they had ever made.



1912; L. to R.: Grace, Leonard, Hugh, Tracy and Henry Bartshe.

Henry had always been a farmer. He raised oats, wheat, rye, barley and potatoes which he sold and traded for things they needed. He also raised horses and cattle. There being no cars at this time, they would take their produce by team and wagon to Glenrock or Douglas and bring back groceries, such as large quantities of flour, sugar, beans and "Arbuckles" brand green coffee beans, which they roasted and ground. They also got lugs of fruit, such as apples and oranges, that they could keep for some time in the cellar. These trips would take two to three days.

Leonard and Tracy attended a school that was located between what is now the Fred Grant and Lester Grant ranches. Students at this time were children of the Robbins, Smith, Carlson, Johnson and Lingreen families. School was held at the time of year when the children were not needed to help with the ranch work. Later on the Bartsches owned this land and lived in the old school house. This was after a log school house was erected, more centrally located, east of the Charles Grant home, where the Fred Grant Hall now stands. At this time the school age children attending with the Bartsches were the Sullivans, Whites and Olins.

In 1898 Henry and Grace bought the "Hank Root" place, now the Leonard Bartsche ranch, from Charles Smith. Henry filed for an additional homestead adjoining this land. He built more rooms on the house and a number of out buildings. Their youngest son, Hugh Batchelar, was born at this ranch on January 14, 1905.

Leonard and Tracy stayed on the home place attending school after morning chores and before evening chores. They had to walk several miles to and from school. At this time they cut native hay to feed their stock during the bad winters and spent their spare time breaking horses to ride and for teams, some of which they would trade or sell to neighbors.

In 1902, Leonard, 17, and Tracy, 15, borrowed money to purchase the Steve Smith place from their uncle, Elmer Wood, now the Tracy Bartsche ranch. They ran this place in partnership for nearly 20 years. Leonard worked for Willard "Cap" White during the busy season to help earn money to pay their loan to George Lambe who ranched on LaPrele Creek. He also worked for Elias Hiser running the engine for the sawmill they purchased from Marshalls in 1912. The boys also worked for Davie Smyth, herding sheep and other work in between their own chores. When they each became 21 they filed on homesteads, adjoining their folks' place and each others.

During this time, Leonard, Tracy and their friends, the Robbins, Smiths, Hiser boys, Frank Philbrick and Ed Virden would ride horseback to Beaver School in the LaPrele Creek Community to attend the dances, pie suppers, picnics, etc. a distance from 12 to 14 miles for most of them, getting back home just in time to start their chores and go to work with no sleep until the next night. Tracy related that one evening they rode over in deep snow only to find that the dance was cancelled and had to turn around and ride back home.

There being few fences in those days, all cattle ranged together in the summer time, from Boxelder, Spring Canyon and east of LaPrele. In the fall there would be a large roundup that lasted several days. They would cut out their own stock and head them back to their

ranch to winter or sell them.

In the early summer of 1918 Tracy went to serve in World War I. He, along with several local boys, were assigned to the Cavalry unit and served in France.

Later that year, on October 30, 1918, Leonard married Grace Leman, daughter of Dennis and Bessie Leman, from the LaPrele community. They lived on Leonard and Tracy's place until 1920 when they bought the Hank Root place from Leonard's parents. After they moved here they soon installed a galvanized tank in the ceiling above the kitchen. Water was pumped into it with a gasoline engine, heated by a waterfront in the wood and coal cooking range and stored in a hot water tank. Therefore, the house had a complete bathroom and kitchen with hot and cold running water. For a number of years this was the only place in the community with these conveniences. Here Leonard and Grace raised their four children: Ruth Arlene (Warnock), Elizabeth "Bette" Jean (Olsen), Leonard Leman, deceased 1978 and James Hugh. They resided here until October 1970 when they moved to Douglas and bought a home. Leonard passed away May 8, 1974 at the age of 88. Grace still resides in the family home in Douglas keeping busy with her garden, lawn and flowers.

After Tracy returned from the service he married Ella Sullivan, daughter of William and Nora Sullivan, from the LaPrele community on June 22, 1921. They lived on the partnership place. Later the boys divided their places and this became Tracy and Ella's ranch where they raised two children, Robert Kenneth and Phyllis Mary (Hardesty). Ella passed away April 20, 1959. Tracy lived on the ranch with his son, Kenneth, until 1968 when they bought a home in Casper where Tracy took care of the house and yard until a few months before his death, at 96 years of age, on September 24, 1983.

Henry, Grace and their son, Hugh, moved into Glenrock after they sold their ranch to Leonard. Henry built a house in Glenrock and shortly thereafter moved back to the country residing on his homestead which he later sold to Charles Grant. While living on the homestead he built the local school house and helped build the new house for his son, Tracy, replacing the house that burned to the ground earlier that year. He also built the Fred Grant house. In the winter time when Henry had little to do he liked to work with wood, making furniture and a number of items by inlaying different kinds of wood. He was also an avid reader, wrote poetry and many children's mystery stories.

In 1928 Henry went to Alaska, which was a lifelong dream, and spent several months visiting a friend. While he was there he shot and killed a Kodiak bear. Shortly after he returned home he became ill and passed away November 20, 1930.

Grace and her son, Hugh, stayed in Glenrock. Hugh finished school and became an accountant. He managed the O. L. Walker Lumber Co. for a number of years. He served as yeoman in the submarine service during World War II and was in Tokyo Bay when the peace treaty was signed on the battleship, Missouri. After completing the service, he and his mother moved to Casper where he was employed.

Mrs. Henry Bartsche passed away in Casper on January 18, 1954 at the age of 88.



Hugh married Charlotte Stevenson Curry in Casper on December 21, 1951. They later built a home at the foot of Casper Mountain in the Garden Creek area. They both retired and enjoyed this home for several years. Charlotte passed away on November 15, 1976. Hugh later sold this place and now resides in the Veterans Home of Wyoming at Buffalo.

Leonard and Grace's descendants are:

Ruth married Doug Cook who was killed in World War II. They had one son, Warren. In 1953 she married Ray Warnock. They have one son, Gregg, and one daughter, Arlene Kay (Valdez). Ruth is a long time employee of the Converse County Bank; Ray is a well known locksmith.

Bette married Martin "Marty" Olsen. They had six children: Jeri Lee (Philbrick), Marti Jeanne (McNamara), James Dean, Vicki Joyce (Weiss), DeWayne J. and Gary Joe. Marty and Bette made their home on upper LaPrele Creek for many years on the Sullivan Ranch. They later moved to Bette's parent's place on Boxelder Creek. On February 24, 1976 Marty was killed in a tragic accident while cleaning and working on a gun. Bette continues to live on the home place in 1985.

Leonard L. married Louise Perry of Brownwood, Texas. They had one daughter, Sharon (Bailey). Leonard operated the Bartshe Appliance and Electric business for many years until his death on December 18, 1978. Louise is a long time employee of the Converse County Memorial Hospital.

James H. married Vera Epperly. They have two daughters, Debra and Rebecca. Jim is a mechanic and operates his J. B. Repair Shop in Douglas. Vera is the secretary for the Thunder Basin Grazing Association.

Tracy and Ella's descendants are:

Robert Kenneth who never married and lives and operates his parent's ranch.

Phyllis Mary (Hardesty) married Robert Hardesty. They have three daughters: Lauren A., Kerry L. and Kathryn M. Bob works for the Pacific Power at the Dave Johnston Power Plant in Glenrock. Phyllis is a ski instructor on Casper Mountain.

Ruth Bartshe Warnock

## Barth, Albert and Edna

Albert F. Barth was born on January 6, 1899 at Silvercreek, Nebraska, the son of John and Julia Barth, whose parents came over to the United States from Germany. John and Julia (Scholl) Barth were married in Decatur, Illinois on January 14, 1858. They first settled in Illinois and later came to Nebraska; first in Seward County for a time and later moved to Silvercreek, Merrick County, where Mr. Barth operated a mill.

In the late spring of 1900, the family moved to York, Nebraska and bought a farm. This was where Albert grew up and received his education (in the York County schools and was confirmed on March 16, 1913 at Peace Lutheran Church at Waco, Nebraska).

Albert ventured westward in 1919 to find work and visit his sister Emma and brother-in-law, U. Grant Evans, who had come to Wyoming in 1915 following their

marriage and homesteaded in Converse County, Section 11-T.34N.-R.69W. in the Walker Creek vicinity.

Albert's brother, Harry E. Barth, had applied for homestead rights in 1917 on 640 acres on Section 21, T.34N., R.69W., but after applying, he later decided he didn't want it and relinquished his rights to Albert who then applied for homestead rights on February 14, 1920 on the same 640 acres in Section 21 in Converse County in the Walker Creek vicinity, not far from the Evans homestead. After attaining the age of 21 years he proved up on the homestead by fencing, building a shack and cultivating forty acres on the south half of the section. His only way of transportation was his saddle horse which he rode to Douglas sometimes and to visit the other people in the neighborhood. At one time his horse was bitten by a rattlesnake when he was out riding near the Alfred Edison place, and Mrs. Edison knew what to do and saved the horse.

The homestead was filed for record on October 27, 1924 and was duly recorded by Roscoe R. Schlecty and was given the patent and the seal of the General Land Office in Washington, D.C. on the 22nd of May 1924 by the President of the United States, Calvin Coolidge.

Albert went to work in the oil fields at Tea Pot Dome, among others, after having leased the homestead land to Paul LeBar for grazing sheep. I believe that he went back to York, Nebraska in 1926, and helped his brother on the farm and also worked in the Meyer Music Store as a radio technician for his sister Bertha and brother-in-law Fred Meyer, and on April 28, 1929 after the death of U. G. Evans as the result of an automobile accident, Albert and his mother were called back to Douglas to be with Emma M. Evans and attend the funeral of U. Grant Evans who was buried in the Douglas Park Cemetery.

Emma's mother returned to York, Nebraska but Albert stayed there to help Emma that summer and in the fall, I, Edna Evelyn Beattie, went to Douglas and Albert and I were married on September 19, 1929 at the Grace Lutheran parsonage in Casper, Wyoming.

I was born September 12, 1904 at York, Nebraska to William and Mary Choffell Beattie.

Mrs. Emma Evans had a sale in November 1929 following her husband's death, and moved to Boulder, Colorado where she was superintendent of nurses for a number of years at the community hospital, having been an R.N. since graduation from nurses training school in 1909 at Sioux City, Iowa.

After that, she returned to York, Nebraska and was head nurse at York General Hospital for several years until her retirement. She passed away on October 15, 1964 and is buried in the Greenwood Cemetery at York, Nebraska.

After our marriage we continued living on Mrs. Evans' place which we rented and made that our home for the next 21 years and taking back the homestead land for grazing cattle.

We became parents of a daughter, Mary Yvonne Barth, born October 25, 1934, and a son, Harold Albert Barth, born May 19, 1936. Another daughter Juliann was stillborn on September 23, 1937 and she is buried in the Douglas Park Cemetery near where Mr. Evans is buried.

Harold and Mary attended Walker Creek School. After Mary graduated from eighth grade she was a

freshman in Douglas High School. Harold attended Walker Creek School through seventh grade in 1950.

We sold the land in Wyoming in 1950 and left Wyoming because of my ill health and moved back to York, Nebraska and bought land near Grafton, Nebraska.

Mary and Harold continued going to school and attained their education through Nebraska schools. After college, Mary worked as a secretary in Lincoln, Nebraska before she married Charles R. Hickstein on July 12, 1958. They lived in Camarillo, California and have two sons, David and Charles, Jr., and a daughter Deborah. Charles R. Hickstein is a metalsmith at Point Magu, California.

Harold married Evangaline (Vangie) Duer of Staplehurst, Nebraska on December 3, 1960. They have two daughters, Deann M. Barth, born March 13, 1964 and Denise R. Barth, born August 3, 1966. A daughter Teresa was born on October 18 and passed away October 19, 1962.

In 1965 Albert and I moved to York, Nebraska, having bought a house here where I still live. Harold continued farming after Albert retired, since they had been associated in farming together; and Harold and his family are still living on the farm and also renting more land to farm.

Albert F. Barth passed away on October 10, 1975 at the age of 76, 10 months and 4 days, and is buried in York, Greenwood Cemetery.

Now in 1984 I can look back to those twenty one years that we lived on the homestead. They were happy years although quite different to get used to for me. No modern facilities in the house and we had to use kerosene lamps and lanterns. Cleaning those lamp chimneys was an every day chore that I didn't enjoy. Then we got a gasoline lamp. We had to carry water in from the well that was pumped from the well with a gasoline engine. Before, we had a windmill built to pump water to fill three water tanks for the cattle and horses.

The 1930's were really awful with all the wind blowing dirt and sand and it was hot and dry and the crops were poor. Albert farmed the ground with four horses on horse drawn machinery. He didn't buy a tractor. He planted corn and wheat, raised alfalfa and also stacked prairie hay, which was hard work. He hauled wood from the timber to burn in our cook stove and heater, and made many trips to a north coal mine fifty miles or less from home with a pickup truck. Sometimes he hired Dickau's to haul the coal in a large truck. We were always warm and comfortable during the winter. We always raised chickens and turkeys to sell and to eat; we always had chickens and eggs to sell.

We raised good gardens by irrigating from the tanks. The vegetables tasted so good in the altitude and I canned lots of vegetables for our winter use. Albert milked cows so we always had milk and cream to use and cream to sell.

The January 1949 blizzard was real bad and we had hay dropped from a plane over the pasture that was delivered from Casper, Wyoming. The bales broke and scattered the hay.

I think that I could write a book about the experiences we had. We attended church and Sunday school in the school houses.

I will end by saying that Albert loved that country

and regretted leaving out there, and probably would not have left if my health had not forced us to leave. We left many good friends out there and not many are left, I'm sorry to say.

Edna Evelyn Barth

## Beach, Lloyd and Ellen Ica

Lloyd O. Beach was born in Moulton, Iowa in 1888. On February 26, 1908 he married Ellen Ica King in Udell, Iowa. It was shortly after their marriage that Lloyd went to Wyoming in search of work. The job he got was working for Bill Hamilton at the Green Valley Ranch near Douglas. He was hired as a handy man around the ranch. However, he laughed about that in later years, because he was the real greenhorn of the outfit. He was supposed to be helping on the ranch, but he didn't know anything about ranch life in Wyoming. He was told to go bed the sheep down one night and he wasn't to sure how to do this. He decided finally that he had to go get some straw and scatter it out for the bedding, then get the sheep to lie down. Needless to say, it didn't take the other ranch hands very long to realize that they had a live one on as helper. They sure had a lot of fun with him. They would set him up and get a laugh when he would do something silly.

With this job, he felt he could send for Ellen (known more commonly around Douglas as Ica) to join him. So she joined him in Wyoming. He was still having a hard time on the ranch and wanted to keep his job. He knew Ica was a good cook, so he got her a job at Green Valley Ranch as a cook. They both worked there but decided that it was time to get a place of their own. Lloyd and Ica took up a homestead located southeast of the Green Valley Ranch. They put up a homestead shack, and made a dugout in the bank for their barn. They lived on this homestead to prove it up and also worked at the Green Valley Ranch until about 1912.

Then both of them went back to Centerville, Iowa, Ica Beach's home, where Afton M. Beach was born in 1912. As soon as he could Lloyd returned to the homestead in Wyoming. Six months later Ica and Afton climbed aboard the Burlington train and headed for Douglas. Lloyd met them at the station in Douglas with a team and wagon to take them home.

When Ica returned to the Douglas area she spent some time cooking again, this time for the crew that was working on the LaPrele Dam that was now under construction.

By 1914, Lloyd was in partnership with Adam Schmeidlein on a place west of Douglas, 7 or 8 miles. By this time Lloyd knew a little more about ranching, and he began to collect some sheep and cattle. Adam Schmeidlein was a bachelor. He was from Germany. He spoke German fluently, and English poorly. He and Lloyd worked together there for about a year or maybe a little longer, then they sold that place to Tom Pexton. Kenneth Beach was born on this place in 1916.

When it came time to move from the Pexton place, Ica got very upset and mad over the situation. It would appear that the communication about when to move

wasn't too good. Some people showed up one day to move in and Ica wasn't out yet. Afton recalls that day, Ica was so mad, she sat Afton in the front seat of the old Model T, called Ole Betsy, and plunked Kenneth down on Afton's lap, took the pot of beans off the stove and sat them between Afton's feet and drove off down the road for the Powell place. Boy was she mad. They just bounced down that old dirt road with dirt just a flying.

During these years they moved around a lot. From the Powell place they moved to the Elder place right on LaPrele Creek. Here Lloyd had a band of sheep, and put up a lot of hay for various places.

Alice E. Beach was born on the Powell place on May 28, 1920. It was shortly after this that Lloyd Beach lost everything he had to Sara Morton. She foreclosed on him. Then Ica and Lloyd moved to the Ward Brooks' place over by Table Mountain. At this time Lloyd went back into partners with Adam Schmeidlein. Adam knew Lloyd was in hard times and Adam had this place. It was during this time that Lloyd bought about 85 acres on LaPrele Road. He lived here until he sold out in 1960 and moved into Douglas. While he lived on the place on LaPrele Road, he kept buying up land around him. He farmed, raised sugar beets, grain and milked cows. Lloyd always had a matched pair of black Percherons and was always very proud of these beautiful animals. Ica always raised white poultry, chickens and turkeys.

Kenneth died on August 15, 1944 in World War II, Lloyd on August 16, 1962, Ellen on October 13, 1962 and Alice Beach Nunn Murphy on March 5, 1981.

These remembrances were put down by Afton M. Sears, and she used the old family Bible for dates. Afton is the only living child of Lloyd and Ica Beach. She now resides in Bend, Oregon.

Afton Beach Sears

## Beaulieu, Leon and Gata

Before the turn of the century, Leon Beaulieu came to Converse County from Cacouna, Quebec Province, Canada. He had been born there in 1875, and was in his early teens when he came to Wyoming. He made his home with his mother's sister, Lea LeVasseur Cross, wife of George H. Cross. He worked for his uncle George and for his uncle, Jules LeVasseur. He could not speak or understand the English language. Leon, whose full name was Charles Leon Beaulieu de Hudon, dropped his first name, Charles, and the Hudon title when he took out his naturalization papers.

After he had learned some English, he worked for many of the local ranchers, as well as working on the construction of the LaPrele dam. One day he was helping a blaster on the rock face when the blaster dropped a can of percussion blasting caps. The can fell almost 100 feet, hitting rock between two workers below. Fortunately, the caps did not explode, but the practice of laying charges while men worked below was stopped. Leon believed the dam to be well-built since steel was imbedded in the bedrock on both the sides and the bottom. It was his opinion that the seepage which occurred later on was caused by the fact that cement was not run to bedrock, and in ad-



Leon and Gata Beaulieu on their wedding day, 1931.

dition, some of the facing cement was mixed with boiling water since the temperature was below freezing at the time which resulted in the cement sloughing off.

Leon took a homestead on Crazy Horse Creek around 1896. Wild horses wintered near his land on a big ridge. He built a one room cabin, a barn, chicken coop and a blacksmith shop all made of logs and located at the foot of Caffee Hill. He bought a new wood-burning stove and some of the chairs from the Douglas Opera House, all of which are still in use. This was the beginning of Leon's ranch.

Some folks called Leon "Trapper Frenchy" but to most he was just "Leon". He trapped in winters, taking any sort of fur bearing animal, but his real ambition was to trap 100 wolves in one single winter. He did average a wolf catch of 75 to 85 animals, but his goal of 100 was never realized. The nearest he came was a total of 99 one winter.

With a team and a slip, Leon built a ditch from Crazy Horse Creek to Buckhorn, from Buckhorn to Rabbit Creek, and from there to Badger Creek, continuing two miles further, for the purpose of irrigating his mountain meadows. He gave the names to Buckhorn and Badger Creeks. He bought land from the county for taxes, and obtained a water right at the completion of his ditch.

Leon had many friends. Western hospitality prevailed, the latch-string was always out. He was a very good cook, setting a fine table with his home raised vegetables and chickens. His cabin welcomed visitors even in his

absence. Leon took his dog with him when he went away to work for others, so he trained a cat to act as a guard for his chickens. Everyone knew that until Leon's return, the cat would not allow anyone or anything in the chicken coop. Many persons brought their dogs along with them, and if the dog was polite, the cat would tolerate him; if not, the dog would suddenly develop a love of sleeping out, never approaching the buildings.

Leon had one cat who would give him a grand welcome when he returned home. After greeting him, the cat would disappear only to return with the largest trout she could drag, placing the fish at his feet.

Leon fashioned a hole in the wall of his cabin to serve as a door for his cat so she could come and go as she pleased. He covered the opening with a sack. When someone came while Leon was absent, the cat left the cabin to return only when the visitors had gone. One night at supertime, a roving wolf decided to try to enter the cabin through the cat's door. The wolf thrust its snout inside to sniff but the cat disapproved. One jump and she had her feet braced on either side of the opening, her teeth buried in the nose of the wolf. The snarling and spitting which ensued were deafening! Finally, the wolf pulled loose and lit for the timber, wailing its loss of a cat-sized bite of nose.

After Leon had built a second room on his cabin, another incident occurred. The cat habitually slept on the foot of Leon's bed. This particular night, she must have been unusually sound asleep, for it was the only time Leon could remember when something got into the cabin without the cat being aware of it.

The cat bolted off the foot of Leon's bed and into the kitchen. The intruder was a skunk which the cat killed where she found it - under the stove. Luckily the weather was warm, for cat and man were obliged to live outside for a few weeks!

The first telephone line in the LaPrele community left much to be desired. As with other rural phones, it had the usual persons who listened in and gossiped. If too many receivers were taken down at once, the phone was rendered useless. There were several families who spoke fluent French. They would converse with one another, and the non French speaking persons could not understand the conversations, much to their chagrin. This was called the "French Line." Though Leon did not have a phone himself, he had a French speaking friend who did. Other members of the French Line were unaware that Leon's friend spoke French, and when their secrets about him kept getting back to him, they grew suspicious of each other. Thus, the French Line lost its popularity.

During World War I, Leon hired a fellow to look after his ranch. He joined the infantry. Since he spoke fluent French, he was assigned to the police section as interpreter. During the war, he had the misfortune to be gassed, a disability from which he would suffer the remainder of his life.

After the war, Leon returned to his mountain ranch. He made improvements in his cabin, and built more outbuildings. For a few years, Leon used his horses to haul mail, trying to establish a route into the mountains. He was not compensated for his efforts. The route was finally established, extending from the Beaver School to the Beaulieu Lane. Folks from the Downey Park area and

from Cold Springs came to the Beaulieu Lane to pick up their mail. Leon built an 8 × 8 food shed with a stove in it for the convenience of the patrons and the mail carriers. Most of the mail carriers were conscientious, walking or riding the last few miles when the winter was bad. Among these carriers was Myrt Miles, one of the best carriers, and one who held the position for the greatest number of years.

In the beginning, there were many families living in the hills, but their numbers dwindled, especially during the winter time. Finally, Joe Williams and the Beaulieu family were the only persons who stayed during the winter months. Eventually, even Joe Williams left. The Beaulieus felt that the mountain temperatures were more constant than those of the lowlands, there being less fluctuation. The altitude at the Beaulieu ranch was over 7,500'. The winters were noticeably warmer, the summers cooler.

Leon Beaulieu married Gata Angela McCarthy on May 13, 1931 in Casper, Wyoming. Gata was born in Gibbon, Nebraska in 1898, daughter of Daniel Benedict McCarthy and Gata Mary German McCarthy. She was the third in a family of seven children. She received her education in Nebraska, coming to Wyoming to teach school in the Lightning Creek School. Her younger sister, Anastasia, "Stasia," had been teaching but was obliged to resign, thus Gata was hired to finish her sister's term. She made the trip to Wyoming from Thedford, Nebraska in her new Model T roadster. Having come from the Nebraska sandhills, Gata was unprepared for the rocky roads which she encountered on the trip. Though she carried three spare tires, she barely made it into Lusk, Wyoming. She had used practically all her traveling money for tire repair and gas. Arriving there, she found all the filling stations closed, so she continued her journey, hoping that the next small town might provide her with badly needed gasoline. Fortunately, she was able to buy two quarts of gas at a station a short distance from Lusk. She arrived in Douglas, only to run out of gas as she drove up to a filling station owned and operated by Earl Copenhaver, in addition to which she had another tire going flat. He was kind and helpful to Gata, insisting that she must have four new tires on her vehicle. Since she only had 10¢ left, Gata was reluctant to agree, but Mr. Copenhaver said she could repay him at her convenience.

Gata looked up Maude Dawes who validated her teaching permit for the State of Wyoming. Maude gave Gata \$2.00 to tide her over. Gata proceeded to her school, and finished Stasia's term, after which she contracted to teach the Hanlin school for the next term at a wage of \$90.00 per month. However, a member of the school board hired his own daughter to teach the Hanlin school and Gata was jobless. She found that the teaching position at the Cold Springs school was vacant, and was able to gain that position. She had only one pupil, Earling Dawes, son of Pete and Jean Dawes.

Gata eventually took a stone and timber claim in the Cold Springs vicinity. The Cold Spring was on the northwest corner of her land. The regulations governing claims during those years were as follows: When a claim was filed under the Homestead Act, it could be for as much as 640 acres, 320 acres, or as little as 160 acres. The government retained the minerals on the two larger

amounts of land, but on 160 acres the mineral went with the land. A homesteader had a choice of three or five years to prove up. On a five year basis, one had to live on the claim five months out of the year, but on a three year agreement, one must live on the land seven months out of the year. In addition, a person was required to make a certain number of dollar's worth of improvements in the form of cabin, corral, fences, etc. A desert claim could be any number of acres up to 160; a stone and timber claim, 40 acres. Both of these claims could be had with the minerals, but one was required to pay \$1.75 per acre in lieu of having to prove up on it. Each adult citizen was allowed one homestead. However, due to a flaw in the law, one could sell his relinquishment before completing proving up, file on another homestead, sell it before proving up, and so on. As long as one did not complete the requirements for proving up, one could file again and again.

Gata was introduced to Leon Beaulieu by the Dawes family in the late 1920's. After their marriage, a group of the local ladies told Gata, "We don't know as we will like you! Now we won't get all of the nice vegetable from Leon's garden."

About 1931, Leon started running 1,500 head of sheep. Except for 35 head of registered ewes, he sold the sheep in 1941.

Leon enjoyed prospecting and mining. He worked in most of the neighborhood mines. He was able to keep a precise and complete log of each mine in his head. None of the mines were worked for a long period of time. Mismanagement, liquor or a combination of both lead to most of the failures of the mines. The equipment was usually divided among the laborers when the mines failed. Most workers also owned shares. Pete Dawes and John Bansept prospected with Leon at times.

Leon's favorite mine was the Copper King on Crazy Horse. The shaft was approximately 25' deep with step-stones on one side. Leon had found the old hole before he homesteaded. Part of the expenses of the Copper King were paid for by "float or drift balls" of practically pure silver which they found during mining. Most were the size of marbles, some were as large as your fist, and one very large or about the size of a man's head was found. It was displayed for a while in a Douglas store window, from which it mysteriously disappeared. Leon felt that the potential of the Copper King was never realized.

Leon's many aged French or French-Indian friends supplied him with much information of the Indians in the area. The creek upon which Leon settled was named Crazy Horse and the story of its namesake is fascinating. There is some controversy as to whether it was named for Whiteman Crazy Horse or for Crazy Horse George. Leon believed that it was Whiteman Crazy Horse. He lived with the Indians who gave him his name. He must have been Caucasian, or half-breed, for the Indians to call him Whiteman. They claimed that Whiteman Crazy Horse would catch a silvertip (grizzly) bear, collect an Indian audience and wrestle the bear to the finish. Indians feared the silvertip and avoided any contact with it. The Indians said that "The cripple had to be like a locoed horse to do such a thing." It is not clear how Crazy Horse was crippled. Indians might refer to any physical or mental impairment as "being crippled." One account told of

Crazy Horse being shunned by the tribes and expelled from their camp when Crazy Horse took his own daughter as a wife.

He then must have lived on the creek for a long time, since he built one cabin and then much later, another. Both were built the same and the location of each was identical to the other. Each was centered in a large willow patch, made of logs and about 10' x 10' x 4' high, having a flat roof of logs. The east side had an opening that one could crawl through. The other walls had only a rifle port closed by a wooden plug. Apparently he used a central fire since there was a vent hole in the roof. The shelter was not visible above the willows, being only 4' high, but movement within it certainly must have been curtailed. About 1940, the roof of the second cabin had caved in, but the sides were still solid. Later on, the structure was engulfed in the backwater of a dam which the beavers built.

Intrigued by the tales he heard, Leon was determined to find War Bonnet swamp. Legend had it that the name evolved from an incident which occurred there. It seems that two tribes were embroiled in a long and devastating battle east of the peak. In desperation, a great chief of the tribe which was losing the fight, donned a war bonnet believed to have strong medicine, and charged the enemy. The medicine failed to save the chief. His warriors recovered his body and head gear, keeping the good medicine. It was obvious that if any of the warriors were to survive, they would have to sneak away through the timber one at a time. It would be impossible for them to carry their dead chief through the timber, so they decided to place him and his war bonnet in a swamp which lay at the foot of the peak. It was so boggy that anything which happened to get in it sank quickly out of sight. Having disposed of their chief in this manner, the remaining warriors escaped, and the peak was named Medicine War Bonnet. Years later, Leon was convinced that he had found the swamp, which during the years had dried up, so that he could never be absolutely certain.

This area was the Indian's Medicine Rivers. Two of the creeks are the River of the Medicine Bow Willow and the River of Medicine Grass. Before the original French name was shortened to LaPrele, it was interpreted as "joint grass" which is a medicinal herb. Leon considered Moss Agate to be an Indian Medicine mountain and that Chimney Rock was used to carry medicine smoke to the heavens. When Leon first saw Chimney Rock, it was a perfect chimney, accessible through a small hole in one side. Inside, it was blackened by the smoke of many fires.

Leon's large garden was his joy. After a hard day's work, he would tend his garden for relaxation-sometimes by moonlight. He raised all sorts of vegetables, but always had a row of pansies about 2' x 30' on one side of the garden. They self-seeded and were covered with blossoms during the summertime. He also raised roses in half barrels in the house, resting them during the summer and bringing them to bloom in the winter.

Leon never ceased to marvel at the advancements made during his lifetime, but not all progress is a pleasure. He often spoke so admiringly of the square-riggers, three masters and schooners that one knew he had given up a dream of being a sailor. He told of the two whaling trips he went on when he was very young. It was



fifty-five years before he made a trip back to Canada. The only sailing ship he could find was rotting aground near Cacouna. The romance of the sea no longer intrigued him, and he ceased to speak of his love of it.

Leon's wife, Gata, had always been fleet of foot, winning all the women's foot races held at the local picnics. She was banned from the women's races after a time, and competed in the men's races. Much to the men's chagrin, she lost very few of those.

Gata Leone was born in Douglas on July 8, 1932. When Leone was four years old, the family went to Douglas to shop. The girl wanted to see a train and it happened that she and her mother were about half a block from the tracks when they heard a train coming. Gata told her daughter to watch, for she was going to see a train! It was a "through" freight going through town, wide open. That big, black iron-horse burst from behind a building with a squall that could peel the hair off a Texas steer's backbone! Terrified, the small girl raced up the center of the street with her mother in hot pursuit. Gata must have been a bit out of trim that day, for the child made three blocks before her mother caught her.

On another occasion, the Beaulieus were in Douglas with both their pickup and their truck, the reason being that Leon had to stay late for a meeting. Leone and her mother were to drive the truck home. The year was 1935, and the place - the bridge across Blue Nose Creek. On the sharp hill south of the bridge, Gata missed her gears and before she could stop the truck, it rolled backward onto the bridge, which had no railing. The wheels on the passenger side were hanging over the edge - a fifteen foot drop to the creek below. Gata tossed her daughter out of the window on the driver's side and told her to run up the road. The drivetrain of the truck ground and chewed on the plank ends of the bridge as it slid sideways. It finally stopped and teetered side to side, with nothing touching the wheels. When it quieted down, Gata sprang out the window, almost sending the truck over the edge. The two walked on home, and returned with the team and wagon in which they had loaded necessary tools and gear. The truck was still teeter-tottering in the rising wind which threatened to push it on into the creek. Leon came along, twisted poles in chains and with a jack, drug the truck back onto the bridge. The damage to the truck was minor, but the planks of the bridge would forever carry the marks of the near disaster.

Leon Beaulieu died in November of 1956 at his ranch home in the mountains. Leon and Gata were snowed in, all alone. After Leon's death, Gata walked out to get the coroner, who was obliged to use a snow "weasel" to get up to the ranch. Gata spends winters at the home of her daughter, Leone Beaulieu Olds and her son-in-law, Ralph M. Olds in Douglas. Gata has sold all of her land except 90 acres where her buildings stand. She returns in the summertime to live in her beloved mountain.

Leone and Ralph were married in 1950. They own and operate a scrap yard in Douglas. For many years they were engaged in the trucking business as well.

Leone Beaulieu Olds

## Beaver Family

The Beaver family can trace its ancestors back to the 1500s. At that time the family spelled its name Bieber. They were living in the Alsace area of Germany and France when the majority of the family emigrated to the United States between 1730 and 1770.

The family gradually migrated throughout the country with one branch settling in Lincoln, Illinois and later moving to Tekamah, Nebraska in 1898. It was in Illinois that the story of George and Elizabeth Beaver began.

George married Elizabeth Fulcher, a native of Illinois. They became the parents of nine boys. The first four were born in Lincoln, Illinois. They were: Ernest V. (born April 3, 1893), George Raymond (born July 3, 1894), Charles C. (born November 30, 1895) and William L. "Bill" (born October 26, 1897). The last five were born in Tekamah, Nebraska. They were: Lorella Irette (born September 17, 1899), Ralph O. (born October 6, 1901), Richard B. (born February 1, 1903), Harold B. (born March 20, 1905) and Arthur R. "Johnny" (born September 23, 1907).

George and his sons all farmed near Tekamah. The desire for land of their own brought several of the sons to Wyoming to seek homesteads.

The first members of the family to arrive in Wyoming were Ernest and Raymond who, with their good friend, Miles Larkin, came in 1919. They traveled west in a Model T Ford truck which was jointly owned by the five older Beaver boys. They brought tents and other necessary camping equipment with them. Homesteads



Left to right: Irette Beaver, Miles Larkin, Ida Larkin (Miles' sister), Raymond Beaver. Early 1920s.



were selected in the Walker Creek area near Piney Creek.

Charles, William and Irette came shortly thereafter and also homesteaded in the same area with all six homesteads being on adjacent sections in Township 35, Range 68.

At first the six men lived together in the cabin they had built on Bill's homestead until they could build the other five cabins. The cabins were made of logs from the nearby timber. They helped each other and jointly purchased needed supplies and equipment.

In 1920 Charles returned to Tekamah where he married Helen Lester on August 14. He brought his bride back to the homestead where they resided until it was proved up. Charles and Helen moved back to Tekamah in the fall of 1921. The homestead was sold to his father, George, in April 1922.

Irette moved to California in 1924. He married Eileen Sullivan in the late 1920s. They presently live in Glendale, but Irette still owns his homestead.

Ernest married Frances C. Keller in Douglas on April 25, 1924. Frances was the daughter of James A. and Anna Keller of Council Bluffs, Iowa where she was born May 3, 1893. Frances attended school in Council Bluffs and took courses at Bellvue College in Nebraska and at Colorado Teacher's College in Greeley. She had taught school in Iowa before coming to Wyoming with her sister, Helen, to homestead. Frances was teaching at the Whiting School at the time of their marriage.

George, the father, came out and bought the Peter Lewandowski homestead in October 1924. He remained but a short time and returned to Nebraska.

William married Lucille Anderson, daughter of Charles and Charlotte Anderson, on November 6, 1924. Their first child, Kenneth was born on September 13, 1925.

Ernest, Raymond and Bill bought a threshing machine and every fall they would thresh grain for themselves and for the neighbors. Most of the grain grown was wheat and oats and some barley. Usually the threshing was done on a share basis with payment being made in grain.

Their younger brother, Richard, also came out for a short time. He helped during harvest time by driving the threshing machine engine. While here he courted and married Flora McCartney, daughter of G. H. and Lulu McCartney, on October 10, 1925. They returned to Tekamah to farm one of the Beaver places.

When the Converse County Farm Bureau was organized in 1926, Ernest was elected vice president. He was also instrumental in starting the Douglas Co-Op and was its first president and manager. Frances was also employed by the co-op as bookkeeper. Ernest and Frances left Douglas in the late 1930s. He sold his homestead in November 1941 to Tom Robinson, Sr. Ernest was employed in Laramie and Casper prior to buying a store and locker plant in Banner, Wyoming with his brother and sister-in-law, Johnny and Dorothy Beaver. When the store was sold, Ernest was employed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Dixon, Montana until his retirement in the late 1950s. At that time they returned to Douglas where Ernest worked as secretary for the Douglas Chamber of Commerce.

Ernest then retired for a second time and he and Frances moved to McAllen, Texas where Frances died June 19, 1983 and Ernest on March 8, 1985.

Ernest was known for his dry sense of humor. He could tell the funniest story so seriously and never crack a smile. The listener(s) would be in stitches.

Bill and Lucille moved to Omaha, Nebraska about 1927. There two daughters were born: Merna on January 20, 1929 and Mildred on September 13, 1931. They returned to Douglas about 1933 and Elizabeth "Beth" was born January 13, 1935. Bill sold his homestead to Walt Dickau in April 1946. He worked at various jobs in Douglas until he retired from the Converse County Memorial Hospital. He died on May 9, 1983. Lucille still resides in Douglas.

Their son, Kenneth, served in Europe during World War II. He later earned a degree as a petroleum engineer and went to work for Amoco Oil Company in Midwest. There he met Janice Mahler whom he married on July 22, 1954. They moved to Denver in 1965 and in 1973 Amoco transferred him to Egypt and later to Iran. They returned to Houston, Texas before he was assigned to London. Kenneth retired in 1984. He and Janice have two children, a boy and a girl.

Merna married Wayne Blackman in September 1948. (He was born April 24, 1927 in Douglas, the son of James A. and Pearle Blackman; he died near Gillette on December 5, 1965.) They had three sons and a daughter. In 1967 Merna married Barney McKillip and now resides in Batesville, Arkansas. Mildred married Earl Shatto, Jr. in November 1950. Beth married Stanley Lundberg on April 9, 1955.

Raymond married Juanita Hageman, daughter of Henry and Freda Hageman, on December 22, 1926. Juanita taught school before she was married, first at the Flattop School and then at the Willow Creek School where she taught Helen and Harold Hublein, Lois Anderson and Edith Thatcher. After her marriage she taught at the Willow Creek School again.

The couple set up housekeeping in Raymond's one room homestead cabin which was divided with a curtain to provide a bedroom. Three children were born to them: George Raymond, Jr. on November 22, 1929, Donald Roy on March 21, 1933 and Ramona Elaine on January 5, 1937.

With the increase in family, an additional room was built onto the cabin and a cellar was dug underneath.

Raymond expanded his farm and ranch operation with the purchase from his father, George, in June 1950 of the Lewandowski and Charles Beaver homesteads. He also purchased the Roy Wampler and Jewett lands.

George Beaver died in Tekamah on Thanksgiving Day 1951.

Raymond and Juanita lived on the homestead until 1960 when they moved to Glenrock to live in an apartment owned by their son, George. Raymond died in Blair, Nebraska on October 13, 1961 while he and Juanita were visiting his brothers. Juanita presently lives in Irwin Towers in Douglas.

Catherine Larkin Pexton

## Benham, George E. and Lottie V.

George Ephriam Benham was born in Cedar Falls, Iowa on April 25, 1870. When he was 14 years of age, he along with his parents moved to Chadron, Nebraska. During the Indian uprising of 1891-1892, he served as a message bearer for the army.

George married Lottie Vera Wells on Feb. 23, 1883 in Chadron. She was born in Iowa on March 15, 1878.

After their marriage, they lived in Chadron. It was in Chadron that nine of their ten children were born. They are: Faye Luella, Lola Beatrice, Mayme, Charles Richard, George Jr., Mabel Gertrude, Maude Catherine, James Henry, and Esther Marie. In April of 1917, they sold their property in Chadron and moved to Douglas.

George worked for the county for some time on the road and bridge crew. The county had a White truck with steel wheels and a large grader that he used to build the cut off road that starts about five miles east of Douglas and ends close to Shawnee. He also built the old bridge at the Platte Valley Ranch across the North Platte River. They drove piling in the wintertime and used a big gray team on the pile driver. He also built several of the roads around Converse County and the older wooden bridge across La Prele Creek. In later years he built many of the sidewalks that are in Douglas today. He had a big cement mixer that straddled the sidewalk and fed gravel from a wagon alongside the mixer as it was pulled along. The wagon also had a big tank for water and another tank for cement. They poured about one city block a day.

Dick Emery had a ranch on the Cheyenne River with lots of cattle. In 1921, he ran out of hay so he hired Bob Randall who had four big four-wheel-drive trucks with hard rubber tires to haul hay. He also hired John Hartman to haul with wagons and horses. The horses pulled the trucks out of the mud and snow when they got stuck. It took them five days to get to the ranch.

One daughter, Betty Lou, was born in Douglas. She later married Avon "Bud" Pickinpaugh.

Having been a Deputy Sheriff of Dawes County, Nebraska under Sheriff Vet Canfield for five years, George was appointed Acting Sheriff of Converse County when one of the sheriffs died. Lottie Benham spent many years as a midwife and practical nurse, working under Doctors Hylton, Storey and Shaffer. She was well respected as a nurse.

George and Lottie also owned a restaurant on Center Street at one time.

George died on June 10, 1948. Lottie died on Sept. 16, 1962.

George Benham Jr.

## Benway, Floyd E. and Hazel

In the year 1915 I, Floyd E. Benway, spent my first summer and fall in the State of Wyoming working for Vernon Griffith, a sheepman, on his winter's range headquarters ranch, 50 miles east of Sheridan, Wyoming, and 20 miles north of Clearmont, Wyoming. I came from Union Township, Rock County, Wisconsin, a very rich

farming section of southern Wisconsin, where I was born and raised. I was a few months past my 19th birthday when I left Wisconsin in March, for Montana, and due to not being able to find work, as I had hoped to do, I was soon running short of funds. Like many more were doing the spring of 1915, I threw away my suitcase and took to touring by freight train, and I came into Wyoming aboard a long freight train from Billings, Montana, destination Sheridan, Wyoming. After about two weeks in Sheridan, I hired out to Vernon Griffith, a sheep man, to help in shearing and trailing a 95 mile trail into the Big Horn Mountains to his summer's range. My work was to end at the end of the trail, but it turned into an all summers job, and as long as I cared to stay in the fall, before returning to Wisconsin.

It was the wonderful outdoor life and freedom that I found in Wyoming that year of 1915 that brought me back to Wyoming and to Douglas. My father coming out with me the first of September 1916 and to eventually file on 320 acres in the Wagonhound District on Magpie Creek, including Magpie Springs in October 1916 making me a resident of that community. We put in a number of years there building up a small ranch, and running sheep. The homestead that I took had been filed on some years past, by a man then living in Kansas City, who had never done anything with it, and was about to lose it. Wade Fowler, then head of the United States Land Office in Douglas, obtained a relinquishment back to the government from him. I then filed on it.

The man in Kansas City at the time he filed on the claim was promoting a scheme whereby he asked the government to withdraw two or three thousand acres of the open land adjoining his claim from homesteading rights for the purpose of establishing a boys home or orphans home. His request was granted by the United States Land Office, setting a time limit for starting the project, which he did not meet. It was again open for homesteading in March, 1917, when I took my additional 320 acres. My father who had returned to Wisconsin soon after I had made my filing in October returned to Wyoming and filed on 320 acres on Magpie Creek adjoining my land on the east. This 320 acres later became the Walter Jeffres homestead. Because my father was 63 years old and I couldn't leave him alone, and I being subject to be drafted into the army at any time, we didn't know that he could have held it, even if he were back in Wisconsin, as long as he was doing some work on farms back there, so he relinquished it back to the government and Walter Jeffres took it.

All of the land that had been reopened to homesteading in March of 1917 was all taken the day it was opened. This just about finished up all the open land from Muddy Wagonhound, north to Schofield Pass through Sheep Mountain. Naming those who took their homesteads the fall of 1916 or the spring of 1917 a little before or a little after starting from Schofield Pass were John Snooks, Joe Johnson, Henry Yanda, Frank Stauffer, Tony Steiber, James Stults, Pete Zaichkin, Constantine Zaichkin, Walter Whitaker, Mike Kinney, Clifford Peterson, William Levi, Slivers Jeffres, Perry Cargill, Robert Benway, William Magee, Floyd Benway, Charley Thompson. Up on top and adjoining the Thompson claim were Albert Urban, and Mrs. Dickerson and sister and

David Friend whose homestead went nearly to Wagonhound Falls. Charley Morse was settled before any of us took only 160 acres. He said, "That was all he wanted." He finally did take some more. John Yanda also took 480 acres some time later.

Tom Wilkinson a sheepman who lived in Nebraska had for some time been using all this open range for his winter grazing range and summering up on 40 Mile. He leased the O.P. Witt place, later the Rainbow Outfit. There was no house there at that time for headquarters, but he never returned after he left in the spring of 1917. I tended camp and took care of things for him the winter of 1916 and 1917 up until the first of March, hauled corn and supplies from Douglas. He came up from Nebraska every two or three weeks.

I hadn't become acquainted with any of the homesteaders except James Stults, Frank Stauffer and Charley Morse also Charley Thompson until I came back from serving nine months in the marines, being discharged the 19th of January 1919. I enlisted in May 1918 for the duration of the war.

James Stults and Frank Stauffer drove a pair of burros broke to drive belonging to James. He also owned a small saddle broke mustang that Frank rode and James rode and drove the burros hitched to a light spring wagon from Burns, Wyoming where James had been working, coming there from LaCrosse Wisconsin, wanting to take a homestead. He and Frank Stauffer, who came from Illinois, became acquainted at Burns. They both took homesteads close together, near the Zaichkins, about five miles northeast of my land. James Stults and I worked our homestead improvements together some before and after I returned from the service. His sister Hazel came out to visit him in April 1919, sending him a telegram that she would arrive on a certain date. He did not receive the telegram until he made a trip to town. He borrowed my team and wagon to make the trip to town for supplies and stock salt, Mrs. Wait part owner of the Rainbow Ranch going with him. I stayed at his dugout cabin. He found his sister at the LaBonte Hotel.

The next morning it was storming and against the advice of those who knew what an April storm could turn into, the three of them started for home. It turned into a real bad storm, and I never expected them to try and come back on such a day. There was about three feet of snow piled in front of the dugout and just about dark they came driving in, the horses tired out, they all were wet and cold had thrown out the stock salt and had been walking. I took his sister, Hazel, off the wagon, and carried her into the dugout, and it just so happened that Hazel went back to San Francisco that fall, and returned the following summer. Hazel became my wife and James Stults became my brother-in-law.

We first lived in the Brooks house, later become the Adam Mueller Ranch, west of Douglas, where I rode ditch. The summer of 1920 we moved to the LaPrele Dam, into a house not there any more by the powerhouse. I rode the west side ditch summers and took care of the dam and diversion dams. Also we took care of the Ayres Natural Bridge Park until the fall of 1922 when we returned to my homestead. Then the real proving up on a homestead began for us, but one thing I did have this time was a good partner, and plenty of good work horses. With some old

machinery I traded for, we made out and after the bank closing on a little money I borrowed at 6% we had to wait a year until, we could borrow it back at 8%, we bought a little start in sheep. Like everyone else who homesteaded at that time, or came before us, that stayed and tried to make a go of it, starting on, as you might "say, on a shoe string," we had our ups and downs, our good years, and our bad years, our grasshopper years. We had cold winters with their snow, wind, and blizzards, but always the meadowlarks came back and the grass became green. The mariposa lilies and shooting stars blossomed, and there were always those wonderful sunsets and sunrises, the pure air to breath, and pure water to drink.

We had our neighbors, far and near, and dances, some of them lasted until the sun came up. I remember the old Douglas as it was in 1916 and for some time after, with its livery barn, two busy depots, the same people, the same stores, and those state fairs, when every day was climaxed by the wild horse race, the broncs being driven in from the north country. There was one jerkline string team with these two large wagons, and schooner freighting out into the north country. We often talk about our Wyoming years, and I place my Wyoming years, at the top of the list.

We had our grasshoppers, and once when I was in town with my old battered up Model T pickup, with its chewed up fenders, Jeff Scott, who once owned a ranch on main Wagonhound, wanted to know if the grasshoppers chewed them up. Another time, it was one of those drought years, when some were putting up Russian thistles, for hay and many were looking forward to loading their livestock into boxcars, and shipping out of the country. Jeff Scott came by just as I was leaving for home. He said "How is everything going Floyd?" I said, "Oh just fine and dandy." He said "Floyd, I think you are a 'dam liar'". Well I wasn't quite that much of a liar, my sheep were in the mountains and doing fine. I had my plans for the winter all attended to.

We had a few very bad storms late in the spring of 1917. It was some time after I had brought my team and saddle horse back from Guy George where I had wintered them, and I was going some place with my team, saddle horse and wagon. I always had my bedroll, grub box and grain for the horses and had camped at Bill Levi's cabin for the night. The cabin wasn't finished yet, and only part of the floor was in. There was an old range cooking stove set up there, but very little wood. Some of the cracks in the siding let in the daylight. I fed all the horses and turned them all loose. They were a good camp team, and I knew they wouldn't go farther than Muddy Wagonhound, but that night it started to snow, and then blow. There were drifts outside and inside. I couldn't build a fire and keep it going, as there wasn't much wood, so I just stayed in bed for three days and nights, only getting up and starting a fire for a few minutes, to cook a hot cake or so, and then back to bed. My black saddle horse came from somewhere each night and would back up and rub against the cabin. I would jump up take the gallon can, fill it out of the oat sack, and dump it outside in the snow. The bedroll of mine had a feather tick in it and with wool blankets, so I just took a good rest.

The very bad blizzard of April 1920, caught me in Denver. I was working at a dairy there, and had just quit

to come back to Douglas and to my homestead. I had bought a new team and saddle horse and outfit the spring of 1919 and was wintering them at Clarence Redenbaugh's. I was nine days getting back to Douglas, two nights and days of that I had to stay in Cheyenne, as the cuts through by Chugwater hadn't been opened yet. When I did get home and went after my horses, I caught the saddle horse on foot out on the range. He fell down three times when I was trying to catch him. The team wintered very well, but some grain and that Wyoming grass put them all in fine shape in a very short time.

James Stults and I both broke up some land for planting that spring. After working at his place a while we moved up to mine and James was always proud of his packing, so he showed me how neat and compact the load was for moving. I had a very nice pair of leather shoes, and he showed me how he packed them and a lot of other things in the oven of the little cook stove. When we arrived at my place we set up the stove right quick, and James built-up a quick pitch pine fire and started to cook dinner. I took care of the horses. Well, he hadn't thought of anything but to get us something to eat, until the smoke started rolling out of the oven. Everything he had packed in the oven was just about ruined. Those shoes of mine were sure plenty done. He said, "Look what I did." Then he told me it isn't any laughing matter.

Frank Stauffer taught school in the Zaichkin and Snook district a couple of years, while proving up on his homestead. He became a lieutenant in World War I and married a school teacher. They had two children, a boy and a girl. They came to see us several times. The boy died in World War II and the girl a little later. He was in business for himself in Texas and died there sometime ago. Over all these years we have heard from his wife, until this year we received word she had died also.

Each year takes its toll, but I hope that as long as I live, I can keep in memory that same old Wyoming, the same Douglas, and those same fine people I dealt with, and many of those of 1886 and before that I knew still walking the streets, our homestead neighbors and friends, and all those of main Wagonhound, the mail route I had for three and one half years, with the 32 gates to open and close, those wonderful pies that Mrs. Milt Hammond made, and gave me a piece of, and the fine dinners that Clarence Redenbaugh and wife insisted I come in and eat. All that and more in my memory, it is just the same, and still there. And the wind it must have been much harder than it is now, because after a day when the wind was passing our place in an awful hurry, headed for the flats, one of my neighbors who lived about four miles below me, came up the next day and wanted to know if the wind blew much there yesterday. I told him "no" but it sure was going past plenty fast. I figured it might be blowing real hard down this way. He said "It sure did, you know Floyd, it blew so hard down at my place yesterday that it picked a log chain right up off the ground, blew it up against the side of the barn and held it up there all day." Well I knew that at the rate of speed that wind was hitting when it passed our place with four miles of the flats to help it gather momentum that he was telling the absolute truth.

James Stults received his schooling through grade school, high school, and business college at LaCrosse,

Wisconsin and he built his homestead up into a very nice little place and raised turkeys for a while. He also had a small herd of cows. His brother, Dean, an army career man, bought the Frank Stauffer homestead and then bought out James, and then James and his wife and daughter, Beverly, moved to Douglas. His wife whose maiden name was Gladys Doss, came from Colorado where her father owned a large ranch. Both she and James worked for the Great Western Sugar Beet Company, where they met and were married in 1921. They had one daughter, Shirley, who was killed in an auto accident. In 1930 he was elected to the office of Converse County Assessor and died while in office.

We sold our sheep, cattle and equipment the fall of 1937 and leased our land. In 1949 we sold our place. The war and circumstances also my age prevented me from returning to Wyoming ranch life again, but the memory of those years I spent, and my wife and I spent in Wyoming brings me much joy and it is said, "He lives again who finds joy in past memories."

Floyd E. Benway died in 1985.

Floyd E. Benway

## Bible, Ralph and Grace

I am Juanita (Bible) Louderman, daughter of Ralph and Grace (White) Bible who homesteaded in Converse County, Wyoming in 1917. Pat. #911803 - 320 acres.

My father, mother and I lived there for approximately 6-7 years. I have pictures of them building their own log house and living in it. My sister, Betty Joe, was born at the home of a great-aunt in Chadron, Nebraska on August 7, 1922. About a year later, my mother developed tuberculosis of the lungs, and spent part of a year in a sanatorium in La Jolla, Colorado. My father worked in the oilfields in Salt Lake City to keep her there. During this time my sister and I lived with an Uncle Otto E. Bible and his wife, Pearl, at Lost Springs, Wyoming.

Then we all went to Macomb, Illinois to live with our grandparents, Harry and Effie Bible. My mother died there on December 8, 1925. Less than a year later my father was killed in a car wreck, by a hit and run driver.

My sister and I continued to live with our grandparents and with other relatives until we were able to make our own way. With me, this started at age 17. Even though times were hard, I always managed to have a job doing cleaning, taking care of other children, etc. Then I met a lady who owned a flower shop and I worked in the flower shop for her. She was a wonderful and kind person. I was married on my 21st birthday, July 22, 1937, to Roy Louderman from Macomb, Illinois (but previously from Kansas). We lived 44 years in Illinois and have three children, all born in Macomb, Illinois.

Connie Joan married Lyle Hoener of Ft. Scott, Kansas and have four children. Gary Lee Louderman of Henderson, Nebraska, who has one son. Kenny Joe Louderman of Bartlett, Illinois.

My sister, Betty Joe first married Lester Riddell of Macomb, Illinois. They had a daughter and a son, Anita Kay (Riddell) Hill of Macomb, Illinois and Dennis

Riddell of Denton, Texas.

My sister and I sold the homestead in Converse County but retained the oil rights. The first oil well was drilled in 1975 and then in 1976 another was drilled partially on our property.

My mother was a good horsewoman and helped my father with the cattle, raised lambs, chickens, etc.

I attended my first years of school on the homestead riding my pony five miles, meeting the school teacher part of the way. She also rode horseback and stayed with one of our nearby neighbors.

My father and his brother, Otto E. Bible, both homesteaded the same year and had adjoining properties and helped each other. Otto's homestead went to his wife, Pearl, when they were divorced around 1929. A year later she was killed in a car wreck and the property then went to her family in Nebraska.

Then Otto married Mabel Kamp of Lost Springs, where they lived on a ranch for many years. She lives now at Torrington, Wyoming. He raised a lot of cattle and bought for Swift & Co. for many years. He acquired a lot of land and oil rights in trading in Converse and Niobrara Counties. He also leased thousands of acres. He later moved to Lusk, Wyoming, was divorced and re-married to Evannah Bible. He passed away in 1967. Evannah moved to Mesa, Arizona and died there in 1981.

Otto never had any children of his own but was very dear to my sister and me. We spent a year with him in Lost Springs in 1929 and visited there for many years afterwards.

Harry E. Bible	married to	Effie Dell Clark
Born 1867, died 1935		Born 1872, died 1931
Ralph Bible	married to	Leona Grace White
Born Aug. 1, 1896		Born Aug. 3, 1897
Died Oct. 2, 1926		Died Dec. 8, 1925
Juanita E.	married	Roy E. Louderman
	July 22, 1937	
Born July 22, 1916		Born Feb. 12, 1915,
McDonough Co., Ill.		Wellington, Kans.
Betty Joe	married 1938	Lester Riddell
Born Aug. 7, 1922	divorced	
Chadron, Nebr.		
	married	Robert L. Jones
	Aug. 10, 1953	

Juanita Louderman

## Bicknell, Elva Myrtle

My mother, Elva Myrtle Bicknell was born in Minnesota on Jan. 18, 1876.

In 1918, mother and I (Colista Bicknell Combs Clements) came from North Dakota to file on a homestead one mile south of where the Bill Post Office is located now. The eastern portion bordered the road to Gillette.

Dry Creek was south of the homestead on someone else's land. It was the source of our water supply being carried in a tin bucket by me. The water was also used for cattle and sheep which belonged to the Fiddleback Ranch.

A land office in Douglas had "locaters" who for a fee

helped people find the land to be homesteaded. The system left a lot to be desired.

Our shack was a small room with tar paper on the outside and a small window to look out and a door. The sagebrush at that time had large roots on the surface of the ground which along with cowchips furnished the fuel in the summer.

As this was years before the so called liberation of women, men did not take kindly to a woman "taking up land". Mother was told she didn't have any business on a homestead. Before "proving up" Mother had been protested and contested. It was a costly and troublesome time. The fact that she supported herself and a child and tried to have the legal improvements on the land was difficult.

"Dudleyville" was a store in a home about four miles northeast. As there was no refrigeration, the only staples available were the basic ones including slab bacon not sliced bacon as it is now. A telephone was also available at the store.

In 1918 the Gillette Road was just a wagon track. There weren't any bridges across the creeks including Dry Creek. If one car a day went up the road it was an event. Many days there was no traffic at all.

Children often came to town and worked for board and room during the school year. School was held in the two rooms upstairs in the City Hall, the basement of the Congregational Church, the Carnegie Library basement and the old North Grade School.

In July 1926 I married Eugene Combs.

Mother died Jan. 23, 1960 in Douglas.

Colista Bicknell Combs Clements

## Bishop, Loren Clark and Sadie

Loren Clark Bishop, son of Spencer Adelbert and Edith Luella Bishop, was born on the homestead on LaPrele Creek near old Fort Fetterman, Wyoming Territory, March 4th, 1885. He attended the public schools of Converse County, Wyoming, until the age of 14. He left school before finishing the eighth grade to earn a livelihood and help support the family at home. He worked on cattle and sheep ranches. During the winter of 1904 -1905 he herded sheep on the Laramie plains for O. P. Witt. Both Albert and Chester Sims were working for Mr. Witt at that time.

He also owned and operated a restaurant before his 21st year. An excerpt from Clark's memoirs tells about his experience as a restaurant owner: "During the summer of 1905, with money saved from pulling dead wool and from herding bucks, I purchased the Saddle Rock Restaurant from Louis Falkenburg located between the Happy Jack Saloon and Harvey Allen livery barn in Douglas. Falkenburg was killed by Indians in a battle on Lightning Creek the next year. I did well at this business for about three months when I was stricken with typhoid fever. The day I entered the Douglas hospital I sold the restaurant to a fellow by the name of Cooper and accepted an unsecured note in payment. After ten weeks of sickness, I found that Cooper had sold out and skipped

and I never heard of him again. In addition to beating me out of the money for the restaurant, he stole my Forty Five Colt revolver and my best suit of clothing from my room."

In 1906 he secured employment in a surveying party with Frank C. Emerson which was working on the surveys on the LaPrele Irrigation System. Later he worked with the same engineer on the surveys of the Paint Rock and Shell Creek projects in the Big Horn Basin in the north central part of Wyoming.

In the year 1908 he returned to Douglas and started in the general practice of surveying, having secured a surveyor's license, and in 1910 was employed as Chief Engineer of the LaPrele Irrigation System, which position he held during the time the principal part of the ditches and structures were built. The system went into the hands of a Receiver in 1912 and was operated in such a lax manner that after seven years when taken over by the Douglas Reservoirs Company, it became necessary to practically reconstruct the entire system. He was employed by this company April 1st, 1919 as engineer and manager to do this work and supervise the operation of the project. The lands, having been taken under the Carey Act, made it necessary that the project be accepted by the Interior Department before patent could be issued to the state and then to the settlers.

After much work in preparing maps, petitions, etc., in addition to expending over \$100,000.00 on the reconstruction work, and making two trips to the National Capitol, the project was officially accepted the spring of 1922 at that time he was employed by the company to look after their interests.

On April 10, 1911 he was united in marriage to Sadie Almeda Greenwood, daughter of Charles S. and Sarah Cook Greenwood, who was born in Lime Springs, Iowa on April 26, 1877, and spent her girlhood days in Colorado.

Loren and Sadie had four children. They were: Loren Emerson, born December 15, 1911 and married Eleanor Corbett; Clara Almeda, born March 6, 1917 and married James Froggatt; Floyd Albert, born August 10, 1920 and married Wilma Knisely; Ella Mary, born July 15, 1922 and married Edward Halsey.

His military service extended over a period of 14 years in addition to his service in the World War. He served as an enlisted man with rank from private to sergeant continuously for nine years, all as a member of Co. "F" 3rd. Reg. Wyo. Inf., and five years continuously as captain of the same company. He commanded this company on the Mexican Border 1916 and 1917. During the World War he was commissioned as First Lieutenant of Engineers U.S.A. September 21, 1918 and sent to Camp A. A. Humphreys, Virginia, for training where he was discharged December 2, 1918 at the termination of the war.

With a new governor assuming office in January, 1938, the water users throughout Wyoming mounted a campaign to convince the governor that he should appoint Clark as State Engineer. Between November 1937 and January 1938, hundred of letters of endorsement were written to the new governor, and endorsements from county political chairmen were submitted from two-thirds of the counties in the state. Although there

were other applicants for the job, the governor announced Clark's appointment as State Engineer in late January of 1938. He served in that capacity for the next 18 years under governors of both political parties and established a reputation as a capable engineer and administrator.

Loren recalls the following incidents that happened to his father: "In 1919, after World War I, Dad was a participant in the National Rifle matches in Caldwell, N.J. Each participant was issued a chit good for one case of 30-06 and one case of caliber 45 ammunition. From other participants Dad bought these chits for \$2 each which netted him a "box car" load of ammunition - it lasted over 30 years and took up a lot of room in our basement but made it possible for him to pursue his hobby even during the depression.

As water superintendent, on occasion he had to shut down headgates and stop ranchers from using water they wanted and needed. One occasion when I was with him at Pass Creek near Saratoga, a rancher threatened to shoot the local water commissioner so Dad was called to turn the water off. As we drove up to the ranch we saw a big hawk swoop near his chickens. Dad grabbed the 30-06 and killed the hawk high in the air with his first shot. After that exhibition, the headgate was closed with no trouble. Another incident was on the Laramie River when a rancher locked his headgate open with a big padlock and dared anyone to close it. Dad arrived on the scene, broke the padlock with one round from his 30-06 and closed the gate, later learning that the rancher was hiding in the brush with a 30-30 which he had planned to use on Dad."

Clara remembers the following things about her mother: "Loren was first to go to college and when he wrote home asking permission to join a fraternity, he mentioned how good the food was at the frat house. I remember the parents conversation when my sweetly naive mother said 'If the food is good, he'd better join.' They made many sacrifices to give us as much education as we cared to get.

Our mother's era was a time squeezed between the pioneer women and the liberated women. She wore her hair in a modish coiffure using a "switch" to make it bouffant. On several occasions I remember mother's conversations over the fence with our neighbor of many years, Agnes Rohlf. Agnes had long, dark hair which she braided and wound around her head in an attractive crown effect. They both wanted to cut their hair short which was then on vogue, but there would be serious consequences - divorce was mentioned - their husbands wouldn't even discuss it. This was in the late 20's. The haircuts finally came in the early 30's with no divorces. This was the beginning of their liberation."

Clark's wife, Sadie, died in 1942. He married Claire Tanner in 1943. Clark died in San Diego, California in 1961, and his second wife, Claire, died in Worland in 1973.

Clara Bishop Froggatt  
Loren Bishop  
Floyd Bishop



## Bishop, Spencer and Edith Family

In the year 1852, Spencer Adelbert Bishop was born to Artemus Clark Bishop and Matilda Hanchett Bishop. When Spencer was four years old, the family moved from his birthplace in Ohio to LaFayette, New York. He received his education in the public schools and taught for one term on West Hill near LaFayette. After that, he served as a carpenter's apprentice for four years.

At the age of 22, Spencer came to Wyoming and worked in a grocery store in Laramie for several months. In the spring of 1875, he worked as a bullwhacker for George Powell. In addition to this job, he acted as ranch foreman and overseer of the government hay reserve on Deer Creek. Under contract, the hay was delivered to the authorities at Fort Fetterman. The teamsters were instructed to load sand in the hay to gain additional weight, and additional profit. This practice was abandoned when tell-tale sand hills were obvious after some of the hay had been fed. Arrangements were made then with someone in authority to allow the same load of hay to be weighed twice, or sometimes three times. The hay contractors undoubtedly padded the pockets of those persons authorizing and supervising the weighing of the hay.

At that time, the nearest railroad point enroute to Fetterman was Rock Creek, a distance of 120 miles from the fort. Rock Creek was located on the Union Pacific Railroad. All food commodities were expensive. The bullwhackers bought foodstuffs in Rock Creek, as well as other places and transported them to Fetterman. Bacon or side pork of very poor quality brought \$1.00 per pound; flour was selling at 50¢ per pound.

After working for a time for George Powell, Spencer bought an outfit of his own and freighted for the government as well as other private and business concerns.

In the year of 1882, prior to the public land survey in the vicinity of Fort Fetterman, Spencer secured a squatter's right from a squaw man, Noel Seminoe, who had settled on LaPrele Creek about eight miles from the Fort, then Albany County, Wyoming Territory. This gave him a prior right of entry. When the surveys were finished, he filed a homestead claim, a desert claim and a pre-emption entry on 480 acres. The initial land acquired from Seminoe cost Spencer \$75.

He entered into a partnership with Henry W. Kellogg who had filed on adjoining land, and together they developed a fine ranch. Kellogg and Bishop formed a freighting outfit together as well. They had two bull wagons and eight yokes of oxen. They freighted from Cheyenne, Fort Laramie, Rock Creek and Medicine Bow to Fort Fetterman.

Among Spencer's acquaintances were Wild Bill Hickock, Pawnee Bill, and Buffalo Bill Cody. Evidently, Cody was not one of Spencer's favorite persons, for he said that Cody was a coward at heart and was forever seeking publicity.

Spencer Bishop was united in marriage to Edith Luella Smith in Jamesville, New York in 1884. Edith was the daughter of Loren Lorenzo and Harriet B. Hungerford Smith of that city. She was the fourth child in a family of eight, and was born near Jamesville in 1860.

When the newlyweds reached Rock Creek, it was in

the month of March. The snow was so deep that the stage which made the trip to Fetterman twice a week, could handle only one passenger at a time. The trip from Rock Creek to Fetterman required two days. Spencer took the first stage, leaving his bride in Rock Creek. Four days later he met the stage with his own team and sled at the Fort and took his bride to the home he had prepared for her.

The house on LaPrele was the first frame house built in this part of Wyoming. It had a sitting room with a bay window, bedroom, kitchen and a pantry on the ground floor, with two bedrooms upstairs. Near the house was a cellar where vegetables were stored for winter and where Edith kept her milk and cream. The log homestead cabin was used then as a tool and repair shop.

Edith and Spencer were the parents of 12 children: Loren Clark, born in 1885; Hattie Rose, born in 1887; Jessie Viola, born in 1889; Clarence Alfred, born in 1890; Oren Calvin, born in 1892; Maude Matilda, born in 1894; Edith Luella, born in 1896; Spencer Adelbert, born in 1898, and Arthur Artemus, born in 1899, had as their birthplace the homestead near Fort Fetterman. Cecil Lawrence, born in 1904; Edna Mae, born in 1906; and Mable Pearl, born in 1908, were to have the Tobin Ranch as their birthplace. Hattie Rose died in 1918 and Jessie Viola in 1910.

Glenrock and Douglas were opposing each other for the county seat. At an election held in the LaPrele precinct, John D. O'Brien was serving as one of the judges. After 49 O'Brien's had voted, John told them "no more O'Brien's today." They kept voting, however, under other names. Spencer didn't mention how many Bishops and Kelloggs voted.

Joe Hazen, who was killed near Kaycee by the Hole-In-The-Wall gang that held up and robbed the Union Pacific passenger train near Wolcott, was a friend of Spencer Bishop. He ran a livery stable in Douglas, and was respected and liked by the community.

John T. Williams was the sheriff of Converse County when he received a tip that a group of ranchers were to raid a sheep camp belonging to Henry Brenning on the head of Little Boxelder Creek. John deputized his brother, Ab, and the two rode into the camp just as eight of the raiders had tied the herder and were starting to kill the sheep. When the raiders, called gunny-sackers because they had red handkerchiefs tied around their heads, saw the officer, they fled. Ab Williams pursued one, shooting his horse from under him when he failed to halt. The man lit running. Again Ab asked him to halt, but again the raider ignored the command. He fired once more. The raider shouted, "My God, Ab, don't shoot! I am a man with a family." Ab recognized the man as George Lamb.

The only casualty was self-inflicted. Bill Howard had his pistol discharge, accidentally shooting himself in the foot. Bill told Dr. Jesurun that his horse had fallen with him, and that is how the accident occurred. Most of these raiders were arrested, but all, including George Lamb, proved alibis and were freed.

In spite of the fact that the Bishop family was a large one, Mrs. Bishop managed to make sufficient butter for her family and have some to sell. She had only a couple of scrubby cows. Bill Young, noted joker, used to say that

Mrs. Bishop skimmed her milk on both sides.

The Pleasant Valley School house, which was built by Mr. Bishop on the Ed Smith ranch in 1884, was attended by all of Bishop's older children. Four of the sons and two of the sons-in-law served their country in World War I. Loren Clark was in the engineers; Oren Calvin and Arthur Artemus served in the infantry, Spencer Adelert in the air service, Clyde Ebbert in the hospital corps, and Jock Rockwell in the infantry.

Spencer Adelbert Bishop died November 23, 1914, his wife died in 1922.

Clara Bishop Frogatt

## Blaine, George W. and Mary Family

George W. (Washington) Blaine was born in England August 20, 1854. I don't know when he came to the U.S.A. He came to Wyoming in the 1880's. He ranched on the Cheyenne River. In 1889 he went back to Boone, Iowa and married Mary E. (Ellen) Rochelle who was born in Boone, Iowa, September 18, 1859. They traveled back to Douglas in a covered wagon when Douglas was just a tent town.

To this union five children were born: Mabel, Luther, Arthur (my father), Mary and Frances. All children were delivered by my grandfather (George W. Blaine) who died in 1912. My grandmother raised the first two children, Mable and Luther in a sheep wagon, my father (Arthur) was born in Keeline, Wyoming, April 22, 1895. They then lived in a cabin on the ranch on the Cheyenne River. Mary and Frances were born on the ranch.

Mable had four children: Ronald, Blanche, Jack and Lorraine Robinson.

Luther became a dentist in Chicago and had one child, Russel Blaine.

Arthur married Eva Black on Christmas Day, 1917 at her home on the Elkhorn Creek, out of Glendo. He served in France in World War I, returning home in April 1919. To this union two girls were born, Mary Eva (Robinson) and Hattie Jean (Dahonich) who are still living.

Mary had two children (Richard Copsey) who was killed in World War II and Frances (McCrew) who is still living. Frances (Mintzer) had no children.

All of the Blaines are now deceased.

Mary E. Blaine lived to be 96, passing away on March 24, 1955. She was known to all in Douglas as Mother Blaine or Grandma Blaine as she was always taking care of the "old people", many who were younger than she.

Arthur (my father) passed away in 1963. Eva (my mother) passed away in 1933.

I married Roy R. Robinson of Wheatland in 1938. We have two children, Janice Pullen and John B. Robinson and we have four grandchildren, Jimmy Pullen, and Heather, Erin and Amber Robinson who live in Douglas.

The Blaine Home is now Millie's Apartments.

Eva Blaine Robinson

## Blomquist, Elof and Anna Family

Charles Elof Blomquist was born in Krakshult, Smoland, Sweden on April 3, 1871. After spending twenty-two years of his life in his native country, Mr. Blomquist came to America in 1893, living for awhile in Jamestown, New York and Warren, Pennsylvania. In 1896 he went to Omaha, Nebraska, and in 1898 claimed his bride, Anna C. Johannson.

Anna C. Johannson was born in Heda, Smoland, Sweden on September 26, 1874, coming to America at age seventeen to make her home with her grandparents in Salina, Kansas. She resided there a few years, then moved to Omaha, Nebraska, and in 1898 was married to Charles Blomquist.

They ran a very successful dairy, driving a white top buggy to church and social gatherings. Five children were born to them: Ruth, Rudolph, Arthur, Mildred, and Evelyn. The older children attended the Swedish Lutheran Sunday School, of which Mr. and Mrs. Blomquist were church members.

As a young man, seeking adventure, Mr. Blomquist's friend, Lars Johnson, and he went to Wyoming to look at land, ending up homesteading, each of them, 640 acres under the LaPrele Irrigation Project. Returning to Omaha Mr. Blomquist sold his dairy, and in 1910 moved his family and all of their belongings — horses, furniture, etc. by train to Wyoming, to the location of their future home. Their place was located fourteen miles west of Douglas, near which is now the road to the Natural Bridge Park.

After grubbing sagebrush and a lot of hard work, a two-story home was built. Many tears were shed by Mrs. Blomquist, enduring the hardships and caring for five young children, thinking they should have never moved from Omaha.

The following year, Violet was born, March 1911, and in 1913, Esther came along, making seven children now. The family was stricken with scarlet fever, taking the life of their son, Arthur, age eleven. Blomquists had no phone at that time and were quarantined, but a dear friend and neighbor, Edna Ayres, rode horseback and brought food to them, and left it at the gate near the house.

Many more Swedes had moved to the LaPrele Basin, and were good neighbors of the Blomquists, and the area soon was called "Swedish Valley".

The farm prospered with hard work, raising alfalfa, grain, sheep and some cattle. As the family grew, their son, Rudie, left the farm to seek adventure and employment elsewhere. The girls all helped in the fields, putting up hay, and shocking grain, while Mrs. Blomquist always managed, with all of her other duties, to bring coffee and some goodies to the hay crew in the field.

Mr. Blomquist had the first electric lights in the basin, having his own Delco engine to make the electricity, which was about the early 1920's.

The children all attended the Pleasant Valley School, three miles from the farm. The school was the first frame school building in the state, and is now located near the Museum at the State Fair Grounds at Douglas. Later years, Mildred taught at the school and Esther was her pupil. They all attended the high school in Douglas, Ruth

and Rudie taking it in three years.

Family and friends were deeply saddened by the death of their youngest, Esther, who was killed in an auto accident August 21, 1932.

The four daughters were married at the ranch home, Rudie residing now in Chicago, but came home often for visits with the family, getting married in 1935. Ruth was married to Charles Huntzinger, a contractor around Douglas, in 1925. Mildred married Walter Reed and they lived on the 77 Ranch out of Manville. Evelyn married James C. Willox, prominent rancher south of Douglas. Mrs. Blomquist always pronounced her name as Evaleen, so Jim thought that should be her name, from then on, she was Evaleen to all. Violet married Edwin Potter, or "Bud" as he was known around Douglas. He was cashier of the Douglas National Bank, later becoming Executive Vice President of the bank. Violet, Bud and their three children moved to California in 1948.

The Blomquists had a sale in 1936, and leased the farm to Jess Irwin. They planned to retire and travel some. Ruth's husband was to build a home for them just west of Douglas, but Mr. Blomquist underwent emergency surgery for a ruptured appendix and died April 12, 1936.

In 1939, Mrs. Blomquist made her only trip back to her native land, on the Swedish American line. She still had some of her family living there yet. On her return the little house was complete, and she lived there until her untimely death from complications from a broken hip, on June 19, 1951. Her daughter, Mildred who was widowed with two small sons, made her home with her mother. Mildred still resides there, one mile west of Douglas, known to some as West Douglas Heights.

#### CHARLES ELOF BLOMQUIST FAMILY TREE

Charles Elof Blomquist m. Anna Christina Johannson 1898  
in Omaha, Nebraska.

Charles E. Blomquist	1871-1936	)	Born in Sweden
Anna Blomquist	1874-1951	)	
Ruth M.	1899-1964	)	Born in Omaha, Neb.
Rudolph C.	1900-1970	)	
Arthur	1902-1913	)	
Mildred	1904-	)	
Evelyn	1906-1965	)	
Violet A.	1911-	)	Born in Douglas, Wyo.
Esther E.	1913-1932	)	

Violet A. Potter

## Boehler, William and Catherine

William Boehler was born in Raymond, Illinois on July 13, 1882. He was one of a family of nine boys and two girls belonging to Nicholas and Sara Boehler.

William's health was poor during his early years, and he was given little chance to grow to manhood. He attended a business school in Cincinnati, Ohio, and after his graduation, he joined the Brotherhood of the Franciscan Order. Since it was believed at that time that William was

suffering from tuberculosis, he was sent to the New Mexico Indian Reservation to work as a teacher, instructing the Jemez and Navajo Indians.

After three years, he migrated north to Montana to teach at the Crow Indian School at Lodgegrass. Ill health still plagued him. A year later, after a serious disagreement with the Indian Agent, he gathered his belongings and walked south into Wyoming, working at ranches along the way.

William's first permanent job in Wyoming was at the Bill Wright ranch near the present town of Wright. When that job ended, he moved on to the Lee and Spaeth Ranch where he worked as a cook and handyman.

In 1917, William decided to join the army. He walked to Gillette, where the local board refused to accept him since he was over-age. He was determined to enter the service, however, so he walked on to Sheridan, a distance of 101 miles. Here, he was accepted by the Powder River District Office. He spent only a few months in France, since he was stricken with the dreaded influenza of World War I almost immediately after his induction. He served in France in the capacity of cook and medic.

After the war, he met Catherine "Kate" T. Hillmes, daughter of John and Elsie Hillmes. She and her sister attended a dance at Emporia, Kansas, and met William there. He was waiting at a base near Emporia to be mustered out. Their romance began. After he returned to Wyoming to work once more for Lee and Spaeth, they corresponded with each other.

Eventually, William decided to take up a homestead. He lived with "Daddy" Wilson, a man who had filed on an adjacent parcel of land. He erected a sod house complete with a dirt floor and one door. The windows were small, covered with gunny sacking to protect the dwelling from the elements. Later on he dug a cellar and added a one room frame shack. Since ranch work was slow in the winter, and jobs were hard to find, he decided to take up trapping. He set up three trap lines. With his horse, Old Sol, Bill would run a trap line a day, recover his catch, reset and rebait his traps. One winter he sold over a thousand dollars worth of hides, principally coyote, to Maas and Stephan furriers of St. Louis.

In 1921, Bill and Kate were wed at Humboldt, Kansas. Kate was a hardy girl of pioneer stock, excited about homesteading in Wyoming though she had never been west of Kansas. Together they gradually built up their place and completed all the requirements needed to "prove up." They were issued their final papers in 1922.

The community gradually grew as more people settled in the area. Roy Barger, William Singleton, Louis Buckridge, Earl Moore, Earl Haney, the Johnson brothers and William Boehler began a drive to establish a post office. William was officially appointed the postmaster on May 18, 1922. Louis Buckridge was appointed mail carrier, and Earl Moore was the deputy carrier. The post office was officially named the Verse Post Office, the name being derived from the last syllable of the county, Converse. It was rated a fourth class post office in which the postmaster had to keep and submit records of all transactions. In lieu of a salary, he was allowed to keep the money from the postage sales. He was subject to an audit by a postal inspector at any time, being required by federal law to be audited at least once a year. The mail

was first delivered to Verse from Bill by team and buggy, but later the route became a Star Route, and then the mail was brought out from Douglas twice a week.

With the establishment of the post office, Verse became a center of community functions. Bill was obliged to acquire a team and wagon to accommodate his patrons. Previously, he had walked back and forth to Douglas (55 miles), but as the members of the community demanded more services, such as bringing groceries and supplies to Verse, he became aware of the need to stock a few staple groceries such as sugar, flour, salt and tobacco. This was the beginning of the Verse store.

In the summer of 1923, Kate became pregnant at the age of 43. After the first week of March in 1924, Bill decided it would be prudent to take her to Douglas to stay until her confinement was over. The couple started their journey, but were stopped by a severe blizzard near Dry Creek. They decided to seek shelter at the home of Doctor Lynch, a Medical Doctor, whose home was about one half mile north of the town of Bill. After three days of howling winds and drifting snow, Kate gave birth to her son, Leo V. Boehler. When the weather cleared, Bill loaded Kate and the new baby into the wagon and headed home again.

In 1928, excavation began for the Boehlers new home located just a few feet from the well which furnished water for their dwelling. It was quite a large house, having six rooms and a full basement. The post office and store were located in the basement. With the increase in the size of the Boehler home, it followed that the gatherings there increased in numbers. Bill expanded his store, stocking all types of non-perishable items. In addition, Bill added a one-pump gas station and garage. He purchased a truck with which he hauled coal to Douglas and Casper, at the rate of one dollar per ton. He brought groceries from Walter Shultz's wholesale house in Casper and barrels of gas from Slonaker's in Douglas on his return trip to Verse.

In 1930, Leo started his education in a small school house about a mile and a half south and east of the old Robertson place. Kate became dissatisfied with the education he was receiving after a short time, and sent Leo to Douglas to attend the North Grade School.

Soon, demands for better schools in the Verse community became more insistent. On one occasion, the county superintendent made a surprise visit to the little school near Sand Creek, only to find that the teacher had taken the boys out to hunt rabbits, leaving two little girls alone to play in the school yard. This teacher was immediately dismissed.

The schools were consolidated in 1921, and small panel-type school buses were furnished. The south bus was driven by Jim Stevens, the north by Warren Koch. Miss Gladys Hanlin was the first teacher of the consolidated school which was held at the newly-finished community hall.

A defective flue caused the complete destruction of the Boehler home in 1938. The family was left with only the clothes they were wearing. They set up housekeeping in a small building on the property. Within a few days, however, the community responded by showering the unfortunate Boehlers with food, clothes, dishes, etc. Bill and Kate were rewarded a hundredfold for the compassion and good heartedness which they had shown their

neighbors over the years.

The post office was housed at the Steven's store which was the old community hall, and in May of that year, Alma Stevens was appointed to be the new post mistress.

The Boehler land was sold in the spring of 1938 to Fred Dilts. The family then moved to Sheridan.

When Highway 59 was completed, it was situated about a mile and a half west of Verse. A building which housed the store was moved over to the highway. This arrangement lasted for only a short time.

Six miles south of the Campbell County line there are a few boards from the old granary, the basement of the burned home and a lonely mulberry tree which Bill had brought from Missouri to transplant there in 1936. The memories and dreams live on-a part of the history of northern Converse County.

Leo Boehler

## Bolln, George

George Bolln was born in 1847 in Hamburg, Germany. He was the son of Joachin Bolln and Catherine Heitman Bolln, who were also natives of Hamburg. The family was engaged in agriculture.

George was educated at The Gymnasium, as well as other excellent schools. He learned the baker's trade after completing his schooling. In 1876, George emigrated to America, and almost immediately upon arriving, he traveled on to Cheyenne, Wyoming, but remained there only a short time before going on to the Black Hills of South Dakota. It is probable that George was engaged in some sort of mining venture in South Dakota, but evidently was unsuccessful, since he returned to Cheyenne about a year later, where he was engaged in a bakery business for three years.

It seems that young George, at the age of 34, was undecided as to what he really wanted to do with his life. In 1881, he bought forty head of cows in Cheyenne and drove them to Leadville, Colorado to start a dairy business. This lasted only four months. He disposed of his dairy, and returned once more to Cheyenne where he purchased 210 head of mixed steers and heifers. Within a year from the date of purchase, all but three head of these cattle were stolen. He sold the remaining three head of cattle as well as a few horses he had accumulated, and went to work in a hotel in Cheyenne. At the end of six months, he leased the hotel, and assumed the operation on his own. He did succeed in this business for about three years.

In 1885, he sold his furniture and property which he had accumulated during the years he operated the hotel, and moved to Fort Fetterman where he bought Altman and Company. He had a busy trade in general merchandise.

In 1887, George married Pauline Muegel, a native of Bohemia. They had two children, Henry and Esther.

Bolln moved his stock into a building which he had purchased in Douglas in 1888. He dealt in both wholesale and retail merchandising. Shortly he enlarged his

business, adding another store building so that he had 50' of frontage on the street. One building was devoted to dry goods, while the other was stocked with groceries, hardware and crockery. His business flourished, and became an important establishment in the young town of Douglas. In addition to his stores, he obtained two large warehouses enabling him to carry a large and varied stock of goods. His business was numbered among the leading mercantile houses of the entire county.

As a side-line, Mr. Bolln invested in sheep in 1900. He acquired 500 acres of land upon which to pasture his animals.

George was a staunch Democrat. He worked actively in the party. He was elected for two terms as commissioner, serving as chairman for one term. He served also as city councilman, and as Mayor of the town. He was one of the men who organized the First National Bank of Douglas, and was a member of its directorate.

In 1894, he won the nomination of his party for state treasurer, but was unsuccessful in that campaign.

George's son Henry attended Notre Dame University after having completed his high school education. His major was electrical engineering, but upon his return to Douglas, he entered banking pursuits. He was book-keeper and later the assistant cashier in the First National Bank. He was also associated with his father's mercantile business. After the death of his father, Henry was co-operator of his father's business with his aging mother. Henry was a veteran of World War I having served six months in France.

Ruth Grant

## Bolln, Otto and Elizabeth

Otto Henry Bolln came to Douglas, Wyoming to make his new home in 1900. He was the son of Henry and Margaret Bolln of Omaha, Nebraska. Although he had been a traveling salesman for Western Tinware Company when he arrived, a better business opportunity developed with his Uncle George Bolln (the twin of Henry) for a mercantile business in Douglas. His wedding to Elizabeth Lee Willox on May 30, 1905 marked the beginning of a most happy marriage. On February 25, 1907, their son George Willox Bolln was born. When his uncle died, Otto reorganized the store using the name George Bolln Mercantile Company which he managed. During this time he also served as a Converse County Commissioner and was very active in the Masons. Hunting trips for sage chickens, antelope and deer in Wyoming were often supplemented by trips to the Pot Hole country of Nebraska for ducks. Sunday afternoons, the fairgrounds saw great rivalry at the clay pigeon traps between Otto Bolln, Al Rice and the two Saul brothers.

In 1915, Otto sold his share of the mercantile store and with Al Rice formed the Springhill Ranch Company, buying several ranches along Horseshoe and Roaring Fork Creeks on the north base of Laramie Peak. During the 1921 depression, a combination of circumstances including a most severe winter, extremely high prices for hay and cotton seed cake, plus a high percentage loss of

cattle during the spring storms, spelled the end of the Springhill Ranch Company.

Otto Bolln served as chairman of the Wyoming State Fair for the next two years. During this time he was also instrumental in the formation of, and became the first president of the Douglas Kiwanis Club.

In 1923, Otto was invited to come to Casper, Wyoming to be manager of the Richards-Cunningham Store. This was the largest store in Casper at that time, selling complete lines of ladies' and mens' clothing and shoes, yard goods, hardware, saddles, groceries, cattle salt, etc. At this time the Richards-Cunningham Store was heavily in debt to the Continental Illinois Bank in Chicago. In fact, Otto's becoming manager was a condition of the loan renewal. Elizabeth Lee Bolln was born on October 26, 1926. One night in the spring of 1934, there was a disastrous fire. While payments were adequate to cover all of the losses, the Continental Illinois Bank called all of the loans, leaving insufficient money to rebuild and restock the store. Unfortunately, this meant the end of the business. The death of his good wife, Bess on June 12, 1935, made the offer of a job in Washington an attractive one.

In 1936 Otto Bolln became Secretary to Senator Robert Carey and worked in the Washington, D.C. office until the Senator's untimely death two years later. Otto's next move was to California where he joined his sister, Elsa Gordon and her husband, in a travel agency. Restrictions on travel due to Hitler's march into Austria limited the travel agency's income so that it could not support three people. Otto returned to Douglas where he lived until his death on February 12, 1942.

George Willox Bolln attended high school in Douglas and Casper, and spent one year in the Engineering School of the University of Wyoming at Laramie. He then transferred to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. This gave him many wonderful opportunities to spend the holidays with his Aunt Elsie Willox Bancker in Jackson, Michigan. After receiving his BSEE in 1930, he started working for Cutler-Hammer in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

In 1939, George married Helen Murray Pfeifer and they were blessed with four children. Although George never returned to Wyoming for any length of time, he maintained strong ties with his relatives and friends. On alternate years, vacations were in the Douglas and Glendo areas while the children were young. Since the departure of the kids for all parts of the country, he and Helen return for branding, hunting, rodeo or some combination of activities and good company.

In 1970, George retired from Cutler-Hammer to enjoy, with Helen, the pleasures of spending big chunks of time gardening on their Springhill Farm near the Mississippi River. They also enjoy playing golf and bridge, hunting, fishing, traveling, and visiting their four children and seven grandchildren.

Elizabeth Lee (Betty) Bolln began high school in Douglas. After the death of Otto, she lived with George and Helen, finishing high school in Shoreland, Wisconsin. After spending two years at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, she transferred to Western Michigan University at Kalamazoo. There she received her degree in Occupational Therapy, a skill which has served her well over the years.

In 1949, she married Donald L. Drolet and they were blessed with five children. The Drolets have maintained very close contacts with Wyoming. Currently, four of the five children are living there and are putting great pressure on Betty and Don to join them. The Senior Drolets make most of the Willox and Gray brandings and calf sales.

The Drolets have lived in Richland, Michigan since their marriage. Don has sold Prudential Insurance most of his working life and Betty is now Township Treasurer.

George Willox Bolln

## Bolln, Waldo and Margaret Family

Waldo H. Bolln was born in Omaha, Nebraska on December 27, 1878, the son of Henry and Margaret Bolln. He received his schooling in Omaha.

In 1901 he came to Douglas to work for his Uncle George, a twin brother to his father. Waldo's brother, Otto was already working at the George Bolln Co. store located on North Second Street.

Waldo met and courted Margaret Reid, daughter of Charles and Eliza Reid. Margaret, or Maggie as she was better known, was teaching at a rural school on Mill Creek. Some of her students were Ferris Bruner and the Francisco children.

John LeBar was courting Artie Hamilton; they

decided to be married with Waldo and Maggie as best man and maid of honor. Waldo and Maggie changed their minds and decided to have a double wedding. They were married on April 31, 1908 and the four went to Omaha for their wedding trip.

Two children were born to the Bollns; a daughter, Margaret Pauline on January 26, 1910 and a son, Otto Reid on March 27, 1912.

In 1914 Waldo decided to go on his own and planned to go into the dairy business. He went to Wisconsin and bought a registered dairy herd. Upon arrival of the dairy herd in Douglas, all of the animals were found to have tuberculosis. The entire herd had to be killed immediately. The Wisconsin State Veterinarian had fraudulently passed the herd as being of good health. He received a prison term for his offense which was the only return for what was paid for the herd.

In 1915 Waldo and Albert Peyton decided to start Peyton Bolln Grocery on Center Street where the KWIV radio station is now. Waldo and Albert applied for enlistment in the army during World War I, Albert was accepted, but Waldo was rejected because of bad ulcers. Waldo then purchased Albert's interest in the store. The store was moved to its present location in 1940.

Waldo was the sole owner of the grocery business until February 1936 when his son, Otto "Beef", bought a one-half interest. At that time Waldo became the Douglas Postmaster, a position he held until his death on April 8, 1938. In 1940 Beef purchased the other half from his mother and operated the store until 1970 when Beef's son,



Peyton Bolln Store: L. to R.: George Ullman, Margaret Bolln, Sam Ballard, Gordon Barrett and Otto "Beef" Bolln. 1938





**Margaret Reid (Bolln), winner of Ladies Relay Race, first state fair 1905.**

Francis Otto "Butch" bought into the store and in 1983 bought out his father's interest. Beef graduated from the University of Southern California in 1935 with a degree in engineering.

The Bollns have all had nicknames over the years. Waldo was known as "Do" most of his life. He acquired the nickname as a child while playing tag. Everyone was to have the name of a nut and being a late comer the only nut that was not taken that he could think of was that of a donut. He was branded for life as "Do." Otto received his nickname, "Beef" from an incident that happened while sleighing down the Williams Hill as a youngster. Everyone had a meat name so Otto took beef steak as his name. It was shortened to "Beef" and the name stayed with him the rest of his life.

The Peyton-Bolln Grocery Store or Bolln's Food Market, as it is known now, has seen many changes over the years. In the beginning there were only five kinds of bar soap to select your hand or laundry soap from. Many items were in bulk such as candy, crackers, cookies, beans, all sugar, dried fruits and many other things. Everything had to be sacked and weighed by the clerks as well as all items written by hand and itemized in order books. Pricing was all done in multiples, such as 10¢, 20¢ and 30¢ or 5¢, 10¢ and 15¢, and as there wasn't any sales tax to figure, pennies weren't needed to make change.

Fresh fruits were very limited and were available only in season. Fresh vegetables were not handled by stores at that time.

Trucking of groceries started in the late 1920's and with it came fresh staples such as vegetables, fruits and meat. Until this time meat markets were available to people for them to be able to buy fresh meat. The meat usually was from local sources such as the farmers and ranchers who sold the animals to the meat markets who in turn either butchered the animal at the farm or in town.

World War II brought with it big changes in the grocery business such as pre-packaged items, letting people pick up their own items and a bigger variety of

things. Frozen foods also started to appear when refrigeration became a reality.

Beef married Beverly Gorman of Casper on June 3, 1941. They had one son, Francis Otto "Butch" (b. March 24, 1942) and one daughter, Ann "Sukey" (b. February 12, 1944). Beverly died on August 25, 1956. Beef married Virginia Hylton on September 19, 1958.

Butch is married to the former Gay Turner. They had two children, Britton and Marnie. Sukey is married to John Obrzut. They have a daughter, Krystopher.

Waldo and Maggie's daughter Margaret married George R. Curry on October 6, 1928. They have two daughters, Nancy and Mary. Maggie died on November 14, 1975.

Otto "Beef" Bolln

## Booker, William, Louise and Cora

William Booker, long time manager of the VR Ranch south of Glenrock, was born in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada on the 5th of May, 1857. The son of William D. and Sarah (Field) Booker, William was a treasurer of an insurance company.

In the fall of 1875 he came to Cheyenne. He spent the winter on a ranch on Horse Creek and in the spring of 1876 he began work for the CY outfit at the spring roundup. In the fall of 1876 he was employed by Charley Clay and Al Ayres with a freighting outfit, making trips from Camp Carlin to Fort Laramie and return. In the fall of the same year, Mr. Booker went to work on Chugwater Creek for the firm of Hunter and Abbott on the old TY ranch, remaining there until 1878. He was then employed with the Swan outfit until 1896 when he went to work for the Tolland Co. at their VR Ranch south of Glenrock as their manager.

William married Louise Vreeland of Cheyenne. They had three children: Mrs. F. N. Stuart, Frank V. and William. Louise died in 1896, just a few days after they had moved to the VR Ranch. Mr. Booker married Cora Dean in March, 1901. They had four children, Albina, Alfred O., Helen C. and Effie F.

William served as a representative from Converse County in the State Legislature during the sessions of 1907, 1913 and 1923.

Mr. Booker died on October 22, 1927.

Ruth Grant

## Bowell, Clyde and Lindie

It all started back in the year of 1883, when Clyde Bowell was born in Argos, Indiana and Jennie "Lindie" Ladd was born in 1885 also in Argos. They both attended grade and high school there, graduating in 1903. In 1904 these two high school sweethearts were married. They remained in the Argos area, farming for the next five years. Their first child, a son, was born in 1907 and lived only ten days.

In 1908, Clyde filed on land out in Wyoming. This he did due to the doctor's advice to seek a drier climate. During this time the west seemed to be a popular place



Left to Right: Clyde, Marie, Mildred and Mrs. Lindie Bowell in front of the "Springs" Hotel

for so many Eastern people to relocate. It was not long before their dreams were fulfilled but not before their second child, a girl, was born in 1909. She was named Mildred.

When Mildred was three months old, Clyde and Lindie (as she was fondly called) headed west. Clyde traveled on the Chicago Northwestern Railroad in a boxcar, along with a cow, dog, furniture, lumber and farm equipment. Lindie, with baby Mildred, followed in a passenger train.

After arriving in Lost Springs, they soon built a two story house on their 320 acres, three and a half miles south and east of Lost Springs. In the years following, they kept busy farming, raising cattle and horses.

In 1915, Marie was born. As the years passed, both daughters attended the Hoosier Grade School located three quarters of a mile south of the Bowell home. During 1918, Clyde built onto the original home, making it larger and more comfortable. For the next several years, Lindie supplied the Chicago Northwestern passenger trains with garden produce, dairy products and poultry.

In 1920, Clyde and Earl Stickney rented the Springs Garage building. They supplied gasoline, auto parts and repaired autos for the surrounding community. Along with this work, Clyde was Deputy County Assessor and Secretary-Treasurer for the Federal Land Bank in Omaha.

Lindie, being an excellent cook, became interested in the Springs Hotel. For six years she served meals, sold groceries and rented sleeping rooms to the weary travelers.

Clyde and Lindie returned to the 2B Ranch in 1929. They resumed raising hay and grain for the Guernsey cattle they were raising. Clyde was appointed State Land Appraiser for several years and later became a State Seed Loan Inspector.

Clyde and Lindie sold the ranch in 1947 and returned

to Argos to care for Clyde's aging parents. In the meantime, Clyde went to work for the Bendix Plant in South Bend. He worked there for ten years when an accident in the plant put him in the hospital with a broken back. It was two years before he could walk and get around by himself.

Due to Lindie's failing health, they lived with their daughter, Mildred in California, and then because of their love for the state of Wyoming, they returned to Cody where their daughter Marie was living. Lindie was hospitalized in Powell, where she died in 1971. Clyde remained with Marie until his death in 1980. They are both buried in Cody.

Mildred married Frank Vanderwalker of the Twenty Mile area north of Lost Springs in 1927. Three children were born to them, Betty Weybrew of San Jose, California, Donald Vanderwalker of Tempe, Arizona and Richard Vanderwalker also of San Jose. Mildred has ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Frank passed away in 1949 in Palo Alto, California. In 1956, Mildred married Lou Tomlin of Soledad, California, where they are now living.

In 1932, Marie married Carey Fowler of Douglas. Three children were born to them, Clyde Fowler lived in Denver, Colorado until his death in 1976, David Fowler of Whittier, California and Mildred Bakke of Saskatchewan, Canada. Marie has six grandchildren.

Marie later married R. C. "Punch" Johnston of Cody, where they are now living.

Marie Bowell Johnston

## Bower, Clyde and Hazel Family

Clyde Hibberd Bower, my father, (I am Maurine Hardesty) was a descendant of an old Indiana family which had gradually migrated westward from Ohio to Indiana then to Nebraska in 1885 and finally to Wyoming in the early 1900s. Dad's grandfather, Philip, a cabinet-maker, moved from Ohio to the forests of Indiana. To develop a farm, he cleared timber, which he converted to coffins and furniture. Dad's father, Almon Greenleaf Bower (known as A.G.), was born in 1851 in that frontier Indiana home and was raised there. As a young man, A. G. taught school, then traveled west to work at a mill in Helena, Montana. He returned to Indiana to farm but in 1885 moved west again to Ulysses, Nebraska where Dad was born on April 18, 1892. Dad was one of seven children, only four of whom survived infancy. In 1898 the family made Kearney, Nebraska their home. A. G. was engaged in both the furniture and undertaking businesses. He became one of the state's first licensed embalmers, served many years as Buffalo County Coroner and founded the A. G. Bower Undertaking Parlors at Kearney, which remained a family business until recent years.

Apparently, the "westward urge" had not left the very proper looking A. G. for in 1907 he purchased a ranch in Wyoming, seven miles west of Douglas in the LaPrele Community (T 33, R 72, Sec. 33). That suited his son, Clyde (dad), just fine; for although Dad had attended

Kearney College in preparation for entering the family business, he did not care to become a mortician. He, more like his grandfather, Philip, much preferred the idea of woodworking, farming and ranching. It was agreed that he would go to Wyoming to put the Bower ranch into operation. On April 30, 1912, before leaving Kearney, he married his long-time friend and fiancée', Nema Hazel Tracy (known as Hazel), daughter of Addison E. and Ida (Nichols) Tracy of Mesopotamia, Ohio and Fairport, New York, respectively. Hazel's family had moved west from Illinois to Kearney where she was born on October 24, 1892. She had also attended Kearney College.

Immediately following their wedding, Clyde and Hazel departed by train for, so far as her family was concerned, the "uncivilized west." They found Douglas to be much better than that. Although, upon arrival here, they discovered that her carefully packed wedding dress had mysteriously disappeared. Small problems aside, Clyde and Hazel loved it here. They made an easy transition to Wyoming and because they were such happy, friendly people, soon made many life-long friends in this area. Three children were born at the ranch: Bruce, myself (Maurine, Mrs. Harold Hardesty), and Erma (Mrs. Warren Edwards), in 1912, 1914 and 1919, respectively.

Wyoming life was often a hard one with stock and crops at the mercy of the weather. Too much rain or none at all, devastating hail just before harvest, blizzards, and even snow in the summer as recorded in an old journal on July 3, 1915! Because irrigation water for crops was very undependable, Dad became involved with the LaPrele irrigation project. As members of the LaPrele Water Users Association, he and others fought to protect their water rights. In 1919 the association renegotiated their rights with the Douglas Reservoirs Company, hopefully for the better, when it purchased the North Platte Valley Irrigation Company, which had been foreclosed. Ironically, access to water contributed later to a problem in the community. Years of constant field irrigation had created some bad swamp areas. In September 1928, after other methods had failed, DuPont Chemical Company did experimental blasting of some swamp land on the Bower place to drain it and to demonstrate the most modern method of creating irrigation ditches. Blasting was hailed as the coming thing, better than digging ditches with horse and slip. Repercussions of this experiment had more to do with startled neighbors whose windows had been shattered than with a useable new method of drainage.

Through the years Dad grew a variety of crops. He contracted with Holly Sugar Company to grow sugar beets and with F. H. Woodruff and Sons of Connecticut, later the world's largest wholesaler of seed, to raise prime grades of flax, pea and bean crops for their seed, which was shipped in bulk by rail to major seed-packaging companies around the world. Woodruffs built a bulk-seed sorting plant in Douglas which was their central distributing plant for the western United States. It provided much needed employment in this area. Eventually seed was even packaged there too. The Woodruff Building (now the Douglas Livestock Exchange) originally sat at the corner of First and Center Streets.

Dad also raised cattle, sheep, dairy cows, swine,

chickens, ducks and geese (which terrorized us kids with their honk-chase-and-pinch ways). He was proud of his huge Morgan horses which were used in the fields and to pull great wagonloads of coal. Periodically Dad, Frank Brown, and others in the community gathered their teams and wagons for a trek of several days duration to the coal mines north of town to haul home our main coal supply.

An avid hunter and outdoorsman, Dad was an early promoter of the Sportman's Association here and throughout his life enjoyed hunting the area's bountiful game and fowls. There were many wagon trips to the mountains for hunting-camping trips with the C. O. Browns. Each fall, when flocks of migrating geese and ducks filled the sky, Dad was in sportsman's heaven. In the summer he and the neighbors hunted sage chickens together. The women and children often accompanied them, riding in horse-drawn wagons and buggies. At the end of the hunt, we'd have a picnic and sage hen fry. We also traveled by horse and buggy to picnics in the hills near Green Valley Spring, the source of Douglas' water supply and to community picnics at Natural Bridge. However, upon return from these excursions, our first chore was to check crops for hail damage and the swamp for mired livestock, which were very common occurrences, especially on holidays for some strange reason.

Mom (Hazel) was a wonderfully sweet, warm person and an excellent homemaker. I particularly remember her cheerful bird-like whistling and the lovely songs she sang as she worked at her chores which involved everything from making soap to smoking meat and canning most of our food. Music was important to her, so it was always a part of our home and social life, whether it be from a hand-cranked Victrola playing precious records ordered from Kearney or mom playing "The Old Rugged Cross" or a John Philip Sousa march on the piano. She played with that particular lilt and verve that caused people to tap their feet and join in singing. Being an accomplished pianist herself, she arranged for Erma and me to take piano lessons. We remember well each week dutifully riding our horses over two miles to our music lessons, no matter the state of the weather. There was a time in later years when our auto fell off the unrailed side of a bridge during a blizzard. None of us got broken but the new records did. Mom issued one of her worst epithets: "Oh, fiddle!"

In 1919 when land opened up farther west of town we homesteaded near the present road to Natural Bridge (T33, R73, part of Section 28 and 29). Interstate 25 runs through the old place now. I especially remember the sorry year our unwary sheepherder allowed too many sheep at one time to wander onto the ice-covered watering pond. 1,800 sheep broke through the ice and were lost causing quite a setback. Another vivid memory of the homestead is of the day my brother, Bruce, and I learned the hazards of adding one too many sticks of pitch pine to a fire. We wanted to build a hotter fire in the stove to heat wash water; instead, we built a chimney fire. I carried our new baby sister, Erma, to the safety of a nearby hillside and watched, horrified, as mom and Bruce fought to put out the fire. The old highway, along which tourists traveled even then, was about a quarter of a mile from the house. Several tourists, seeing the fire, stopped their

cars, vaulted fences and came running across the fields to help, packing their auto fire extinguishers with them. The water well, dry as usual after pumping wash water, was hopeless. They finally doused the fire with tubs of wash water poured down the chimney. I can still see those sooty socks dripping from the rafters and the jagged black hole burned in the roof around the chimney. Main headquarters was eventually moved back to the original Bower ranch.

Gypsies roamed the countryside in those days, occasionally traveling through this area. When someone spotted them coming they would call out a warning to anyone within earshot, "The Gypsies are coming down the lane!" We hurriedly locked up everything, chickens included; and people of the community, in watchful defense, carried guns at these times. The Gypsies swarmed all over the place, even trying to get inside the house. While some bargained and traded goods, others picked up whatever was not locked up. Once they even ran off with our dog, Rags, but Dad managed somehow to rescue him.

Dad's inventive nature was a real boon on the ranch, for he contrived many "modern conveniences" for us, including his use of "The Hearses." I remember anxious neighbors, aghast at observing big, black hearses at the Bower place on two different occasions, inquiring as to the state of our health. These were hearses which, when retired from service at the funeral home in Kearney, were driven out here for Dad to use however he could. He immediately stripped them down and converted them into other useable vehicles and some of the first rubber-tired farm equipment in the area. Those hearses were the source of many a good laugh among us and our neighbors; although, due to old superstitions, a few remained rather skeptical at getting near them, even after their conversion. In the early years Dad built an elevated water storage tank to provide running water in the kitchen, and he delighted mom by obtaining a hand-turned clothes washer to replace her old scrub board. That was followed by a most new-fangled washer, rigged up by removing a tire from the car and running a belt from the turning wheel to the dasher in the washer. Voila! An "automatic" washer! He also used this process to run his wood-cutting saw.

A terrific opportunity came knocking about 1920. The great Reliance Oil Well was being drilled about a mile east of our place. All hopes ran high, so when shares were sold to finance the drilling, Dad invested \$800. Unfortunately, the geyser of liquid gold turned out to be a 2,800 foot dry hole. Many a local investor's dreams dried up with it. Years later, in 1938, Dad received a check which he never did cash, for eight cents. The company was being dissolved and this was the settlement! The location of the Reliance, where the abandoned wooden rig stood for many years, was approximately five miles west of the present Douglas city limits, just a few feet north of the Interstate 25 right-of-way.

During the years leading to the Great Depression we sold milk to the creameries in Douglas and Casper; payment was based on the percentage of cream in the milk. Those weekly checks of seven or eight dollars was a big help. Saturdays everyone went to town and we kids were delighted to see a Laurel and Hardy movie for a

nickel. No matter how lean things may have been we never realized it. The folks made every effort to make life a wonderful experience with the small joys of everyday life, like Dad's love of a good cigar after dinner or the annual Fourth of July fireworks display he put on for family and friends were just as important as the big events.

Our social lives revolved around several organizations. 4-H clubwork was one of the greatest influences for us as rural youths. Our deep involvement in it provided many years of educational and fun experiences. It led to Bruce and I being awarded trips to Chicago as Wyoming representatives to the National 4-H Club Congress and to a scholarship for Bruce to the University of Wyoming. There were also the LaPrele Community meetings, held the last Friday of each month, which included a short business meeting followed by a social. For many years Mom played piano at these gatherings (and so did the Methodist preacher, Reverend Methvin). Church was always important and in the early days a traveling minister conducted Sunday school and services at the District 20 school house. (Later it was also the site of the LaPrele Community Hall). Mom was a charter and life long member of the LaPrele Homemaker's Club and she and Dad were charter members of the LaPrele Farm Bureau. Dad served as its first president and Mom as its first secretary.

In 1938 mom and dad moved into Douglas where they built their home themselves. It included a large vegetable garden and a workshop, of course. They remained active in those organizations that had been so much a part of their ranch lives and were faithful supporters of the Methodist Church. Dad and Bruce worked together on many projects including building dams and drainage systems, opening the first cement-block plant in this area, and they built their own apartment units. On April 27, 1945, the family was saddened by the death, at age 94, of Dad's father, A. G., the man who had seen the promise of the good life in Wyoming.

As the old LaPrele neighbors gradually moved to town, "community picnics" at the Bower home became common. The only thing new about them were the grandchildren who got a taste of the good old days. In 1962 Dad and Mom celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Dad died unexpectedly on April 17, 1967, the night before his 75th birthday. Not long before he had made the remark that he was "so tired of carrying all our old friends up to Boot Hill." Mom died January 27, 1970 at the age of 77.

As for us kids, I taught rural school then married Harold Hardesty in 1934. We left Douglas to find work but returned to raise our two daughters here. Bruce married Dessie Weller in 1938, built his home beside dad's, and raised seven children there. Dessie died in 1970 and Bruce passed away March 7, 1983. Erma married Warren Edward of the Dry Creek Community in 1939. During World War II they were transferred to Washington state where they still live. Their home is in Everett and they have a son and a daughter who also live in Washington.

Maurine Bower Hardesty  
as told to Chris Hardesty Nachtmann



## Braae Family

Anders and Anna Braae, natives of Denmark, came to America about 1875 with their children, Anthon, Steve, Andrew, John and Nelson. They went to Omaha, Nebraska and a few years later they moved to a ranch near Chugwater.

Anthon, Steve and Andrew Braae came to Douglas later and homesteaded about 30 miles south where they lived with their families in the vicinity of where the Charles Pextons live now and known as "Braae" where a Post Office of that name was established in 1926. John Braae lived in California and Nelson Braae lived at Astoria, Oregon.

Anthon "Tony" Braae was born in Denmark on June 19, 1872. He became a cowboy and range rider trailing Texas longhorns from Texas to Billings, Montana. He was united in marriage to Minnie Olive Lester on Christmas Day, 1894, at Maxwell, Iowa. They had four children,



Anthon and Minnie Braae 1916

Mrs. Pansy Dunn, Mrs. Gracy Herlihy, Arnold and Lyle.

Anthon worked for the Burlington railroad for a number of years and in 1916 was transferred to Douglas. His wife, Minnie, died in 1917. He had a homestead in the Braae area and died of a stroke in 1946.

Steve Braae was born in 1877 near Omaha, Nebraska and was employed as a welder in the Union Pacific shops. Later, he moved to the Cottonwood country near Wheatland, Wyoming and in 1908 was married to Louise Marie Frances Schmelling. Louise was born October 3, 1875 and was the daughter of John Ferdinand and Augusta Johanna Lemke Schmelling, and was born at Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin. They had one daughter, Hattie Margaretha, who married an Eddy. Hattie had one son, Stephen Eddy.

In 1917, they moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming where Steve worked on the railroad. Hattie was not well and the doctor told them to get her out of Cheyenne, so they moved to the country near Braae where they homesteaded and lived until 1943 when they moved to Douglas. Louise died in 1948.

Steve played his fiddle for many a country dance and held the fiddle down against his chest instead of up under his chin. He used to go up and help Frank Prager put up hay. He was working at the Converse Lumber Company in 1962 and died in 1965 at Huntington Beach, California.

Andrew Braae and his wife, Hattie Leonard Braae came to this area about 1912 and were working for Sauls (LaBonte Livestock Co.), living at the Gambol place which is northwest of where Larry Philbricks live now. Andrew went over to Willoxs and built an addition onto their house. In November, 1915, Andrew and his oldest son, Alvin, were killed when their threshing machine crashed through a bridge on the Esterbrook Road east of Bruner Lane. Their children were: Gladys Spracklen,



Andrew and Hattie Braae



L. to R.: Andrew Braae and Alvin Braae with their steamer tractor.

Beulah Morton Bricker, Alvin, Leonard, Dean, Mildred and Irene. After Andrew was killed, Hattie, Dean and Leonard filed on homesteads around the Braae community. Leonard and Dean built a two room log cabin for them to live in. It was close to where the Braae Post Office was established in 1926. They were living there in 1918 when Mary Dunn (Bruner) came to teach Mildred and Irene. When Mary arrived, on a cold day in February, Hattie had just gone on up country to her daughter, Gladys Spracklen, who was having a baby. Dean was about 15 years of age and did the cooking quite well until his mother got back. Hattie and Mildred climbed a ladder to sleep in the loft at night. Irene slept with Mary Dunn, and Dean and Leonard slept on the kitchen floor. Hattie was an excellent cook, making the plainest and simplest food into banquet fare, long remembered by friends and strangers alike, who were always welcome to stop for meals.

One stranger who wandered to her home and ate with them was the famous train robber, Bill Carlisle. It was 1919, and after they ate he followed Hattie to the kitchen and asked her to dress his hand which had been shot and told her who he was. Shortly they saw the posse coming, so he hurried out and hid on the mountain nearby.

The next day the posse caught up with him near Esterbrook and he was taken back to prison. Hattie later married Bill Pexton and the family moved to Sandpoint, Idaho in 1934, where Hattie died in 1963. At the Braae Post Office when Hattie Pexton left, the next postmaster was Earl Day who took it in 1935 and then Mattie George was postmistress from 1938 until 1939 when it was discontinued.

Hattie's daughter, Beulah, had married Claude Morton, Sr. and they were living on the lower end of what is now the Lloyd Nunn ranch with their six children in 1924 when another tragedy struck. Claude was on his way home from the upper country with a team and wagon when the team ran away and he was thrown out. He walked on home but died that night. Later, Beulah married Raleigh Bricker and they moved out to Idaho, too, where in 1949 she was running a home for old folks, having 16 patients. Her son, Claude Morton, Jr. was

helping cook at the home. Hattie and her daughter, Irene Shrake, won some prizes on poultry at the county fair in Idaho in 1949.

Leonard and Dean Braae used to have a sawmill up in the LaBonte Canyon country and they had a loud whistle they blew every day at noon that could be heard for miles around. They went to Idaho, too, and worked in the timber there.

Mildred Braae married Oscar Bricker, Jr. and they had three children, David, Ione, and Lenore.

Irene Braae married Mr. Shrake.

The Bricker family also homesteaded around the Braae country. Oscar Sr. was the father and the children or members of the family were in part: Jack, Raleigh, Oscar, Houston, Raymond, Randolph, Donald and Charley. Charley worked for his room and board for the Ferris Bruners about 1930 and could sing quite nicely with Lenora Dunn chording on the piano. At the Douglas High School there were: Miles Bricker, Class of 1939, Mildred Bricker, Class of 1940 and Ernest Bricker, Class of 1942.

Sibyl Prager

## Brady, James and Jessie

James Brady was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on April 12, 1882. He ran away from home and went west to seek his fortune when he was 15 years of age. After living in Denver for three years, Jim came to Wyoming in 1900 to work at the Platte Valley Ranch at McKinley as a blacksmith.

After several years there, he moved to Douglas to work for T. S. Cook and A. C. Rice. Later he started his own blacksmith shop located on South 2nd Street across from the old Ford Garage.

On October 16, 1906, he married Jessie Mewis (born January 9, 1887 in Douglas), daughter of Herman R. and Emma Mewis, pioneer settlers of Douglas. The Mewises at one time had a confectionary store at the corner of 2nd and Center Streets. Herman later was a Justice of the Peace.

One daughter Florence was born to the Bradys. She



Jim Brady



married Clarence A. "Tye" Slonaker on December 31, 1931.

Mr. Brady became interested in the oil business, working as a driller and later engaged in the oil promotion activities in Wyoming. He worked for Ohio Oil Co. and Standard Oil of Louisiana.

In 1936, the Bradys opened a confectionary shop at 325 Center Street, known as the White Palace. It became popular with the high school students and coffee groups from around town.

Mr. Brady died on July 10, 1945.

Mrs. Brady continued to run the White Palace by herself until her death on November 17, 1973.

John Pexton  
as told by Florence Slonaker

## Brenning, Henry B. and Annie

Henry Brenning was born on March 22, 1851 in Maine. He married Annie Davis, daughter of B. L. Davis. She was born in 1847 in Massachusetts.

Henry came west to Leadville, Colorado in 1879, later spending a year in Denver, Colorado, two years at Boulder, Colorado and spent some time in Cheyenne, Wyoming. He was a carpenter and a building contractor.

The Brennings came to Douglas in 1886 with Mrs. Brenning being the first woman resident of the to-be-metropolis.

Mr. Brenning built many of the buildings that still stand in Douglas. He was also a promoter of the LaPrele Ditch and Reservoir Co. and had interests in oil in what was called the Brenning Basin.

The Table Mountain Sheep Company was incorporated on Sept. 21, 1908 for \$75,000. The shareholders were Henry Brenning, Howard G. Peters and Abe B. Daniels. The company ran sheep east of Douglas on Sand Creek and on LaPrele Creek. The terrible blizzard of 1912 killed most of their sheep and eventually put them out of business. Sarah Morton held the mortgage of their lands which included the Boot Ranch at the west end of Table Mountain and the range lands on Sand Creek. In 1913, Mortons acquired possession of these lands. The "Boot" was the home of the Brenning family. It is now owned by Richard Cross.

The Brennings had an adopted son, Roy. Roy was born at Fort Fetterman on January 11, 1883.

Henry B. died on February 21, 1921, Annie on August 14, 1922 and Roy on October 13, 1949.

John R. Pexton

## Bright, Charles and Belle Family

My father, Charles Bright, was born in Peoria, Illinois, September 13, 1879. He was the only child of Joseph and Elizabeth Foote Bright. He, with his parents, moved to Wyoming in 1886. His father homesteaded north of Manville, Wyoming. They lived here until the homestead had been proved up on, then they moved into Manville where they ran a hotel. He received all his

education in Manville except one year, when he attended the Douglas School in Douglas, Wyoming.

On July 4, 1905 he married Belle Howard (my mother). She was the daughter of Robert and Prudence Fenwick Howard of Lost Springs, Wyoming. She was born in southern Illinois on January 11, 1884. In 1887 she and her family moved to Cimarron, Kansas. Here, her father homesteaded. They lived here until 1892. After selling the homestead they moved to Wyoming by team and lumber wagon. They settled at Glenrock and lived there for three years while her father worked in the coal mines. In 1895 they came to Lost Springs and started ranching.

At the age of eleven, my mother went to live with a school teacher and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Blaine, to work for her room and board. Mr. and Mrs. Blaine took her to Burwell, Nebraska where she received most of her education.

In young womanhood, she returned to Manville, Wyoming where she worked. She worked for Mrs. H. B. Card and later for Mrs. Joe Bright at the hotel. At the age of 21, she homesteaded southeast of Lost Springs. The land now belongs to her grandson, Jimmie Bright.

After my folks married in 1905 they lived on my father's homestead, four miles southwest of Lost Springs on the Robert Howard place. Five children were born to my parents. I, Cora, was born here on December 16, 1912. In 1915 my parents built a new home in Lost Springs. I attended school here, and on June 10, 1929 I married Daniel W. Dieleman at the Methodist parsonage in Douglas Wyoming.

Mother died on June 10, 1969.

Cora Bright Dieleman

## Brockmeyer, Ben

Benjamin Gerhart Brockmeyer, Herman and Sam's bachelor brother, was born on May 1, 1884 in Colesburg, Iowa. He purchased the Vern Schrader farm in the Dry Creek Community in the mid 1920s. This farm was within a mile of his brothers. Ben moved on to a new home in Weldona, Colorado in the early 1930s. He hunted and trapped most of his life. His proudest possession was a Model T coupe.

Ben died August 8, 1963 in Weldona, Colorado.

Pauline Sanford Middleton

## Brockmeyer, Herman and Ethel

Herman Gerhart Brockmeyer was born in Hamburg, Germany in 1877. The family moved to the United States about 1881. Two of Herman's brothers, Benjamin and Samuel, who also later lived in Converse County, were born at the family home in Coleburg, Iowa.

Herman married Ethel Beulah Carew in Alpha, North Dakota, in 1910. Their daughter Herminnie May was born at Beach, North Dakota, in 1913. The family then moved to the Akron, Colorado area where Donald was born in 1916. From there, in 1917, they moved to a

homestead in the Dry Creek community of Converse County, Wyoming where Charles was born in 1922 and Merlin in 1924.

Herman had one of the earlier radios in the 1920's. For energy it was run off of a car battery that was kept charged by a car generator that was geared up to a propeller he made, and installed in the wind. He also had a gas lantern that was unique for the 1920's.

The Herman Brockmeyer family remained in the Dry Creek area until 1937, when they moved to a farm near Golva, North Dakota. When Herman's health failed, he and Ethel moved back to Converse County and lived in the town of Orpha until Herman's death in 1954.

Ethel spent some time in Washington and later returned to Orpha until her death in 1961. During her stay at Orpha, she wrote the Orpha news for the local newspapers. She, her son, Donald and his wife, Vera, ran the Orpha post office for several years.

Herminnie May Brockmeyer attended the two year high school at Dry Creek and finished at Douglas including the year of normal school to prepare her for teaching. She taught one year at the Braae School near Esterbrook and then married Claude Leonard Sanford of the Beaver Community. They were the parents of three children; Leroy and Harry Sanford and Pauline Middleton, all of whom still reside in the Douglas area. Benny and Pauline Middleton have a daughter, Pamela and a son, Kelly.

Donald Diedrich Brockmeyer didn't complete high school and worked as a cowboy at ranches all along the Cheyenne River. At various times he was employed by Sadlers, Nachtmans and Combs. Donald tended sheep for Gene Combs. One day he had a rattlesnake crawl across his arm while relaxing on the ground. The warmth of his arm caused the rattler to stop on his arm. He said it was an eternity until the snake crawled away.

Donald was in the service during World War II, was wounded in action and received the Purple Heart. He married Vera Kelly in 1955 and they made their home at Orpha, Wyoming, until his death in 1961 from an accidental gunshot. They had no children. While at Orpha, Donald invented a machine to make snow fences. He took commercial orders.

Charles Herman Brockmeyer attended Dry Creek School until the family moved in 1937. He graduated from high school at Golva, North Dakota, and then attended college at Wahpeton. He married Thalma Olson in 1943 and was in the service during the war. They later moved to Littleton, Colorado, where Charles was employed by Martin Marietta. In 1979, they moved to their present home in Ogden, Utah. Their children are Sharane and Steven who are residents of Littleton, Colorado. Steven and Kay, his wife, have two daughters, Alison and Jackie.

Merlin John Brockmeyer also attended Dry Creek schools until the family moved and he graduated from the Golva, North Dakota high school. He attended college at Rapid City, South Dakota, was in the service during the war, and has been employed most of his life at Boeing Aircraft in Seattle, Washington. He married Loretta Province in 1959 and they are the parents of four children; David, James and the twins, Robert and Patrick. The family resides at Kent, Washington.

Pauline Sanford Middleton

## Brockmeyer, Samuel and Adah

Samuel Henry Brockmeyer, Herman's brother, was born in 1885 in Iowa. Sam married Adah Blanche Carew, Herman's wife's sister (sisters married brothers). Their first son, Harvey, was born at Fargo, North Dakota in 1916. The following year, Francis was born at Bellingham, Washington. The family moved to Dry Creek, Wyoming in 1920 after Sam had gone on ahead and built a small one-room wooden cabin on the homestead. The family went to Sam's father's home in Platner, Colorado during the winter of 1920-21 where Earl was born. On returning to Dry Creek in the spring of 1921, they got caught in a blizzard and had to seek shelter with a farm family near the road. They settled on the first of three homesites they were to have in the area. It was while they were at the last homesite that Elizabeth was born at the larger home of Jim Blackman in 1930.

During the depression, the family left Wyoming and moved to a farm near Lynden, Washington, which became their permanent home. Sam passed away in 1964; Blanche still lives in Lynden.

Harvey Brockmeyer attended the University of Wyoming at Laramie from 1936 to 1942 and immediately became a pilot in the Air Force in World War II. He married Laura Cederquist in California in 1945. He taught vocational agriculture at Bakersfield High School until he retired in 1977. They have a son, Richard, who married Cindy Rowland. Richard and Cindy have a son, Brett, and all live in Palo Alto, California.

Francis Brockmeyer married Eleanore Pearson in 1944. Francis died in 1947 as a result of stress from World War II. Eleanore and their daughter Shirley still live in the Bellingham, Washington area.

Earl Brockmeyer married Philura Voth in 1966 and they have two children, James and Julie. Earl still oversees the family farm near Lynden.

Elizabeth Brockmeyer married Paul Hiebert in 1951. Their "hobby" is a small farm near Custer, Washington. They have a son, Marvin.

Earl, Harvey and Elizabeth share the following memories of the Dry Creek experience with us: It was not easy living in Dry Creek in the early 1920s! Luckily there were wild rabbits, antelope and birds to supplement the scanty food supply. After 1925, on our last homesite, we managed to raise a large garden of more than an acre and another acre or two of potatoes. We raised several litters of pigs each year, which we slaughtered for something that they had, which we needed. We also had as many as 25 cattle, but year in and year out, it took a lot of hard work to raise them. We can remember pumping water with a hand pump in the coldest weather, when the ponds were frozen over the ice two feet thick. When there was a dry year and very little grass, we had to find other feed to keep the cattle alive through the winter; it was after a prairie fire that we found that cattle would eat cactus that had the thorns burned off! During the 16 years that we lived in Wyoming, we cannot remember slaughtering any cattle to eat; they were too valuable as a cash income.

One government agricultural program that was supposed to bring down the supply of cattle in the United



Top Row: L. to R. Francis, Harvey, Earl. Bottom row: L. to R. Sam, Elizabeth and Blanche Brockmeyer.

States is forever etched in our memories! The plan was simply to kill a certain percent of all cattle. The government paid the rancher from \$3.00 to \$5.00 for animals a year old or younger and \$10.00 for cows. It was an emotional experience when the selected cattle were shot while you watched! Then they were dragged out into the pasture to rot! No one was supposed to eat any of the animals that had been killed, but sometimes the gunmen looked the other way and the rancher cut the throat of a fat calf and later dressed it out. This drastic plan did cut down on the number of cattle in the country, but the real problem was that no one had any money to buy meat at any price!

In the early thirties, the weather was quite dry and the wind blew and blew out of the west and we experienced the infamous "Dust Bowl." All of the plowed topsoil just blew away. We left Wyoming in 1937. The government paid us \$3.34 per acre for our land with the building thrown in for good measure. Our house was moved to Douglas and remodelled. Uncle Herman's was moved to the Featherston place as a shop.

One incident of the depression remains as a very vivid memory. We had helped trail fifteen of our cattle to Douglas, which was a distance of about forty miles. This traildrive took two days and was a tiring job. Then it took

a day to get back to Dry Creek.

A month or so went by with Dad checking the mail twice a week, when the mail was delivered to see what we had gotten for the cattle; the money was to buy the winter's flour, sugar and clothes. One mailday morning, Dad didn't come back right away and didn't show up for lunch. He had never done anything like this before and we became worried, but he finally showed up about four o'clock after he had walked around the entire place. He came in looking terribly depressed and Mom asked him what was the matter. He handed her a letter and then she looked even worse than he did. The letter was from the Great Northern Railroad and it simply stated that they had paid for the commission of the stockyards in Omaha for selling the cattle, but that there was not enough money left to cover the hauling charge!!! So instead of a check for the cattle, Dad got a bill from the railroad!!! They never got paid!

Harvey Brockmeyer  
Earl Brockmeyer  
Elizabeth Hiebert

## Brockway Family

Not much is known about the Brockways except names and where some of them lived.

Herman Brockway married Ellen D. Blakmon on May 17, 1857 in Farmersville, New York. Their known children were; Herbert, James, Glen, Minnie, Earl, Percy, Lora, Vida and Burt.

Percy married Eula Erban Abney. They had at least nine children; Lester, Lorna, Loyd, Clifford, Eula, Twins, Minnie, James and Wesley. Percy and his family lived for a time on upper Bedtick Creek in the 1920's and later somewhere around the Morton Flats. Percy is mentioned in Guy Newell Sr.'s diaries as working in the Esterbrook area in a sawmill in the 1880's. Percy died on March 28, 1946 in Eureka, California. Eula passed away on May 30, 1968.

Some of the Brockway family were involved in starting the Brockway Ditch or the Morton Canal as it is known today. John Williams and John Morton took the project over and finished it.

George Froggatt married Tillie Brockway in 1885,



L. to R.: Frances Abney, Eula Brockway, Brockway family, far right, James Abney.

James Brockway married Mary Cooper and Alexander Brockway married Maude Cooper.

Earl Hadley Brockway married Mary E. Zeller, daughter of Isadore and Mary Dieterich Zeller. Mary taught school in Douglas for many years and was much loved by her many students. They had one son, Lester, who graduated from the United States Naval Academy and rose to the rank of Admiral. Earl died on December 7, 1920; Mary on December 1, 1935.

John R. Pexton

## Brooks, Luther and Sarah

Luther Brooks was born on March 1, 1850 in Vermont. His parents were George and Houghton Brooks.

Luther married Sarah Jane Noble, daughter of John Noble, Feb. 1, 1872. The Noble family came from England. Sarah was born there June 14, 1853.

Three sons, George E., William and Frank, were born to Luther and Jane.

Luther followed his brother Orin D. to Wyoming where he homesteaded. Finding out that homestead life



Left to right: Frank Brooks, George Brooks and William Brooks.

was not for him, Luther moved to Douglas where he was employed as the janitor for the North Grade School for many years.

The sons married and lived in the area around Douglas and Lusk.

Luther died Jan. 13, 1943 while Sarah lived until Feb. 1, 1943. They are both buried in Douglas.

Donnis Brooks Potter

## Brooks, O. D. and Mariah Family

My father, Ward O. Brooks, came to Wyoming in approximately 1881 with his parents, O. D. and Mariah Brooks and six brothers and sisters. The family had lived near Omaha, Nebraska and traveled to Wyoming by team and wagon. The cattle, however, had to be shipped by rail. Ward and his brother, Walter, were assigned to ride in the cattle car and take care of the animals during the long trip. The trainman discovered that the two boys were on the train and only one was allowed. Even though the boys were both young, the trainman insisted that one get off. The boys decided that Ward would get off and he had to make his way alone the rest of the way to Chadron, Nebraska. Chadron was the end of the line for the railroad at that time. When Ward finally reached Chadron he was welcomed by a much worried family. The family then traveled together to Lusk. Lusk was only a tent town at that time.

O. D. had a brother, Luther, who also had made his way to Wyoming.

O. D. (Orin Dean) and his sons, Walter and Ward, each filed on a homestead west of Douglas. Their homesteads joined and were north of Table Mountain on the LaPrele Creek. Spring water from the mountain furnished water for the houses and the creek furnished water for irrigation. The Brooks and neighbors built one of the first irrigation systems and raised hay and cattle.

Walter taught school and served as part-time minister of the First Methodist Church which the Brooks helped to build. This church was located in what is now downtown Douglas. This building was sold to another church and moved to Glendö. The First Methodist Church bought some property on South 5th Street and built another church.

Walter sold his homestead to Mint Roush, a long-time Douglas resident. Walter went to Michigan where his wife had relatives.

A sister, Hattie, (Mrs. Ed Amspoker) also lived in Douglas. She served as choir director, and played the piano and organ for the church. She died of typhoid fever during an epidemic in which she nursed many others back to health.

Ward had a sister, Cora, who lived in Lusk, she married William Louger. This marriage produced several children. In later years Cora lived in Douglas near her daughter, Myrtle. After Myrtle's death Cora went to Midwest to live with another daughter and died shortly thereafter.

Ward married Blanche Brook and one daughter, Glendyn, was born to them. Blanche died in 1919 and Glendyn went to California to live with relatives so that she could attend high school.

Glendyn married Walter Snider (now deceased) and they had two children. The son, Stanley (now deceased) married Gloria and they had four children. The daughter, Beverly married Douglas Williams, and they have three children. Glendyn and her progeny all live near San Francisco at the present time.

In 1921 Ward married Irene Cook. Irene had come to Douglas in 1917 with her brother, Albert and his family, who homesteaded 35 miles north of Douglas. She became a school teacher and filed on a homestead near Irvine. Her

first teaching was done at the Irvine School. There were 21 students, the youngest five years old and in the first grade and the oldest 16 and in the first year of high school. Irene had finished high school and two years of college. She found the carrying of water in buckets by hand, keeping the fire going with wood she often chopped herself and teaching students almost her own age was quite a challenge. The determination of the young, 5', 105 lb., woman enabled her to achieve success in these ventures. She taught at several country schools including the Leet School, Highway School, Lost Springs School, the Shawnee School, and in the Douglas schools for the next few years.

Her marriage to Ward Brooks produced two daughters, Phyllis and Edith.

Phyllis married Bill Himmelreich, had three boys (all with families of their own now) and lives in Oxnard, California at present.

Edith married Lloyd A. Scyler and lives in Hermiston, Oregon.

Ward died April 19, 1962 and is buried in the Douglas Cemetery in the Brooks' family plot. Irene lives in Oregon with Edith. She was 90 years old on August 22, 1984. 1984.

Edith Brooks Scyler  
Phyllis Brooks Himmelreich

## Brose, William and Crete Family

William Carl Brose was born on August 30, 1875 in Germany. He was the son of Carl C. Brose who brought his family to the United States from Germany in 1880 to settle in Michigan. There were five children born to the Carl Broses, two sons, William and Otto, and three daughters, Minnie, Tina and Anna. Otto and William Carl migrated to Wyoming as young men.

Crete Althea Leonard was born on November 6, 1880

in Maxwell, Iowa, the daughter of Effie Brooks Leonard. She was a member of a family of five, Hattie, Crete, Fred, Mose and Clyde. The family migrated to Wyoming when Crete was a young woman.

Crete and William Brose became acquainted and were eventually married in Guernsey, Wyoming in 1900, settling in the Laramie Peak area. To this union four children were born, namely Wilma Fay (b. April 4, 1902 in Downey Park), Dorothy Irene (b. January 17, 1904), Verne Fred (b. February 26, 1906) and Leonard (b. September 15, 1912).

Hattie, Crete's older sister, was married to Andrew Braae, a railroad engineer. They took up ranching northwest of the Saul Ranch. After the accidental death of her husband and one of her sons, Hattie moved her family. The new location was called Braae, Wyoming, where Hattie established the Braae Post Office, serving as Postmistress there.

William Brose worked as a sawyer near Esterbrook, Wyoming for a time, where he lost a hand in a sawmill accident. Later, William moved his family to the old Rutherford place where the family lived for many years. It was there that Verne was stricken with typhoid fever, but due to Crete's loving care, he recovered. There, as well, the youngest boy, Leonard, was born.

I, Fay West, would like to relate an incident that happened to me. "Mother and a friend took a team and buggy and went out in the pine trees to pick berries. They took my sister, Dorothy, and me with them. While they were out of the buggy, I decided to get in it. My mother saw me and started calling to me, which frightened the horses. First they walked, she kept calling and they started trotting. I fell over the dashboard and hung in the circle of the buggy. The horses were galloping just before they ran into a tree, one on one side of the tree and the other one on the other side, the buggy broken to pieces. Just before that happened, I had fallen out of the buggy and the buggy passed over me and I was unhurt. God had his arms around me I am sure. My mother was sitting on



Left to right: Unknown, Bill Brose, Crete Brose and Otto Brose. Brose children on horse: Dorothy, Fay and Verne.





L. to R.: Vivian Shepard, Fay Brose, Verne Brose, Miss Marshall, Dorothy Brose, King, Helen Shepard and Harry Shepard.

the ground holding me and crying. By that time the horses were out grazing and I thought how beautiful they looked."

Otto Brose, William's brother, lived with the family most of the time. The brothers, with the help of two men, Ferris Bruner and Clarence Knott, put up hay to feed the animals for the coming winter.

The Brose children and those of a family named Shephard attended a rural school located half way between the homes of the two families.

Later on, the Brose family moved to the Cole place at the mouth of Mill Creek where Dorothy and Wilma Fay finished the eighth grade. Some of their teachers were Laura Johnson Reid and Rose Fitzhugh Johnstone. It was while they lived there that both William and Leonard fell ill from typhoid fever. Crete acted as both nurse and physician to her ailing husband and son. The children completed their education in the Douglas high school.

After finishing school, Dorothy taught school. She taught at the Herman Werner School, the Spracklen School and other schools. Dorothy married Fred Ward and moved to North Hollywood, California. Then Verne married Doris Cunningham of Douglas, Wyoming and they went to California. Fay married Forrest West in 1923 and moved to Douglas. Leonard married Violet Stewart. Violet was a Clerk of Converse County Court at one time and owned a place near Irvine, Wyoming.

William homesteaded on the lower end of Indian Creek, a tributary of LaBonte Creek. They made their home there until 1947 when they sold out to Ed Carlon and moved to California. Verne died in 1962, Otto on January 29, 1964, William on September 15, 1968 and Crete Brose on July 1, 1974.

Fay Brose West

## Brow, George and Chloe

George Simon Brow was born December 15, 1876, the son of George H. and Bridget C. Brow, in Grosse Isle, Michigan.

George worked as a youth in the lumber industry in Michigan and later in Washington state. In April 1906 he came to Wyoming where he and his brothers continued their profession in the lumber business. He homesteaded on a fork of Wagonhound Creek near Magpie Springs.

On August 6, 1911 he married Chloe Hammond, daughter of James Harvey and Sarah Jane McNealy Hammond. Chloe was born in Joplin, Missouri on February 13, 1893 and came to Wyoming in 1902 with her parents.

They were the parents of 19 children, seven of whom died in infancy. Some of the children are; George H., Loss, Edward, Victor, Kathleen, Shirley (Bryson), Jack, Jean, Barbara (Read), Ida (Jackson), Sister Mary Joseph, Betty (Domschat), David, Sue (Fulk) and Ruby (Sullivan).

George died in February 1946, Chloe on June 2, 1961.

Their ranch is now owned by Ben and Pauline Middleton.

John R. Pexton

## Brow, Godfrey Patrick and Lillian

Godfrey Patrick (Pat) Brow was the sixth child of a family of seven. He was born in 1886 and reared on a farm near Grosse Isle, Michigan. In April 1904, Pat moved with his mother and family to Lake Stevens, Washington. His parents having separated in 1901, he became the family provider, working in a logging camp. There he met and married Lillian (Lil) May McDonald on November 21, 1906. Lillian was born in Seattle, Washington, April 10, 1889.

Pat Brow came to Converse County Wyoming in 1908 with his brothers George and Thornton for the purpose of homesteading. Pat worked on the Lyman Cooper place (where John Pollock now lives) until he could file on a homestead in the mountains east of Downey Park. The Chamberlain brothers now own the property and use it as summer range. Another brother, Edward, also came to Wyoming from Washington and all three filed homesteads adjoining Pat's.

That first winter, Pat came down with typhoid fever. He was pretty sick by the time someone found him. They took him by horse and wagon to Douglas where Miss Galbraith nursed him back to health. She also kept Pat's wife in Washington informed of his well being, for which Lil was always grateful.

Lillian and daughter Eva joined Pat on his homestead in 1909. Pat bought a sawmill from Mr. Marshall and during his lifetime logged from Esterbrook to Downey Park. That mill became his mainstay and numerous times when he went broke ranching, or misfortune struck, he went back to the sawmill to get out of debt.

Their children were; Eva May, born in Lake Stevens, Washington March 3, 1908, married Clarence Hart in



1928. Mamie Winifred, born in Douglas October 15, 1910, married Clarence Dunn in 1928. Stanley Patrick, born in Douglas on February 23, 1913, married Doris McCartney on July 2, 1950. Patricia, born in Douglas on September 9, 1915, married Samuel Amspoker on August 4, 1935. June, born in Douglas April 22, 1917 and died in January 1918. Wanda Jane, born in Burlington, Washington on July 29, 1918, married Willie Collins in 1936. Alma Jean, born in Douglas on June 6, 1920, married Joseph Tolle in 1938. Donald, born in Douglas on September 20, 1922, married Betty St. John. Thomas Boyd, born in Douglas on March 8, 1925 married Luetta Joy.

This is a little story about how a niece of Pat's, Marcella Brow, died in the mountains south of Douglas where the Brow brothers homesteaded: In the winter of about 1916, Eva and Mamie went to the home of Thornton Brow to visit, about one half mile away. Upon deciding to return home, Arbulah and Arvilla, Thornton's girls, were instructed to go along to borrow an item. Their baby sister Marcella, age three or four, had tried to tag along but the older girls had scolded her and sent her home. When the girls returned at dark, their mother was surprised to discover that Marcella was not with them. A search continued all night and men came horseback from miles around to help. At daylight the next morning, she was found by her father, where she had frozen to death in a quaken aspen patch a short distance from the Pat Brow cabin.

After a stove pipe fire burned their homestead cabin to the ground in the late summer of 1921 the family moved to the old Bruner place on LaBonte. There Pat joined his brother Thornton and Dr. Keller in the Brow-Keller Livestock Company. Lil often referred to it as the "Jawbone Outfit". This company dissolved in 1923.

Pat then moved his family in 1924 to what was known as the William Patterson place about twenty three miles south of Douglas, presently owned by Ben Middleton. It was quite small but Pat ranched, worked a sawmill, trapped and bootlegged to keep his family of eight. Little by little he bought adjoining homesteads and built a ranch home in the 1940's. Pat continued to operate his sawmill until 1950 and the ranch until his death on June 28, 1956. Lillian died March 19, 1967 in Douglas.

Pat and Lil were hard working, honest people who were always willing to help someone less fortunate than themselves. Because of the distance from a doctor, Pat splinted many a broken bone, delivered a son, a grandson, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Even though they never had much, and for years lived in one room cabins, they were always ready to help a neighbor. Pat seldom went to town without bringing back a bachelor that couldn't find work. They stayed around working for room and board until another job could be found. Two of Pat's sisters-in-law died when their families were young but Pat and Lil were there to take in nieces and nephews and help raise them.

Thea Nuckolls  
as told by Patty Amspoker

## Brow, Thornton and Ethel

Thornton Brow was born in Grosse Isle, Michigan in 1879 to George and Bridget Brow. The Brow family worked in the timber industry.

Thornton came to Wyoming in April 1906 to file a homestead on Sled Creek southwest of Douglas. His brothers, Ed, George and Pat either came at the same time or joined him later.

He married Ethel Wilson who was born in North Carolina in 1884. They had six children: Woodrow (born August 5, 1914), Havelock (born October 25, 1912), Arvilla, Arbulah, Marcella and Charles.

The family lived for a while on the George Goodwin place on LaBonte Creek. It was here that the children went to school for part of the time.

Ethel died on December 16, 1918 during the flu epidemic.

Thornton carried the mail by horse and buggy on the Esterbrook route for a time. Thornton died in 1948.

Woodrow married Elizabeth Isaac, daughter of Harry and Irene Shaw Isaac, On April 27, 1940. They had two sons, James and Paul Clay and one daughter, Nancy Gayle. Jim married Sharon Graves, Clay married Sarah Cousins and Gayle married Allan Ulibarri.

Woodrow "Rody" and his family lived on the Goodwin place for a while where they were in partnership with Commodore and Marian Burden running sheep. Later they moved to the Allen place where they still reside. Rody died on June 18, 1980.

Havelock was never married and died on September 30, 1968.

Arbulah married Martin Price. They ran the O. P. Skaggs store in Douglas for a number of years. They had six children. Arbulah died in 1968.

Arvilla married Mr. Dillon and has three children.

Charles married Louise Wickwire and died in 1982 in Denver.

Marcella died from exposure on a cold night when she became lost at the age of four. (There is more about this in the Pat Brow story.)

Elizabeth Isaac Brow

## Brown, Cyrus O. and Viola

C. O. Brown, the son of Francis M. and Elizabeth Brown, was born in Tipton, Iowa on December 2, 1886.

He married Viola Cole, daughter of H. W. and Susan Cole, on May 1, 1901, in Lincoln, Nebraska, Viola was born May 21, 1872.

C. O. and Viola moved to Burwell, Nebraska where he had established a law practice earlier.

Cleone was born in 1902 and Eileen in 1906 in Burwell.

In 1907, the family moved to Converse County. C. O. homesteaded under the LaPrele Dam project. His homestead was north of where the LaPrele interchange on Highway I-25 is now.

Shortly after homesteading, the family moved to Douglas. C. O. built his own house at 500 South Sixth Street. Their nearest neighbor was W. F. Mecum at 435



C.O. Brown in Rambler car — first car in Douglas.

South Fifth Street. The Browns bought milk by the bucket from them.

C. O. purchased a Rambler car from its former owner. The car had the distinction of being the first car in Douglas when its first owner had purchased it.

Wilma was born in Douglas in 1908.

C.O. was appointed to the bench as Judge of the Sixth Judicial District of Wyoming in 1921 by Governor Robert D. Carey. He served in that capacity for 14 years. He returned to his private law practice at that time.

Viola died on September 27, 1951, Judge Brown on February 19, 1953.

Cleone Brown Dunlavy

## Brown, Frank M. and Rebecca

Frank M. Brown was born in Adair County, Iowa, August 1, 1879 to Francis M. and Elizabeth Kester Brown. He attended grade and high school in Iowa and went to business college in Lincoln, Nebraska. After completion of college, he worked in a bank in Lincoln, Nebraska.

In 1906 Frank decided to move to Wyoming and filed for a homestead which was 8 miles west of Douglas. He worked on the construction of the LaPrele Dam Project while putting up buildings and preparing his homestead land for cultivation. While visiting relatives in Burwell, Nebraska Frank met and several years later married Rebecca C. Beynon, (born December 21, 1884). Rebecca was the daughter of David S. and Christena J. Beynon. She was raised and educated in Burwell going to normal school in Fremont, Nebraska and taught for several years in both New York and Burwell, Nebraska before coming to Wyoming to make her home. Frank and Rebecca were married June 12, 1912 in Douglas. Four children were born: Marjorie Feb. 23, 1913; Vivian May

11, 1914; Frank in 1915 and Robert, Apr. 21, 1922. Frank died at age four in 1919 and Marjorie died in 1983.

As the community grew and new settlers were arriving to claim homestead rights, social and business activities began being organized, of which, Frank and Rebecca both took an active part and held responsible offices. One of the first things needed was a school which was built in 1919. This school was called "Central" being named such since it was then centrally located to all who would then attend. All the children rode horse-back to school. We had 3½ miles to ride, some further, but I do not recall ever missing a day for weather and very seldom for sickness. Both Frank and Rebecca were school board members many times.

Other activities, both social and business, began to grow such as the LaPrele Community meetings. Business, needs of the community, and politics were discussed at these meetings. While the adults carried on the business, it was play time for all the children. Lunch and a social hour always followed. Everyone had an enjoyable evening and looked forward to those monthly meetings. A Sunday School was organized and a missionary minister or one from Douglas would be present once in a while. The rest of the time local people would take part, teaching classes, singing, preparing programs, playing musical instruments, etc., each using his own talents and knowledge.

In the late 1920s (I am uncertain as to the dates), an extension club was organized for the women. This was called the Homebuilder's Extension Club. This was a great day, once a month, for all. Since most of the women did not drive, the men and children would go also, so it was a family and fun day for all. Each member took a turn entertaining in her home; it was a busy time preparing for the group. About this same time Farm Bureau was organized and the LaPrele Community was very active in all its projects. A dairy association was organized, the milk being shipped each day to Casper by truck. Since there was no refrigeration at that time the milk had to be thoroughly cooled and delivered each morning to the highway where it was picked up by a truck. It was a short meeting time for the men as they delivered the milk and exchanged thoughts and bits of news only to hurry back to a very busy schedule of farming.

Pioneering was very difficult as the equipment was very primitive, housing very meager, and Wyoming weather very rugged for many of these people. Many hardships were endured, many defeats and failures encountered but the challenge was great. The efforts were all worthwhile when one saw a new country developed, a community grow and prosper, and friendships made that lasted a lifetime.

In 1937 Frank, Rebecca and their son Robert moved to Fremont County, Wyoming. Frank and Rebecca moved to Casper, Wyoming in 1942 where they worked until retirement. Frank died June 22, 1958 and Rebecca died April 6, 1968. Both are buried in the Douglas Cemetery.

Vivian Brown Strand

## Brown, Walter J. and Blanche

Walter J. Brown was an early settler and pioneer in the ranching industry of Converse County, Wyoming.

Walter was born on August 23, 1890 in Camp Crook near Belle Fourche, South Dakota to Albert and Hanna Brown. His father settled in the Black Hills of South Dakota in 1875, before it was inhabited by white men. He had the first homestead on the Little Missouri River.

Walter's ranching ability was handed down to him by his father and grandfather at an early age. When he became a young man he worked for the Hash Knife and Mill Iron Ranches for six years. His next move was to buy a ranch on Powder River near Miles City, Montana. When World War I was declared, Walter enlisted in the army in 1917, and served until after Armistice Day in 1918.

Walter and Blanche Perkins were married on December 6, 1919 at Broken Bow, Nebraska. She was the daughter of Elbonson and Ollie Applegarth, who had a family of twelve children.

At an early age Blanche moved with the family to Broken Bow, Nebraska. Her mother died when she was five years old, and a year later she was adopted by Will



Left to right: Mike Brown, (grandson of Walter) and Walter Brown, 1965.

and Grace Perkins. When she was 19 she moved to Miles City, Montana. It was there that she met and later became Walter Brown's wife.

Walter and Blanche came to Wyoming in 1921 and homesteaded on land in Converse County, seventy miles north of Douglas, Wyoming near Antelope Creek.

Their dwellings consisted of a two-room log house and an outbuilding. The animal sheds and corrals were also built of logs that Walter hauled in from the mountains. It was here that Walter and Blanche carried on a ranching operation for over twenty years.

To this union was born a son, William Albert (Billy) on February 24, 1931 at Douglas, Wyoming. Billy started his career in the rural school at Verse, Wyoming, and on his father's ranch in Converse County.

Cattle were Walter's major interest. He belonged to the Wyoming Stock Grower's Association.

During the years of operating their property in Wyoming, Walter and Blanche endured loneliness but exhibited the sturdy endurance and indomitable courage of

the true pioneers. There were few men at that time, who had a larger knowledge of every phase of the ranching industry than Walter Brown. He was also an expert trapper of wild fur-bearing animals. He used his skills and clever ways to lure coyotes to his traps. Coyote pelts were worth good money in those days.

Over the years, Walter increased his acreage of land and livestock. In 1942, foreseeing that he was limited in expanding further, Walter sold his place to Irwin Livestock Company and purchased a larger ranch in Weston County, south of Upton, Wyoming.

Walter and Blanche's son, Billy, and Karen Guilford of Sundance, Wyoming were married June 30, 1951. They had a family of four children.

Walter later purchased another ranch near Upton and ran 1000 to 1200 head of sheep. Billy and Karen managed this place for awhile. In 1964 Walter sold part of his holdings south of Upton and bought a farm near Vale, South Dakota. Billy and Karen took over the operation of this farm. It was on the farm that Billy lost his life in a tractor accident on June 4, 1965.

Walter owned a residence in Newcastle, Wyoming where he and Blanche lived part-time. Blanche was an active member of the Baptist Church.

Mrs. Brown passed away at the Weston County Memorial Hospital on November 24, 1962. Mr. Brown spent his later years between his home in Newcastle and his farm and ranch. At the age of 80 he died of a brief illness on January 14, 1971.

Walter, Blanche, and son, Billy, are buried in the family plot in Greenwood Cemetery at Upton, Wyoming.

Heirs of Walter's estate were his four grandchildren, William J. Jr. of Faulkton, South Dakota; Carolyn, now Mrs. Carolyn Adams, Vale, South Dakota; Kathy, now Mrs. Kathy Barbour, Moses Lake, Washington; and Michael of Great Falls, Montana.

Compiled by Walter and Blanche's former daughter-in-law, Karen Paverud, and written by Billy's former teacher, Velma Steckley

## Brownfield, Thomas J.

Thomas J. Brownfield was born in Smithfield, Fayette County, Pennsylvania in 1853. His parents moved to southeast Iowa when Tom was five years old. He grew to manhood there on his parent's farm.

In 1877 he married Emma Myers. They had three sons; Theodore C., Robert R. and George R.

He moved to Grand Island, Nebraska in 1879 where he farmed and taught school. In 1886 he organized the Farmers Union Fire Insurance Co. He was its first general manager, serving in that capacity for 25 years. In 1897 he moved the company to Lincoln, Nebraska.

His wife, Emma, died while they were living in Grand Island and he then married Mary G. Filsinger (born December 19, 1868) of Alda, Nebraska. One daughter, Edna Marie, was born to them. She later married Frank Kershisnik of Rock Springs, Wyoming.

Disposing of his interests in the insurance company, Mr. Brownfield moved to Converse County in 1911. He began ranching in the area. Among the places was the

Green Valley on Little Boxelder Creek west of Douglas. Disposing the ranch soon after his arrival he then established a real estate business and opened a livestock and insurance exchange in Douglas. He was also very active in promoting the LaPrele Dam Project. A tract of land immediately southwest of Douglas is named after him.

Mr. Brownfield died on September 11, 1931 in Douglas.

John R. Pexton

## Brubaker, Alvah and Ida Family

Al Brubaker first came to Converse County, Wyoming, in the spring of 1907. He had grown up on a farm near Wabash, Indiana, the son of a farmer and minister in the Church of the Brethren. He was 22 years old at the time, and came in response to an ad placed in a Chicago paper by the Mountain Home Sheep Company asking for ranchhands.

The Mountain Home Sheep Company ranch house is located on the south bank of the North Platte River a few hundred yards west of where the Parkerton depot sat by the Northwestern Railroad in the Big Muddy Oil Field. Their sheep ranged over what is now the oil field, part of the Big Muddy Creek, and well to the north of the Platte River into the Cole Creek drainage.

Al was so taken with sheep ranching in these wide-open ranges and his job of camp tender, that he decided Wyoming was to be his home. He went back to Indiana in the late summer of the same year, married Ida Genevra Livengood, on the 23rd of September, and returned to Wyoming and his job, accompanied by his bride.

The following summer, on July 10, 1908, Elbridge, the first of 12 children was born to Al and Ida. This event alerted the young couple to a need for ranch land and livestock of their own. Within a few months a partnership in the ranching business was formed with Walter Thayer on the Cannondale Ranch, located on Hunton Creek, eight miles southeast of Glenrock. The partnership lasted only a few years, terminated by the death of Mr. Thayer. Al continued to operate the ranch on a leased basis until 1916, at which time he and Ida purchased the Cannondale Ranch, on which they continuously lived until 1924, and then intermittently until 1937. At that time they moved to lands acquired adjacent to the town of Glenrock. They lived there until retirement from active ranching in 1949.

Al's 42 years of ranching comprised diversities beyond the usual concept of ranching. Some of these diversities were dairying, raising mules, turkeys, rabbits, and chickens; carrying the mail to the Boxelder Post Office from Glenrock; vegetable gardening, and raising navy beans, strawberries, sunflowers, millet, oats, wheat and barley. Most of these activities appeared, disappeared, and sometimes reappeared during the 42 years. All were superimposed at various levels of production on three constant activities of dairying, haying, and raising cattle and sheep. A controlling factor in most instances was market demand and a profit or loss.

Al was a very friendly, likeable fellow. He was innovative, adventurous, unpredictable — in some ventures, unrealistic. He was seldom dissuaded by others from pursuing a project. Some examples of his activities are:

- Texas longhorn cattle shipped in to fatten on Wyoming grass — a loser.
- A brooder for hundreds of turkeys — a winner.
- A horse gentler and breaker which consisted of two long poles arranged as a "V" anchored at the vortex on a pivot, with a wagon wheel attached to the opposite end of each pole. An unbroken mule or horse was hitched by tugs and halter between the wheels and turned loose to travel in a circle as he pulled the "V" after him as it turned at the pivot. At the end of two to three 4-hour periods working in this contraption the animal was usually troubleless when hitched with a well-broken horse — big success.
- A trip, via the stream-bed, through Boxelder Canyon — difficult and wet for a party of six and a shepherd dog.
- Training horses for jumping, lying down, Roman-riding, and performing as an act at the Wyoming State Fair — well received.
- Participating in the 1924-25 Florida Real Estate Boom as a real estate salesman — a bust.
- Organization of Brubaker Ranches, Inc. on lands procured in the immediate vicinity of Glenrock — a big winner.
- Procurement of oil leases on land poo-pooed by many, but paid off with the discovery and development of the South Glenrock Field — a handsome return. As in a fairy tale, Al and Ida's declining years were free of money worries.

Al and Ida were civic-minded. They regularly attended the Glenrock Community Baptist Church with all their children. The whole family had singing ability utilized in the church choir. Ida served as Sunday School Superintendent for over 30 years. The stained glass in the church windows is a memorial to Al and Ida Brubaker. Ida was a member of the Glenrock Rebekah Lodge and the Women's Club. She was designated Wyoming Mother of the Year in 1951 by then-Governor Frank Barrett.

Al was elected to the State House of Representatives, from Converse County, in November, 1916, and re-elected in November, 1918; and participated in the 14th and 15th sessions of the legislature. He was not a passive legislator, as the records of this body show that several bills were introduced by Mr. Brubaker, some of which were enacted into law. He served many years on the Glenrock School Board, and was assistant county assessor for two years, and chairman of the Converse County Welfare Board for four years. He was also a member of the Wyoming Pioneer Association and served as president.

The family of Al and Ida consisted of six sons and six daughters. As of this date, January 1, 1984, Al and Ida have 124 descendants, of which only six are deceased. The 12 children are listed here in chronological order.

Al died in 1967. Ida died in 1980.

NAME	BORN	VOCATION	RESIDENCE
Elbridge Leroy	1908	Army Officer, Teacher	Casper, Wyo.
William Ellis	1910	Train Conductor	Tucson, Ariz.
Allen Thayer	1912	Rancher	Glenrock, Wyo.
Mabel Rose	1915	Nurse, Housewife	Forest Grove, Ore.
Mary Elizabeth	1917	Nurse, Housewife	Slidel, La.
Jack Pershing	1919	Army Officer, Dir. Selective Service	Cheyenne, Wyo.
Lewis Hoffman	1921	Pilot, United Air Lines	Lockport, Ill.

Clara May (Cherie)	1922 Realtor, Housewife	Portola Valley, Ca.
Eliza Jane (Missey)	1924 Secretary, Housewife	Casper, Wyo.
Richard Lee	1927 Laboratory Technician	Morenci, Ariz.
Catherine Lou	1929 Singer, Teacher, Housewife	Laredo, Tex.
Lois Ann	1937 Music Teacher, Housewife	Powell, Wyo.

Elbridge L. Brubaker  
Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired

## Brubaker, Tom and Ruth

Thomas K. Brubaker was born in Peru, Ind. on June 4, 1888. He was one of 14 children, born to Mary Moore and Ellis Brubaker.

Father Ellis was first a deacon, then a minister in the Brethren (Dunkard) Church nearby, so Tom and his 13 brothers and sisters were all good Christians. They all worked hard and played hard and were a happy group.

The Wallace-Hagenbach Circus winter quarters were on a neighboring farm with a lot of ponies, mules and other animals in the pastures. So Tom and his brothers grew up learning to trick ride and how to do stunts with the animals. The neighboring Miami Indians were also playmates. Tom seemed to think he was an Indian as he grew up.

Tom went to college in North Manchester, Indiana along with several of his brothers and sisters, for about two years, in 1910 and 1911. He was too restless to stay in college very long, so he worked here and there and traveled.

While visiting his sister, Edith, who was teaching in California, he met Ruth Henderson (born Dec. 29, 1883). He went home to Indiana, worked in the Marshall Field store in Chicago but couldn't stay away from California and Ruth.

In 1914 he followed his brother, Alvah, to Glenrock, where they herded sheep and worked for a big sheep company in Parkerton (Big Muddy). Tom finally persuaded Ruth to come to Wyoming to marry him and live on his homestead, so she came with her foster father, R. J. Stuke. She and Tom were married in the old Henning Hotel in Casper on October 10, 1916. The ceremony was performed by his father, Rev. Ellis Brubaker.

The happy newly-weds set up housekeeping on Tom's homestead of 320 acres about 10 miles southeast of Glenrock, adjoining Bill and Addie Abadie and R. D. Carey's land at the foot of Boxelder Canyon (the old Boy Scout Camp). Ruth had a wonderful time learning about Wyoming and the ways of the West. Alvah and Ida, Tom's brother and sister-in-law lived two miles away on the old Thayer place.

Tom and Alvah decided to run a meat market, so they bought the old Cannondale Market on the corner of Birch and 3rd Streets (site of the present Taylor-Hoyt Bldg.). They ran this for awhile, while Glenrock was booming with the discovery of oil in the Big Muddy Field.

Tom was noted for his great sense of humor and practical jokes. He worked hard and could always find something to laugh about. One time he made a sizeable wager with a local man that he could ride horseback to Chicago within a certain time period, (I remember 30

days), carrying a letter from the Glenrock mayor to the Chicago mayor, for \$500. Tom completed the ride in the time period, but was broke on arrival. He found a job on the stage, letting Will Rogers rope him while on horseback. That earned enough money to get him and his horse home to Glenrock. Don't know whether he collected the money he won or not. Then one spring, when the Platte River was high, he walked a cable stretched across the river, like he had seen the circus people do when he was a kid; he didn't fall in, either.

He and Ruth had a family of two children by now, Betty (born June 18, 1918) and Don (Buzz) (born May 31, 1920). They moved back to Indiana, where he worked for the Indiana Light and Power Co. as a surveyor.

Daughter Barbara was born in Indiana on Grandfather Ellis' farm. Then another move to Los Angeles, where son Tommy was born; he only lived 2½ years. The sorrow of his death drove the family back to good old Glenrock and the homestead again. Another son, John, was born in 1931.

Times were tough in the 30s, so with the older kids in high school, Tom and Ruth moved to Glenrock. Tom became a jack-of-all-trades, doing plumbing, wiring, and plastering. He bought the old Howard Jackson place on Birch Street and made a nice home.

Tom had been having secret heart pains for some time. His fishing buddies knew of them, but were sworn to secrecy. His family didn't know about his problems. One day he came in from a fishing trip, went to bed, and quietly died; just the way he wanted to — quickly. This was on May 31, 1946. He had a good and happy life, enjoyed his family and a host of friends.

He served one term as Mayor of Glenrock, 1941-43. During this term, he and Irby Lam landscaped and planted trees in the city park. He belonged to the Lions Club, I.O.O.F., and was a Past Master of A.F. & A.M. Lodge #22. He was respected and loved by all who knew him, and most of all by his children. He taught us to love and respect all of God's creatures, the outdoors and to respect and honor our elders and be kind to everyone.

Ruth died on Nov. 10, 1977.

Betty Salzman

## Bruner, Thomas and Martha Family

Thomas Bruner, a native of Hope, Indiana, was born in 1855, the son of Charles and Eliza Bruner. His parents and grandparents were members of the Moravian Church group that founded the town of Hope. They had come overland from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, a town also founded by the Moravians, by covered wagon and ox teams. In 1882, Thomas moved to Dow City, Iowa, where he worked for Judge Dow, founder of Dow City.

In 1885, Thomas Bruner was united in marriage to Martha Almira Comfort Whaley Bruner. Martha was born in 1847, the daughter of Judge Simeon and Susan Wimmer Comfort, in a deserted Mormon cabin while her parents were enroute to Oregon by covered wagon. The cabin was near the present city of Council Bluffs, Iowa. The family remained there for one year after which they went to Holt County, Missouri for four years, before



starting out for Oregon once more. When they reached their old home in Iowa, however, the Comforts decided to remain there, later moving to the Boyer Valley near Dow City so that they might be closer to school in which to educate their children.

Among Martha's early recollections were the Indian uprisings, the first railroad being built through Iowa, and the time her father brought home their first kerosene lamp. Before that time, candle making was a daily chore. When the Civil War broke out, she was working on the Denison newspaper, setting the newsheads by hand. At the age of 15, she started teaching school. In 1867, she was married to Charley Whaley, and to this union one daughter, Susie, was born. Mr. Whaley died in 1882, after which Martha went to Chicago to study nursing and midwifery. She delivered more than 200 babies during her career, most of which were born in Iowa.

Thomas Bruner and Martha Whaley Bruner were the parents of three children, Hazel (b. 1886), Mary Martha (b. 1889) and Morris, all of whom were born in Iowa. Morris died at birth. Ferris Bruce Bruner was born in Iowa in 1897, but was an adopted son.

In 1901, Thomas Green Bruner and his wife and family came to Douglas making the trip from Iowa in a Chicago and Northwestern boxcar. In addition to the family members, the car held a team of mares, a milk cow, a Shropshire ewe, the pet dog and cat, a buggy and numerous household goods. The sheep were trained to walk the treadmill that ran the cream separator.

The Bruners had been obliged to leave Iowa due to the fact that Martha had lung trouble which was worsening. The doctor advised her to move to a higher,

drier climate. It must have been sound advice, since Martha lived to be 98 years old.

Upon their arrival in Douglas, they hitched their team to the buggy, and enlisting the help of Willard Saul, who hauled their belongings out to the ranch, they proceeded to the land on LaBonte which they had bought from Dwight Cole, which consisted of 404 acres. There was a four room house, several sheds and corrals on the property, but no water well, so they used water from LaBonte Creek. They also bought Cole's livestock, numbering about 100 head of cattle, two mules and two saddle horses. Later on, they shipped in a carload of registered Shorthorn cattle as well as their furniture.

Hazel Bruner, their eldest daughter, was married to Thomas Hodges in 1902. Shortly afterwards she became very ill and Martha took her back to Iowa to seek better medical care. However, Hazel died in 1902 and was buried at Denison, Iowa.

Thomas Bruner filed on a 160 acre homestead at the foot of Mill Hill in 1904 and Martha filed for a "timber and rock" claim on 40 acres. Martha had bought the Sam Cummings place on Mill Creek which joined the Cole place in 1902. The Cummings place consisted of 240 acres with a one room house close by a big spring. Later, the Bruners built their house in this location.

They moved from the Cole place to Thomas' homestead, living in a sort of barn about 8 x 10 with a lean-to along side for the horses and the milk cow. They built a two storied house later, the lower part made of logs, and the upper story made of frame construction. This homestead claim was pre-empted, which meant that the claimant must live for 14 consecutive months on the land



Back row: L. to r. Ellen Prager, Charles Bruner, Rita Prager, Bill Bruner, Barbara Prager, Pansy Dunn. Front row: L. to r. Mary Bruner, Tommy Bruner, Marie Bruner, John Dunn holding Buddy Dunn, Sibyl Prager, Phillip Bruner, Ferris Bruner, Archie Bruner, Arnold Braae. Sitting in front: Jim Bruner, Larry Prager.



instead of the usual six months for a period of three years. During that year, Bruners leased the Cole place to George Munday.

When Ferris started to school, his teacher was Mrs. Esmay. The desks were homemade double desks, two children to each desk. School was held for about three months in the spring and in the fall, depending on the availability of money.

It was about this time that Martha was called upon to act as midwife for Mrs. Joe Starr whose home was located near where Hubbard's Cupboard is today. She rode horseback to Esterbrook where she was met by a man who accompanied her the rest of the way to the Starr home. Martha was about 60 years old when she made this ride through stirrup-deep snow.

The Bruners moved back to the Cole place in 1905. They remodeled the house and enlarged it. Thomas bought about 100 head of pewee lambs from Mortons which Martha and Ferris herded in the daytime, bringing them to the corral at night.

Thomas had a certificate for 100 shares in the LaBonte Telephone Company, dated 1904. This line was contracted to Arthur H. Cook for putting in the poles to Douglas in 1903. The line extended from Douglas up LaBonte to Esterbrook, and on to the Laramie Plains. There were 27 phones, each having a card which explained the procedure for reaching a certain family. To call Central, it was necessary to ring one long ring. Thomas was the line repairman, also collecting the fees required for Central assistance. Luther Freeman was lineman after Thomas. The stockholders assessed themselves \$24 per year, the balance of the renters paid \$12 per year. The line was abandoned about 1930.

Ferris went to school during this time at two school-houses, one was southeast of the present Dick Pexton home and the other was down below Dick's on LaBonte, but above the Black Bridge School that was built later.

One morning while waiting for class to begin, several of the boys got to throwing snowballs at the transom over the school house door to see who could come the closest and Ferris aimed too well, broke the window and Miss Reid gave him a spanking he still remembers!

A sawmill called the Nicolaysen Mill had been established, and sale of timber from their claims supported a dozen or so families. Bruners sold timber to the mill, receiving payment by counting each stump. Thomas also contracted with the county to supply bridge timbers. He cut ditch posts and sold them for 10¢ each as well. Martha did her part, putting eggs in waterglass and selling them to Foxtons for their sheep camps at 75¢ per dozen. The sawmill closed in 1912.

Ferris' next school was at the Mill School.

During this time, 1909-1912, the Bruners leased the Cole and Cummings places to Fred and Helen Isaac. They ran the Bruner cattle for half the calves and also had the Bruner sheep to run.

In the fall of 1912, Ferris started to high school in Douglas, riding his bicycle into town over the rutty roads. It was a distance of some 25 miles. He stayed with the Rutherfurds at first and later with his sister, Mary, who had married Billy Gerlach in 1911. The next fall, Martha moved into Douglas with Ferris, renting a little house across the street from City Hall. They brought their milk

cow which they put with the "town herd" and which was milked and cared for by Ferris. He did not finish his high school education however, for he contracted Scarletina, missed a lot of school and dropped out. He then worked at various jobs, haying for Willox and Brose, herding sheep for Foxton, working cattle for Ullman and finally riding with the Stirrup roundup for John Moran. He was also employed for a short time helping on the basement of the LaBonte Hotel during its construction.

In 1916, the Bruners built their house at the Sam Cummings spring. They brought the logs from their timber claim, hauling them down on bobsleds. Thomas hewed them with a broad ax. Jack Kreisler, an old prospector living on Mill Creek, helped run the cement and engineered the laying up of the logs. Thomas bought flooring, windows (which had curved glass at the top and two big panes below), and the big front door from the old courthouse in Douglas which was being torn down, and bricks for the chimneys. The indoor plumbing was installed by the firm of Charlie Clark. The water was piped down from the spring into a hydraulic ram which sent it up to the top of the hill into a cement cistern. From there it returned to the house by gravity flow. Theirs was one of the first "modern homes" in the area.

Ferris entered the army in 1918 along with Jim Willox, Carl LeBar and others from the county. He was sent to Colorado Springs where he was trained in telegraphy. He contracted influenza however, and was discharged later that year.

The land lying north of the Bruner house belonged to the State of Wyoming. Since it was an isolated tract, Bruners were able to buy it. Ferris bought land near the Esterbrook Road and filed on a homestead south of the ranch in 1919.

Thomas bought his first car in 1916. It was a 1913 Studebaker, fitted with kerosene lamps which served as headlights, and later he bought a 1918 Model T Ford. The Bruners also bought a new Galloway woodsaw rig in 1917. It was powered by a six horsepower engine and was made entirely of iron, including the wheels. Ferris toured the country side sawing up piles of wood for people, moving the saw from place to place with horses. The only trouble with the rig was that the exhaust came down underneath and the sparks could set the sawdust afire. Once it did and burned up George McDonald's woodpile.

Mary Dunn Bruner was the oldest child of Philip and Lenora Dunn. She was born in Harrison, Nebraska in 1896 and grew to adulthood there. She graduated from the Crawford High School in 1916 at the head of her class. She taught school for one term near Coffee Siding located between Harrison, Nebraska and Van Tassell, Wyoming. She earned \$50 per month of which she paid \$12 for board and room. In 1917, she came to Wyoming where she taught the Pleasant Valley School near Natural Bridge. Here she earned \$60 per month. Later that year she became ill and returned to Nebraska.

In February of 1918, she returned once more to Wyoming to teach the Braae School. She arrived in Douglas on the train and the next morning the mail stage, driven by George Hammond, came to take her to school. The "stage" was an open buggy drawn by one horse and one mule. Mary was not suitably dressed for the long, cold ride. She was wearing a velvet hat, a lightweight



**LaBonte Quartette: Left to right, Ferris Bruner, Sibyl Bruner, Lawrence Prager, Archie Bruner 1938.**

coat, kid gloves and highly glazed kid shoes. The weather was cold, and soon after their departure from Douglas, the snow came down driven by a high wind.

They arrived at Thornton Brow's place in the afternoon where they had dinner and changed teams. Mary was so cold she didn't think about washing for dinner. The Brow's cute little son, Rody, put his hands in her lap and said, "Say, did you wash?" The Brows were terribly embarrassed, as was Mary, but George Hammond thought it was a fine joke. Rody kept rubbing Mary's shiny shoes.

They continued their journey to the Charlie Saul bungalow where they decided to stay the night. The following day they traveled to the Hattie Braae home. When Mary and George arrived, they were met by Dean Braae, a boy of 16 years. He informed them that his mother had left the previous night on a sick call and would not return for about ten days, but he assured Mary that he would do the cooking. He did, and was excellent at his job.

The Braae home consisted of two rooms, but the doorway between the two had no door. One room was to be Mary's and to serve also as the school room. It was furnished with a wood-burning heater, a table which would serve as a desk for the students, a small commode with a bowl and pitcher and a bed. The cabin, made of logs, was very cold.

Mary had no blackboard, not very many books, and used the table in her room for desks. She had the two little Braae girls, Mildred and Irene, and later Anton Braae brought his son, Arnold, down and then Steve Braae brought his daughter Hattie, so she had four pupils. She was hired to teach five months, but the district had to have six months to draw their oil royalty, so she was there six months. She got \$70 a month and paid \$15 for board. She went home that summer for a short time and came back to teach there again the fall and winter of 1918-1919.

For entertainment, dances were held in the neighborhood. All rode horseback to the dances, the ladies carrying their nice dresses in sacks, and changing clothes after they arrived. Music was by Elliot Hamner and John Dunn played mouthharp. They only knew about

two waltzes, cadrills, two steps, so they played the same ones over and over. Breakfast was served before the parties went home, usually fried potatoes, bacon and biscuits.

Mary Dunn and Ferris Bruner were married in June of 1919 in the old Methodist Church in Douglas. They lived with Thomas and Martha at the Cummings place. Martha had a quick tongue, and once after Mary and Ferris were married, Mary was working in the kitchen. They had a man working for them by the name of "Red" Cole. He said, "Mary," and she stopped to see what he wanted. He asked, "How far would you have been if I hadn't stopped you?" Before Mary could retort, Martha whipped out, "Twice the length of a fool! Get down and measure it!"

Thomas and Martha bought a small place near Pomona, California in 1923. Ten years later they came to live once more with Mary and Ferris. Thomas sold the Cole place to Dr. Keller and Thornton Brow, (the Keller-Brow Livestock Company) in 1919. Brow had bought some high priced steers and the firm went broke, so they turned the Cole place back to the Bruners. Later, in 1929, they sold it to Elmer Enbody and the Timber place was purchased by George Ullman in 1935.

Thomas and Martha celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at the ranch in 1935. Thomas died in 1939 and Martha in 1945.

Ferris and Mary were the parents of three children, namely Charles Philip, born March 31, 1920 at the Bruner Ranch, Archie Thomas, born April 2, 1921 at the old Fort Fetterman which Mary's parents had bought, and Sibyl June, born May 9, 1924 at the ranch.

Ferris sawed ice for his family and others in the community with a hand ice saw. Later, Clyde Rogers built a power saw for him from a railroad handcar. Once they were cutting ice at Pexton's Reservoir. The ice was 27" thick. The power saw cut only 11", so they had to finish the cutting by hand. It was a mighty cold job, but appreciated in the hot summer since there was ice for cold drinks and ice cream and a means of cooling the old fashioned ice-boxes. The ice was stored in special buildings, made with an air space between the double walls. The ice was stored in layers, separated with plenty of sawdust.

In the fall of 1929, Ferris discovered a rattlesnake den on his homestead. There were hundreds of snakes coming to the den to hibernate. Ferris got some dynamite, attached it to a pole and pushed it into the den as far as he could. He set it off and after that there were not nearly as many rattlers around.

In the spring of 1933, in late April, there was a wet, heavy snow which measured 5' deep. Ferris got up on all of the buildings and scooped off the snow so the roofs would not cave in. He rode one of the workhorses to break a trail so the children could walk to school. The horses, which were tied in the barn, lost their tails as high up as the sheep could reach, for Ferris put his sheep in the barn to afford them some protection. Later, they hitched four horses in tandem and pulled the plow to make a trail so that they could get the sheep up on the hills where the snow was beginning to melt.

Mary bought several hundred turkey poults which thrived on the millions of grasshoppers which descended

on the parched land in 1934.

In 1935, the Douglas Sportsmen's Club donated the labor and material to build a fish rearing pond just below the Bruner spring. John Downs was the boss of the job. The pond was a dirt filled dam about 6' high with a cement and plank headgate. The Game and Fish Commission stocked it with small trout, transporting them there in cream cans. Eventually they put the fish in LaBonte Creek and never tried to raise any more.

The Bruner children were educated in the rural schools in the community. In 1930, a 4-H Club was organized, with Mary Bruner acting as one of the leaders. The 4-H camp was held at the Esterbrook Lodge. Mary was also a charter member of the LaBonte Homemakers Club.

The United States Government held a training school in Douglas to teach men to survey. Charles and Ferris attended. Each of them ran a Plane Table and had two chainboys a piece to help. They resurveyed much of Converse County. Ferris was also Water Commissioner for LaBonte, Wagonhound and LaPrele Creeks for a time. Ferris sheared sheep, his own as well as those of others, using blades at first and later using machines. He was also a Farm Bureau Insurance Agent for a time.

Ferris' mother-in-law, Lenora Dunn, gave Ferris a fiddle which had been left in the house they bought at Ft. Fetterman. After having it repaired, he learned to play it quite well, fiddling for many country dances. In 1939-40, he played in the "LaBonte Quartette" band whose members were Archie and Sibyl Bruner and Lawrence Prager. They played at Esterbrook, Walker Creek, Dry Creek, Grant's Pavillion, LaPrele Hall and other places. Ferris also did carpentering and plumbing for several of his neighbors. He was truly a "jack of all trades."

Mary's talents were many. She raised a big garden, canning vegetables and wild fruit with the aid of the old Monarch wood cookstove. She always raised chickens, helped put up the hay, herded sheep, took care of her aged mother-in-law, boarded the school teachers, and for many years wrote the LaBonte news items for "The Douglas Budget." Mary and Ferris were charter members of the Converse County Farm Bureau and worked in the LaBonte local as well as the county organization for many years. They left the ranch in 1970 to be employed as caretakers at the Natural Bridge Park until 1973. Then they moved to Douglas where Mary died in 1973. Ferris makes his home with his children, Charles and Sibyl.

The Leonard Strock homestead was just west of our place and was our source of playmates, living so close. Charlie, Dick and Jean Strock went to school with Charles Bruner started in 1925. The teacher was Beulah Walston, and the next year the teacher was Faye Reed. In 1927 Rody Brow stayed at Bruners and went to school, and Archie Bruner started, and also Havelock Brow with the teacher being Martha Meigs. In 1928 Mary Bruner taught and had the Strocks, Bruners and Fred Edwards. In 1929 the new Black Bridge School House was built by Albert Burns. The teacher was Miss Anna Seewall and

some of the pupils were Charles and Archie Bruner, Helen, Frances and George Enbody, Margaret and Jim Saul, Julia and Ann Freeman, Eugene and Lorraine George, Bertha George and Elizabeth Isaac, and Chuck, Dick and Jean Strock.

Miss McClenahan was the teacher in 1931 and Anna Schick (Ballard) was the teacher in 1931. Pupils were Charles, Archie and Sibyl Bruner, Eugene, Lorraine and Betty George, Bill and Bobby Owens, Margaret McHenry, Helen, Frances, George and Betty Enbody and Julia and Ann Freeman. Muriel Metz taught in 1932 and 1933, then Margaret Oestrich taught in 1934, 1935 and 1936.

After Strocks left their homestead, Fred and Bea George family lived there, then Earl and Rosa Castle family for one summer, then the Leonard and Sadie Watson family.

Charles "Chuck" Bruner graduated from Douglas High School in 1937. He stayed with Bea George for the first year and with Marcus Nelson the other three years while attending school. His first paying job was broadcasting grasshopper poison bait from the back of a wagon for 50¢ a day on a ranch southeast of Casper. After graduation he worked for the U.S. Government surveying. In 1941 he and Dennis Rogers went to California where they worked for Consolidated Aircraft building B-24 bombers. In 1942 he enlisted in the Navy where he served at Jacksonville, Florida and Chicago, Illinois.

While serving the Navy at Chicago he met Mary Brankin, who was an inspector at a defense plant. They were married at Jacksonville, Florida on November 6, 1943. Their children are; James, Bill, Phillip, Marie and Thomas.

Chuck worked for Bob Sturgeon for a while after the war then worked as a mechanic for Jack York and Bill and Florence Canaday. In 1954 he started his own auto shop which he operated until 1966 when he sold out and moved to Denver where he taught at the Denver Automotive Institute. In 1981 he moved back to Douglas.

Archie Bruner finished high school in 1939. He boarded with the Forrest Wests and had an apartment with Sibyl while going to school. Archie is on the home place now after working for a while in southeastern Wyoming.

I, Sibyl Bruner Prager, graduated from Douglas High School in 1941. I played the tenor saxophone in school and the piano accordion in the LaBonte Quartette. I married Lawrence Prager, son of Frank and Ellen Prager on September 28, 1941. We have played for many dances in many places over the years. Many of them at Hubbard's Cupboard and sometimes carrying the instruments on horseback. You had to sit over to one side to balance the accordion.

After Lawrence came home from World War II where he served in the Navy and I worked for a while in San Diego and Oakland as a clerk-typist in Naval Supply Depots, we made our home on the Prager Ranch at the old Comely place. We have four children; Barbara Ellen, Rita Mary, Larry Frank and Norman Lisle.

Sibyl Bruner Prager

## Bullene, Tom and Margaret

At the age of ten, Margaret "Maggie" Ferretor came to Douglas with her parents Morris and Margaret Sullivan Ferretor from Sargent, Nebraska where she was born on January 25, 1890.

The Ferretors lived in a sod house near Sargent where Mr. Ferretor farmed. He did not like farming so he headed for Wyoming "to strike it rich." A coal miner by heritage, Morris visited several communities in Wyoming before selecting Douglas for the family's residence.

The family traveled all day by train from Chadron, Nebraska to Douglas in April 1900. No rooms were available upon arrival, but they were taken in at a rooming house on North Second Street operated by Mrs. Wright, a kindly lady who made beds for them on the floor.

As no houses were available in Douglas, Morris bought two lots on North Second Street (west of the LaBonte Inn which was then the site of Tate's Livery Barn.) The Ferretors lived in a tent until a two room house was built. A water well was dug, but the water was too alkaline to drink, so the Ferretors carried water from Robert Knittle's store (Irwin's).

One time a dead man was found in the town's water tank on Cemetery Hill and the neighbors came to use the Ferretor well. The tank was emptied and cleaned, but it was a few days before people started using the town's water again.

Morris worked for a time for the Northwestern Railroad section, and built a larger home which was eventually moved to 402 North Second Street.

After a few years in Douglas, Morris decided Wyoming wasn't for him, and he wanted to return to Nebraska. Mrs. Ferretor liked living in Douglas better than in Nebraska, and she didn't want to leave. Margaret Sullivan Ferretor and her daughter Margaret stayed in Douglas, and Morris returned to Nebraska to live with a brother. The couple never divorced.

Margaret Sullivan Ferretor was born January 25, 1853 in Blasburg, Pennsylvania, the daughter of the Peter Sullivans who were both natives of Ireland. To provide a living, she took in roomers from the Northwestern Round House.

Maggie went to work for Merris Barrow, editor and publisher of "Bill Barlow's Budget" when she was 13, working part-time before and after school for ten cents an hour. She folded and stapled copies of the "Sagebrush Philosophy" for mailing. She was given a raise to 15 cents an hour and put in charge of the other students who were hired to fold and staple. She quit school in the sixth grade to work for Barrow full-time. Bert Clough taught her to set type, which was her job when she quit working at "The Budget" in 1909.

Maggie may hold the record of being the longest continuous subscriber to "The Douglas Budget", a total of over 77 years.

After leaving "The Budget", Maggie went to work for the post office (located on South Third Street where Bolln's is now) under Postmaster Joe Kidwell for three years.

Upon resignation from the post office, Maggie went

to Cheyenne to enroll in a business school where she took typing and shorthand. While in Cheyenne, Maggie worked at the Plains Hotel, typing menus and other items of business. In return, she was paid in meals. She was always amused at the surprised looks on the faces of Douglas "society members" when they saw her dining in the hotel's posh dining room.

Following her graduation, she returned to Douglas and went to work for Tom Doyle, the new owner of "The Budget." Later she was employed by Hiram R. Daniels in his music-jewelry store (Bolln's.) Maggie recalled that Maggie Wheelock's "girls" were the store's best customers.

In 1919, she went to Casper and was employed by C. and Glen Littlefield abstractors. They were early day residents of Douglas. She also worked for the old Casper National Bank.

Maggie took a good paying job with the Midwest Oil Company in the early 1920's at the gas plant office near the Salt Creek field. Soon she was transferred into the Casper office where she continued to work until her marriage to Thomas W. "Tom" Bullene in Casper in 1924.

Tom Bullene was born February 7, 1878 in Seattle, Washington and in 1900 went to Alaska where he spent 14 years. In 1920, he came to Casper and was also employed by the Midwest Oil Company.

The couple drove to Washington where they spent six weeks; they returned to Douglas due to the failing health of Maggie's mother, Margaret.

Looking for employment and unable to find it, the Bullenes decided to open a restaurant in a two-room house on Second Street. Neither of them knew anything about running a cafe, but they learned in a hurry. At times, cooks proved to be a problem. The first one they hired set the cafe on fire during one of the busiest state fair days. Others would have drinking problems, and Maggie was known to find and hide bottles of liquor during working hours.

Tom became the chief cook, and Maggie waited tables. The restaurant was moved to North Third Street (Edward's) where they remained for several years.

Tom and Maggie had one child, a son who was born and died on February 4, 1928.

On April 9, 1928, Margaret Sullivan Ferretor passed away.

They opened the Midget Cafe on Center Street (Oasis Lounge) and remained there until they retired in 1957 after having been in the same business continuously for 33 years.

The Bullenes lived in one of the oldest homes in Douglas at 215 North Second Street. It was originally the home of George and Rosie Tate.

Both Tom and Margaret possessed a fine sense of humor and were great story tellers. They were frequent targets for practical jokes (all in good fun) by the other business men on the block, particularly the Curtin boys.

Maggie never learned to drive. The one time she tried proved to be a near disaster for the Wyoming State Fairgrounds.

Tom died March 22, 1963, and Margaret passed away March 23, 1978.

Catherine Larkin Pexton

## Burgland, John and Esther Family

John Burgland married Esther Sundquist March 22, 1911 at Brady, Nebraska. Esther's parents were Nels and Caroline Sundquist. They came from Sweden and first located in Missouri, later moving to Nebraska where Esther was born April 25, 1889.

John's parents, Solomon and Mathilda Burgland, also came to Nebraska from Sweden where John was born December 20, 1887. John passed away January 15, 1972 and Esther on July 10, 1976.

John Burgland came to the Douglas area in 1917 accompanied by his wife's brother-in-law, Ed Preitauer. They came by covered wagon from Brady, Nebraska to prove up on their 320-acre homesteads. The land designated for Ed was not suitable for farming so he did not take his. He stayed to help John to get a suitable building (later used as a chicken house) erected so John could bring his family to Wyoming. They lived in the wagon-box while they were building. A well was also drilled which provided a plentiful supply of good water. In later years when some of the neighbors to the north came to homestead, water was hauled from this well for household use for many years. Neighbors of the Burglands were their cousins Gus and Tillie Larson and Ed and Jennie Latham.

In 1918, John moved his wife, Esther, and two daughters, Florence and Ethel, in a new Maxwell car to the homestead 21 miles north of Douglas. A new house was built and other out-buildings erected later. The Burgland's home, the only painted house in the neighborhood, was a community center. John played the violin in his granary every two weeks for many years for Saturday night dances.

Dryland farming which included corn, potatoes, oats, wheat and other grains were done by horse drawn machinery. Native hay was also cut and hauled in and stacked. They had a small herd of Shorthorn milk cows, hogs, geese and chickens. The children helped with the milking and chores before and after school.

The children attended school at J. R. Dugan's home for the first few years with his son, Earl, as teacher. Later, Eureka School was built as quite a few other families moved in nearby.

Alvin (Sonny) was born in 1920 followed by Caroline and Opal.

Wild game in the early days was very plentiful and supplied much of the meat for the homesteaders.

The mail was received at Orpha until a rural route was established. Orpha, 10 miles to the south, also had a small grocery store and gas station. John worked some time for the railroad. He also had a coal mine for awhile, known as the Sand Creek Coal Mine. He delivered coal to many ranchers in the area.

In 1939, the Burglands acquired a small herd of sheep as the wind had blown the topsoil away and dryland farming was not feasible anymore. A new barn was built in 1941 as extra room was needed for lambing.

In 1942 they sold the homestead and moved into Douglas so the children could attend high school. John established a painting firm which he continued for many years.

John and Esther Burgland had five children — Florence (husband Nick, deceased in 1982) Zaichkin who resides in Tacoma, Washington; she has three sons — Joe, David and Robert. Joe has three children — Joey, Kim and Leta; also three step-children — Phyllis, Polly and Patrick. David has three children — Kenny, Keith and Cindy. Robert has two children — Mike and Tari.

Ethel and Roy Price have two children — Royce and Carol. Royce has two daughters — Paula and Brenda. Carol Holloway has two sons — Terry and Randy Rider.

Alvin (Sonny) and Eva have two children — Barbara Tillard and Curry Burgland. Barbara has two children — Tara and Tye. Curry has one daughter — Katina.

Caroline has two daughters — Lynne and Sue. Lynne Nachtman has two daughters — Dena and Lorie. Sue Pexton has three children — Heidi, Candi and Matt.

Opal Stinson (husband Grover deceased in 1978) has five children — Ron, Diana, Gary, Bob and Dick. Ron lives in Omaha and has one son — Rhet and two step-children — Andrea and Ryan Felton. Diana lives in Denver, Colorado. Gary has two daughters — Kristina and Amy. Bob has two daughters — Jennifer and Jamie. Dick lives in Douglas.

There are also numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Ethel M. Price

## Burk, Tom and Mary

Tom and Mary Burk were married in 1900 in Missouri. Mary's brothers, James and John Wooten and Tom's brother, Fred Burk, came to the Douglas area to settle in 1917.

In 1918, Tom and Mary and their two daughters, Myrtle (12) and Mary (5), came out to Converse County, Wyoming to file on land for a homestead in the Dry Creek vicinity. Uncle Jim Wooten met them at the train. They lived with Jim and Lydia Wooten and their family of seven children at a home near the fairgrounds until they could get their homes built on their homesteads out north.

The Burks were able to bring two milk cows, two head of horses, some farm machinery, feed and some furniture on the emigrant car. Uncle Jim Wooten had a little old Model T car and he took them out to see the homestead. It seemed like the middle of nowhere, Myrtle recalls, but she and the family all seemed determined to make the best of it.

The Burks made a one-room home on the land and broke up 12 acres to put in corn and raise a garden. The first thing they did was to fence their farm because of the range cows roaming around on open range.

They had to haul cottonwood for the fences and buildings from Box Creek with a team of horses. Young Myrtle Burk, 12 years old, learned to harness and drive a team to haul wood and worked like a man doing the hard, grueling work.

The ranchers, with their cattle and sheep, didn't exactly welcome the homesteaders and their farms. For their part, the homesteaders found it hard to fence out the cattle and even harder to keep the sheep out of their crops. The Burks ran their milk cows and horses and a few other cattle besides having their farm and garden.

Myrtle's mother, Mary, always raised a good garden. She and the girls were able to raise a lot of watermelons and cantaloupes and other things that folks didn't think could be raised in Wyoming. It took a lot of hard work of pumping and hauling water from the well to do it, though.

Mary Burk made all the clothes for the family, also comforters for their beds. The girls soon learned to sew, also. They made their own soap and did their wash in tubs.

In the winter, usually only one trip was made into town for supplies and mail. Several neighbors would go in together so they could help each other out if they got stuck or caught in a blizzard. In the better weather, they would go to town about once a month. They would bring back supplies and newspapers. This was the only way the homesteaders had contact with the outside world until cars came into use and a mail route was established twice a week.

James and Lydia Wooten and their seven children had a homestead near the Burks. Fred Burk and John Wooten, both bachelors, were also neighbors. West of them lived Olaf Hanson, also the Seckmans, who had two daughters about the age of Myrtle and Mary. Jim and Nina Vetter were neighbors, as well as the Jim Scenich family with daughters, Clara and Mildred.

Later, south of them, there grew up a settlement called Stringtown. It was so called because several of the nearby homesteads were in a string. Myrtle and Mary walked to the Stringtown School which was about one mile from where they lived. They traded books with Blanche, Robert, Lawrence and Talbot Hall and the Seckman girls, who also attended the Stringtown School, in order that they would have something to read.

Myrtle finished seventh and eighth grades in the Stringtown School. They only went six months to school, during the spring and summer, because the winters were too severe to allow for school. Catherine Clark, from Douglas, was one of the teachers. She boarded with Tom and Mary Burk.

After several families moved out, they discontinued this school because there were not enough patrons. Then Myrtle took Mary to the Riehle School on horseback. Myrtle went to 9th grade there because the teacher was qualified to teach 9th grade. They had to get books in Douglas and take achievement tests there.

A son, Paul, was born to Mary and Tom Burk in 1921. Mary came to town to have her baby.

There were some friends from Kansas City who came out to visit some of their relatives in Stringtown for the summer. "It was fun to have the girls come from the city", Myrtle said. They brought some cosmetics and perfume and lots of ideas from the big city. Of course, the girls from Kansas City thought it was a great adventure to come to the wild west. They thought the cowboys were quite glamorous and life was exciting. Myrtle said they didn't find out what it was really like because they only stayed for the summer and didn't really get in on the hard work.

The Bakers had a homestead 12 miles from the Burks and Myrtle and John Baker met and fell in love. They were married in Douglas on Christmas Eve, 1925. Ella Featherston made Myrtle's wedding dress. (The Featherstons ran the store at Bill. A family named Dudley

ran it before them and Bill was once called Dudleyville, Myrtle recalls). Myrtle and John proved up on a homestead and lived there six or seven years before moving to Douglas.

Waldo Bolln had a store and gave the homesteaders credit. They gave him beans, potatoes, etc. on their bill at the store. The mail carriers would take in their cream for the homesteaders and then would bring back the empties. The John Bakers raised a family of seven children in Converse County.

Myrtle's mother, Mary Burk, had an illness while on the homestead that almost took her life. Young Paul had a dog that liked to chase jack rabbits. One time the dog had been wallering around a dead jack rabbit. Paul asked his mother to shear the dog's long hair for the summer and in doing so, Mary cut her finger. She got a bad infection in one arm and a very high fever. It was the dreaded disease, tularemia, or rabbit fever. Myrtle called Dr. Shaffer and he told them to get her to town as soon as possible. She was in serious condition for quite awhile and had to stay at Myrtle's in Douglas several days before she was able to go back to the homestead.

Tom and Mary Burk stayed on the homestead about 22 years. They finally moved into Douglas and made their home in Brownfield Addition about 1940. They lived there next to Faun and Lyle Cole. Mary, though she had left the homestead, still made all her own clothes and sun bonnets. She also had a nice garden.

Tom Burk died in 1953 of cancer of the liver.

Mary Burk was staying with Mrs. Jamison, when at the age of 72 years, she broke her hip. She overcame this injury, however, and lived on 12 more years. She died at the age of 84 in the Douglas hospital. She is survived by her daughter, Myrtle, and son, Paul, of Douglas and daughter, Mary, of Omaha, and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends. I am proud to have known these pioneers who had great faith and courage and contributed greatly to our Converse County heritage.

Faun D. Cole  
as told by Myrtle Baker

## Burke, Chester and Laura

Chester Burke was born in Maxwell, Nebraska in 1907. He moved to Chadron, Nebraska in the early twenties.

I, Laura Burke, was born in Hemingford, Nebraska in 1910.

We were married in 1928. We worked on a ranch for the following two years during which time our son, Loran, was born.

In 1930 we moved to Wyoming with my folks, the Mike Tschachers. We farmed with them for a time. Due to the extremely dry years we gave up farming. Chet worked on construction crews and did work on ranches in the Manville area until 1936 when he went to work for the Ohio and Argo Oil Companies in Lance Creek.

We had three more children: Bob, Naomi and Sandra.

In 1942 we purchased and moved to the Gaylord place in Orin which was to be our home for the next 32 years.





Left to right: Chet Burke and Loran Burke, 1955.

Chet and Bob worked in the B and H Mines north of Douglas for a time. Later Chet worked for Kansas Nebraska Gas Co. at their small auxiliary plant at Orin. Bob died in 1974.

In the spring of 1976, Chet was changing a tire on our pontoon boat when a freak gust of wind blew the boat off the jack. The boat fell on him, crushing him.

I live in Douglas, Wyoming, having moved here in 1985.

Laura Burke

## Burks, John and Ida Family

John Richard Burks, better known as "Dick" came to Wyoming in 1907 from Rockville, Indiana where he was born December 19, 1880.

He heard of homestead land available, and after looking around, he settled in the Brenning Basin area close to the Natural Bridge. He found employment on the Hamilton ranch.

He married Ida Slichter, daughter of John and Sara Slichter, born December 9, 1879. She lived in the Inez area. They continued leasing the ranch although it had changed ownership.

Three children were born; Beatrice, who married Lawrence Philbrick, Richard, born on June 13, 1917, married Ruby Vitek and one child, Sarah, died in infancy.

In the year 1926 they moved to the Slichter ranch at Inez. Dick died September 12, 1957, Ida died January 23, 1947.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Burks are now living on the

ranch. They have two daughters, Shirley Baker and Cindy Reynolds.

Lawrence and Beatrice Philbrick live south of Douglas. They have two sons, Larry and Jim.

Beatrice Philbrick

## Burson, Albert and Lizzie

Albert and Lizzie Burson came to Wyoming in 1895 by team and wagon. Albert brought 20 head of horses for pulling freight wagons. Two of their children made the trip with them from Indiana. Albert freighted supplies to Fetterman, Ogalalla and LaPrele Dam when it was being built. He played the fiddle for many dances at the old Jenne place and many of the hay barns in the LaPrele community. They settled on the old Brenning place on LaPrele Creek. Their children went to school with the O'Briens, Schlosses, Powells and Howards at the Peyton School House. Johnny Peterson was their teacher. In 1910, they moved over on Bedtick on one of the Gedney places. In 1914, they moved back to Casper and lived there until their deaths.

Albert Burson — 1856-1933

Lizzie Burson — 1857-1932

Minnie — 1938 (married Harry Ward)

Guy C. — 1918

Dortha M. — 1896-1983 (married Franklin Earl Wright)

Hazel Marburger

## Cady, Harry E. and Mary

Harry E. Cady and his wife, Mary, came from Bayard, Nebraska in 1915 to homestead about four miles southwest of Shawnee, Wyoming. They were the parents of four children, Floyd, Lyola, Curtis and Beulah.

Harry and his son, Floyd, had driven a wagon loaded with household goods to Wyoming to the homestead site, trailing their milk cows and extra horses. Mrs. Cady with her two younger children, Lyola and Curtis, arrived by train some time later. Harry had set up a tent for them to live in until a house could be built. The youngest daughter, Beulah, was evidently born in Wyoming.

In 1920, Lyola married Roy Dooley, a bachelor living in the neighborhood. Floyd was married to Gladys Marburger in 1922; Curtis was married to Pearl Richardson in 1927, and the youngest child, Beulah was married to Orville Spaulding.

Floyd Cady and Orville Spaulding operated a garage and auto repair shop in Shawnee during 1920-21.

In 1924, Harry and Mary Cady moved to Careyhurst to work for Senator Carey.

Though there was no date of death for Harry Cady, his wife Mary died on February 15, 1933.

Gladys Cady

# Cakebread, Walter and Harriet

My father, Walter Williamson Cakebread, was born January 10, 1877 in Sutton Surrey, England. He came to Ft. Collins, Colorado at the age of 17 to live with his brother, Charlie, who was a bookkeeper at the courthouse. June 6, 1900 he married Harriet Jennie Garrett. Her family were pioneer ranchers north of Ft. Collins. Her ancestors had come west through Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina and Iowa. Family names were Dean, Ellis, Gunn, Price and Puckett to name a few.

In 1905, my parents homesteaded 90 acres two miles north of Morrill, Nebraska in Scottsbluff County in an area known as the Dutch Flats where I, Laura Cakebread, was born June 18, 1908, and my brother, Charles William Cakebread, was born February 26, 1914.

During the summer of 1916, we visited Mother's cousins Mr. and Mrs. Hardin Puckett at Orin, Wyoming. Mother grew up on a ranch so she began talking about buying a ranch. Dad had already played a big part in Wyoming development. He was a carpenter by trade and would be gone from Sunday night until the following Friday night building homes and stores at Lingle and Torrington, Wyoming, while mother and we children lived on the homestead.

In the fall of 1917, my father bought the Keon F. Hart ranch at Orin, 320 acres on the Platte River. Mr. Hart had been a corporal in Company D-4 Infantry at Ft. Laramie, Wyoming in the late 1870's to early 1880's. I believe his wife was a laundress. Don't know when they settled on the ranch, but he had a territorial water right for irrigation. Mrs. Hart had just died so Mr. Hart moved to Douglas to live with his old friends, Pat and Margaret Burns, also pioneers and a dear old couple.

We moved to our new home in February 1918. Father came with the household furniture, farm machinery and livestock on the train. Friends brought my mother, brother and me by automobile. The roads from Ft. Laramie to Glendo were only trails. You had to use your own judgment in which one to follow. We crossed the river at McKinley at the Platte Valley Ranch, through the fields and across the west face of Shawnee Hill, then crossed the creek along the north side of the railroad grade to Orin.



Roy Willey and trained oxen team at the 1933 state fair.

Our house had three large rooms, a large pantry and walk-in storage closet. Outside the kitchen door was a "dug well" walled with stones from the river. We drew water with buckets suspended from a rope through a pulley. The horse barn was log, with stalls for eight horses. There was a large pole corral with a shed on the north side, open to the south and another shed we milked the cows in. A two room granary, a one room bunkhouse and two cellars, one walled with railroad ties and one with river rock. We brought our best Holstein milk cows, so Orin Junction had its first and only dairy. We delivered dairy products around town. Mother churned and made butter to sell; many times it was my job to deliver it to the hotel. We shipped cream to a creamery at Ft. Collins. The cream cans were put on the 10 p.m. train to Denver and arrived in Ft. Collins the next morning; the following morning they were back in Orin on the 5 a.m. train to Casper. Father soon built a new windmill, water tank, a 24 station milking barn, and milk room and installed a milking machine, powered by a very unreliable gas engine. Often we finished the milking by hand.

At this time, 1918, there was good fishing in the river as this was before wastes from the oil refineries killed the fish. Harry and Cora Churchill ran a hotel at Orin. Mrs. Churchill had a reputation as a very good cook. People used to come down from Douglas on a morning train, have dinner at the hotel and spend time waiting for the late afternoon train, fishing or relaxing along the river.

Max Russell and his wife ran the general store and the post office was in one corner of the store. You could buy anything you needed; if it wasn't in stock, Mr. Russell would order it for you. "The Store" was a long building with a high ceiling. It had a trap door in the floor to enter a cellar where potatoes, apples, vinegar barrel, etc. were stored. On the east side were the living quarters. Three large rooms and a pump on the back porch. Just south of the store was a sheet iron covered warehouse with a double floor on strong pillars, then coal sheds and wagon scales and a one car garage. Next door was the pool hall (John Carlo proprietor) with living rooms beside it and back of it was the ice house. Large blocks of ice were cut on the river, hauled by wagon and packed in sawdust. That was where we bought ice to cool those old oak ice boxes in the kitchens, and for the ice cream freezers for school picnics and the Fourth of July.

The one room school house was up on the hill north of town. All eight grades were taught. Pupils had to cross the railroad tracks, so that often meant crawling under or climbing over the railroad cars to avoid a longer walk. That always made me feel uneasy, especially if there was a switch engine at work. We did have fun at school though. We had our organ, a small phonograph, swing, and a teeter totter board plus a fox and geese ring worn into the school yard dirt. One day during World War I, we looked out and saw an Indian dressed in full regalia walking back and forth on "our hill" making strange gestures. Very little studying was done until our teacher found out when she went to the hotel for lunch that he was a medicine man sent to accompany an Indian soldier's body back to the reservation in Nebraska.

The war was over and people began to move west. A new highway was being built from the east with teams, plows, graders and dirt scoops. Also a new highway

bridge was built to cross the North Platte River just downstream from the railroad bridge. Now Gillespies, Nylens, Pollocks, Shaws and Wilsons could come to Orin without walking their ponies across the railroad bridge or fording the river at the old Jim Bridger Ferry site. The old ferry site was on the east end of our ranch. Father often explored the area for artifacts. Among things he found were old ox and mule shoes which he gave to the museum in Douglas along with Mr. Hart's army rifle. Orin began to grow.

The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad built a roundhouse for "helper engines." The Burlington Railroad built a new water tower and kept two engines fired up for extra power. The Northwestern brought dining and lunchroom cars to serve noon and supper passengers from their trains. Mr. and Mrs. Bates were the white managers. The cooks and waiters were colored (and lonely people, I realize now). They spoiled my brother and me; and they gave a party every year for all the children in town. Father sold dairy products to the kitchen so we were well acquainted with them.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell sold the store to Henry and Faye Hern. Extra crews were needed at the C&NW depot and for all railroad maintenance. People came to try their luck at homesteading. "Orin Realty" was organized and a town was laid out in streets and lots and new homes were built.

The little school house was for the sixth, seventh and eighth grades; primary grades were being taught in the "showroom" of the lumber yard. In the fall of 1920, we all moved into a nice two room school house with a coal furnace and a playroom in the basement. Then in 1923, the high school at Douglas was changed to the Converse County High School. A "bus" was sent to Orin to pick up high school students. The bus was a Dodge commercial wagon. We called it the "dog catcher wagon." It had wire mesh sides, covered with a black oil cloth curtain and the seats were 2x12 planks on supports and wired to the side of the truckbed. (You had to be careful how you sat or you would suffer a painful pinch.) Other areas of the county, where there were not enough pupils to bus, the pupils were boarded at homes in Douglas; some worked for their board and room.

We had no formal church at Orin, but Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists, Catholics and Pentecostals gathered for Sunday School and preaching if a minister was available. One dear teacher and leader was "Uncle" Billie Osgood from Kansas. He homesteaded on Sand Creek north of Orin. He was building and planning a home for his sweetheart in Kansas. The foundation for their house was built when she died suddenly; he lived out his lonely life in a tiny shack. He was our Sunday School Superintendent. He had a good voice and led us singing hymns. My father was a religious man and never turned a "preacher" away that I can remember. One summer a former missionary from China stayed with us. His health was failing, but he often arose at first light and played classical music on the piano. He led our worship gatherings that summer and wore Chinese robes and told us stories about China.

I graduated from high school in May 1927 and was married on September 4, 1927 to Roy McLean Willey. He grew up near Fulton, Missouri and came west. We made

our first home on the Ed Schneider ranch up the river from my girlhood home. Roy's brother, Searle Willey bought the ranch from Mr. Schneider and we farmed it until the house burned one January morning about 3 a.m.; we barely got out. We worked for Lem Carmin the next summer - 1929. Roy farmed and cared for the stock at the ranch, and I kept house for the children while Mr. and Mrs. Carmin were away with the rodeo stock doing shows in Wyoming, Nebraska and South Dakota.

My father died in December 1930 and we traded our equity in the ranch to Mr. Hern for the store at Orin. Right during the depression in 1935 we sold to a Mr. Rooney and moved to Iowa. In 1966 we retired to 60 acres near Granby, Missouri about 25 miles from Joplin. Roy passed away May 27, 1979. I am still living in the house we built. My brother and his wife, Lillian Mathis, live at Altaville, California near the old historical mining town, Angels Camp. Neither of us has natural children.

Laura Cakebread Willey

## Cambell, Dr. Perry and Grace Family

My father, Dr. P. L. Cambell and his brother Albert came from Michigan in the early 1900's — perhaps about 1903. We came by train and settled on a ranch northeast of Glendo across the Platte River. My father opened his dental office in Douglas about 1904, in the building on Center Street now occupied by Curtin's Liquor. Many years later he moved his office upstairs over Dixon Hardware. He stayed there until he died in 1939. I believe that building is now the bakery.

My mother was Grace DeFendorf Cambell (born 1872).

I was born January 17, 1905 at the Glendo family ranch. My grandfather, Dr. DeFendorf, came from Michigan to deliver me. We later lived in the same building as my father's office on Center Street in Douglas. My sister, Alice, was born there on December 16, 1907.

My father and uncle sold the ranch in 1915 to Fred Waters. The property is now under water for the Glendo Dam.

My mother died in 1911 of pneumonia when I was six and Alice was three. For four years, we girls lived with Miss Carrie Robertson (first grade teacher) and her mother. My father sent Alice and me to Michigan each summer by train to live with his parents. We also spent some time with our maternal grandparents in another town. I remember my grandmother Cambell was a beautiful seamstress and each year we returned to Douglas with many lovely new dresses, etc. We were so proud of them.

Going back to memories of the ranch, there was no bridge on the river and many times when crossing it in a wagon, we would have to pull our feet up into the seat out of the water. My Uncle Bert and Aunt Bertha had a Master's Voice Victrola which we girls loved to go upstairs to play. It had a cylindrical record and wouldn't I love to have it today! Many wolves lived in the country around the ranch. We girls were scared many times at

night when going to the outhouse before going to bed. Seemed as though they were howling right outside between us and the house.

After four years of living alone, my father married Mary Emma Arnold, a teacher. We lived on the corner where the First Wyoming Bank is now located. We girls attended North Grade School and when I was a Freshman, the South Grade School opened, so Alice finished grade school there. We both graduated from Douglas High. Alice went to Chadron, Nebraska to become a teacher. After finishing there she taught only a few months in a country school, when she came down with polio. This left her slightly crippled in one leg. I worked in the telephone office until I married Charles D. Read on December 5, 1923. We lived with his parents for four years on upper LaPrele.

In 1929 we bought the old Gilbert place 2½ miles northwest of Orpha on the road to Ross or better known as the Ogalalla Ranch owned by LeRoy Moore. Our two oldest children, James Lee and Alice Joanne, attended grade school in Orpha, which is a little town on the Burlington Railroad. We lived there until 1940 when we bought the 6-Mile Ranch west of Douglas from Howard Esmay and Urie (Dutch) Slonaker. This place included 3400 acres 40 miles southwest of Douglas in the LaBonte Canyon area, where we took our livestock in the summer. We had purchased a house in town from Sadie Messenger Delahoyd next to the Masonic Temple where the children and I stayed during the week, living most of the summer in the mountains. Harry Johnston's Real Estate office is now in or close to that location.

After graduating from high school in 1943, James Lee joined the Air Force, leaving in September 1943. He was overseas in the Pacific when Donna Iole was born in 1945. Upon being discharged from the service, he returned to the ranch and on November 20, 1946 married Barbara Brow. They live in Douglas, where he is County Treasurer and she works in an insurance office. They have three children and eight grandchildren.

Joanne married Merritt Hansen on December 28, 1946 in Douglas. They lived for a few years in a trailer house in our back yard. Joanne worked in the telephone office and Merritt did carpenter work. Later they moved into their own home which he had built. They separated later and on July 15, 1959 she married Don Trumper from Tucson, Arizona. He is the son of Vera Trumper of Douglas. Joanne had a son, Gary Lynn, by Merritt, who went to Tucson with her and Don. He is married and has two children and lives in Tucson. Joanne and Don have two boys and they still live in Tucson, also.

Our daughter, Barbara, died from carbon monoxide November 7, 1954.

We sold the 6-Mile Ranch in 1959 and moved to a farm three miles west of Wheatland. We purchased an additional farm one mile north of ours by Festo Lake.

Donna went through high school in Wheatland and on August 18, 1963 she married Ernest Douglas. They still live on the north place. They have a son, Ernie, 19 years old, and a daughter, Ashley Jill, six years old, having lost a son in 1976 at the age of eight. We lived on the farm until we sold it in 1969 and moved to town. We have eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

We left many friends in Douglas and it will always be

"my old home town". But we really like Wheatland and our many wonderful friends. On December 5, 1983 we celebrated being married 60 years. We've lived good and bad times, joyous and sad times, but all in all think the Lord meant well for us.

Iole C. Read

## Campbell, Malcolm

"Malcom Campbell - 1888" is the first name on the sign currently hanging in the Converse County Sheriff's Office. Although misspelled (should read Malcolm), he was indeed appointed its first sheriff following Converse County's formation, May 21, 1888.

Born on a farm near London, Ontario, Canada in June of 1839, he was the oldest of 14 children. With 16 mouths to feed, Malcolm learned to take on the duties of manhood at an early age. The responsibilities he learned in youth contributed greatly to his good character which served him well throughout a very robust life.

At age 25 the entire Campbell family moved to the United States, settling near Dewitt, Iowa. The following spring Malcolm ventured into the freight business, using Beatrice, Nebraska as his base of operations. In June of 1865 his father joined him, contracting to haul grain to a ranch, 150 miles distance on the Little Blue River. After delivering the freight they went on a buffalo hunt. It ended in near tragedy. Malcolm's dad, while attempting to pull his gun from the wagon, muzzle first, caught the hammer on a rope, causing the gun to discharge. It shattered his left arm near the shoulder. Splints of sagebrush were applied and tightly bound to stop the bleeding. A bed was hastily fashioned and the jolting wagon trip began. The closest doctor was at Fort Kearney, over 100 miles away. Malcolm rode ahead to summon medical help. The doctor arrived four days later, but it was too late to save the arm. It was now terribly swollen and gangrene had set in. It had to be amputated. Such were the grim realities of frontier life.

In the spring of 1866 Malcolm hired out as a bull whacker, hauling supplies to Fort Kearney. It was during this time he met Alvah Ayres (who eventually located near Natural Bridge). He became a valued friend. Campbell hired out to Ayres, cutting and hauling railroad ties to Fort McPherson for use in constructing the Union Pacific Railroad.

The Grand Duke Alexis of Russia was at Fort McPherson at that time as a guest of General Sherman. In keeping with the occasion, a magnificent buffalo hunt was planned in his honor with the flamboyant William F. Cody acting as a guide. It was during this hunt that Cody won his nickname as "Buffalo Bill," the greatest of all the buffalo hunters. Campbell was pleased to make his acquaintance.

Campbell next hired out directly to the Union Pacific Railroad. Riding a construction train to the "...end of the steels," he and a companion walked the remaining 15 miles into a bawdy tent town which had recently named itself "Cheyenne." There Malcolm said, "...saloons were everywhere...hurdy-gurdies could be heard in any block at any time of the day or night...idlers sauntered from

gambling table to dance-hall..." On a more positive vein he noted that "water wells were being dug at four corners of what was to be a business block...scaffolding of new buildings were being erected to the tune of many hammers, the lumber being hauled all the way from Denver."

"Tie cutting" for the U.P. next took Campbell to Fort Halleck (at the foot of Elk Mountain). His contract filled, in October of '68 he returned to Cheyenne where he was surprised to find his brother, John. The two of them hired out with a freighting outfit (with seven six-yoke teams of oxen) bound for Fort Defiance, Arizona. On the return trip, Malcolm took a job as a bull whacker on a wagon-train bound for Cheyenne. Arriving there he met John "Portuguese" Phillips, hero of the Fetterman massacre. Phillips, having a government hay contract at Fort Laramie and needing a foreman, hired Malcolm to take charge of the hay cutters. One night, while going to the hay meadows, all their horses were stolen. They didn't know if the thieves were whites or Indians. Malcolm, riding a mule bareback through the darkness, reported the theft in Cheyenne the next morning and was ably assisted by the military, but could recover only two of the horses. Phillips had to replace the stolen horses, but the haying operation was otherwise a success, the hay bringing \$70.00 per ton.

Campbell's first visit to what would later be Converse County came in the spring of 1872. He bought four yoke of "work cattle" from John Hunton and took them to Fort Fetterman where Hunton had a contract to supply firewood for the camp. That winter he and several other men worked on Horseshoe Creek (south and west of Glendo) cutting trees for firewood under military contract.

Erection of a log cabin was proceeding slowly as the men worked on it only in their spare time. A mountain lion came to investigate. The cabin, having no doors or windows yet, made easy access so the lion came inside and its occupants promptly exited through whatever opening they could find.

When spring returned, Campbell hauled the winter's wood supply back to Fort Fetterman, expecting to trade some of it for supplies. Unfortunately the soldiers were on very short rations, their supplies failing to arrive from Fort Laramie. Campbell decided he would just have to make do.

He was now getting better known around the fort and for the first time was able to secure a government contract on his own. It specified that he supply charcoal for the fort. The military preferred it for several reasons; It gave off more heat, was cleaner burning and had less bulk. Campbell made it in this way; Large logs were stacked several layers high. Then dirt was layered over the pile and adobe was spread over that to seal off all air except for one small hole at the bottom. Through this opening pitch pine knots were used to start a fire which caused the logs to smolder slowly for several weeks. This process transformed the wood to charcoal.

While Campbell was hauling a load of firewood to the fort one of his hired hands was killed by Indians. He was found with an arrow in his back just below the shoulder blade and he had been scalped. The frontier was still fraught with many dangers.

Next Campbell located on Boxelder Creek (east of Glenrock), building a 12 x 16 foot adobe house. This later

became the property of John Hunton and eventually was acquired by J. M. Carey and Brother, becoming headquarters for the famous "S.O." Ranch. Later the ranch buildings took on prominence as the home of R. Davis Carey and became known as "Careyhurst."

In Bob David's book, "Malcolm Campbell, Sheriff" it tells of Portuguese Phillips bringing in 1,100 head of cattle from Oregon the summer of 1878. Campbell was given the job of moving the stock from the Sweetwater to the head of the Cheyenne, supposedly the first such trail drive over that particular route. He hired out that fall to F. M. Phillips who had a beef contract at Fort Fetterman. The slaughter house was on LaPrele Creek where Mart Madsen's place stood later on. While bringing in 80 head of beef to butcher, eleven of them were stolen. Malcolm took to their trail and with the aid of his St. Bernard dog, "I overtook the cattle at where John Moran's ranch was located later and drove them back."

That fall, while herding stock for Colin Hunter on Skull Creek, George Powell rushed into camp to report that Indians had stolen and killed two work cattle near his camp. They all grabbed rifles and went after them. Creeping up on what they thought were the Indian culprits they found Crook's entire army. Although some of the soldiers were probably responsible for the loss, retribution was given up as a lost cause.

On December 22, 1879 Campbell married Priscilla Noble at the old Campbell farm home in Endicott, Nebraska. They moved to Fort Fetterman which was still a military post but was abandoned in 1882. It thereafter became the hub of activity for the cattle business which was growing astronomically. In '83, the same year the Major Frank Wolcott took out water rights to irrigate 500 acres on Deer Creek, perhaps the biggest round-up ever undertaken took place on Crazy Woman Creek. 400 cowboys using 1400 horses with chuck wagons and equipment strung out for miles made up the operation. The day of the "open range" had about reached its zenith, although Campbell said the year of '84 another 825,000 head of cattle were thrown onto the open ranges of Wyoming.

Malcolm Campbell was at this time serving as deputy sheriff for H. K. Boswell of Albany County. It must be remembered that ever since Wyoming became a territory in 1869, the western portion of what is now Converse County was then Albany County with its county seat at Laramie City. As a result, the weight of being deputy was tremendous, having full responsibility for keeping law and order for everything north of the Laramie Mountain range. He later served under Lew Miller and three times thereafter was made the Constable of Albany County. Then, with the formation of Converse County as mentioned earlier, he was appointed its first sheriff. However, when election votes were counted that fall, Malcolm drew 552 votes to John T. Williams' 591, with Williams being named as sheriff. Campbell sued, claiming that Williams was not a resident of Converse County but Campbell lost.

Undoubtedly his most publicized accomplishment was the capture of Alferd Packer (generally misspelled "Alfred"). Briefly, Packer along with five other prospectors, became trapped in deep snow in the high country of the Colorado Rockies. Repeated attempts to break trail through the mountain pass failed. They ran



out of food and reached a state of near starvation. In the early spring Packer reached civilization, but with no trace of his companions. He gave a confusing and not very convincing story about their whereabouts, causing everyone to become suspicious. Search parties were sent out and eventually the five were found, dead. It was evident they had been partially eaten. Circumstantial evidence made it appear likely that Packer had turned cannibal. A warrant was issued on August 22, 1874 at San Juan City, Colorado for Packer's arrest. He had already been placed in a make-shift jail (frontier didn't truck with too much legality), but before papers could be served, Packer made his escape. His whereabouts remained a mystery for another nine years.

Selling supplies at Fort Fetterman in late January of 1883 was a man named Jean "Frenchy" Cabazon. He had been a prospector associated with Packer prior to the cannibalism episode. Now a crusty stranger approached Cabazon wanting blasting supplies. The man called himself John Schwartze. Cabazon noticed portions of two fingers of his left hand were missing and some of his front teeth had been crudely replaced. "Frenchy" recognized Packer at once, but kept his findings secret until after Packer was gone. He then notified Deputy Sheriff Campbell who wrote his superiors in Laramie City, requesting instructions. Investigations by Colorado authorities clearly indicated the man Cabazon had identified was indeed Alferd Packer. A telegram reached Campbell, "Arrest Packer, alias John Swartz, at once and take no chances." Campbell set out in his buckboard with his brother for Crazy Horse's cabin on Wagonhound where he felt Packer was hiding. Taking him by surprise, the arrest was made without incident as Packer was for once, not wearing his guns.

After returning to Fort Fetterman, Campbell had to wait from Friday until Monday when the next stage left for Laramie City. The snow had drifted "15 feet deep" in places. The first night they made Point of Rocks in Downey Park where the stage stopped for the night. Malcolm "cat-napped", keeping a wary eye on his prisoner. The following day they reached Rock Creek on the U.P. line, but it was already after dark and too late to catch a train. They got a hotel room and on Wednesday took the train for Laramie City. There Sheriff Miller boarded the train accompanying Campbell and his prisoner to Cheyenne. Packer was then turned over to Sheriff Clair Smith of Hinsdale County, Colorado.

Author Bob David "Malcolm Campbell, Sheriff" writing as though the wording is Campbell's, gives the contents of the following telegram; "You are respectfully invited to attend the execution of Alferd Packer at Lake City Colorado on the 19th day of May, A.D., 1883. Signed, Claire Smith, Sheriff." From that point on nothing more is written about Alferd Packer in the entire book, leading readers to believe he was hung on the date indicated. Not so!

In fact Alferd Packer was never hung. Two problems made it illegal to take Packer's life. Although found guilty of the crime, the act had been committed on an Indian Reservation, therefore not coming under white man's jurisdiction. Secondly, Colorado had passed new legislation which had passed into law without containing a provision allowing capital punishment. As a result,

Packer was sentenced to prison, where despite repeated appeals, he remained until late in years. Finally he was pardoned but only after his health had failed. He died, however, a free man.

Campbell, through the years, continued in law enforcement, serving for several years as Chief of Police of Douglas. He later moved to Casper (1920) where he acted as a watchman for an oil company. He continued working until well into his 80s. He passed away July 20, 1932 leaving behind his widow, Priscilla, two sons, Donald of Midwest and Malcolm S. of Casper and a daughter, Mrs. Kate Allen of the state of Washington; a brother, Ben, of Douglas and several grandchildren. At the time of his passing he was the oldest Democrat, oldest peace officer and oldest Odd Fellow in the state. A real pioneer!

Eugene Potter

## Cannon, Bill and Harry

William "Bill" Acquilla Cannon was the first of the two Cannon brothers to come to Wyoming. He came in the early 1920s finding work on the Charles J. Saul ranch on LaBonte Creek. Harry, the youngest brother, followed Bill's footsteps on June 15, 1926.

Bill, "Whitey", the eldest son of Robert and Lilly Josephine Holloway Cannon was born in 1898 in Ball Camp, Tennessee. Harry, the youngest of six children was born in Arkansas City, Kansas on January 27, 1909. The Cannon family had also lived in Illinois sometime between Tennessee and Kansas.

Shortly after Harry's birth, the father deserted the family, never to be heard of again. Three years later, the hard working mother died as the result of an operation. This left the children to fend for themselves. The only sister of the brothers tried to keep the family together for three years. At that time the brothers and sister went their own ways.

Harry stayed in Kansas, attending school there through his junior year in high school. At the urging of his brother, Bill, he came to Wyoming. Finding work on the Saul Ranch, he was given the job of milking cows. It was one of the hardest jobs he ever had to do.



Bill Cannon homestead 1930.

Wanting to finish high school, Harry was found a place to stay at the E. B. Combs ranch northwest of Douglas by Saul. He has many memories of his stay with the Combs and his senior year in school.

After his graduation in 1927, Harry worked with Bill on the Saul, Prager and Pexton ranches in the LaBonte-Esterbrook area. He joined the navy in 1928 and served for four years then entered the Postal Service where he was employed until his recent retirement.

Ruby Ann Ross of Modesto, California married Harry on May 15, 1937.

Bill married Helen Eveline Stafford, daughter of a one-time Albany County Sheriff, on May 28, 1928 in Douglas. They had two sons, Rolan and Harvey. Helen was a school teacher at the Spracklen School.

Later Bill and Helen were to prove up on their homestead in Morrison Valley on the Charles Pexton ranch. Shortly after, Bill was separated from his family and moved to Nevada where he worked on ranches and ran a bar. He died on September 25, 1967 in Bishop, California.

From information given to John Pexton  
by Harry Cannon

## Card, Harry and Edith

On February 16, 1861 a set of twins was born to Thomas Card and Harriet Burr Card of Toledo, Ohio. The twins, a boy and a girl, were named Harry Barton and Ida Amelia, and were the youngest of five children in the Card family. Harriet Burr was a member of the noted Burr family which included Aaron Burr, conspicuous in American history.

Harry acquired his education in the public schools of Toledo, but owing to ill-health, he left school in the spring of 1878 to come to the Wyoming Territory. He located in the city of Cheyenne, accepting a position with the Union Cattle Company. He remained in Cheyenne until 1886, when he moved to the vicinity of Lost Creek in what is now eastern Converse County. There he was engaged in raising horses and cattle.

In 1892, Mr. Card disposed of his interests in the Lost Springs area and moved to Manville. He organized the Card Sheep Company in 1900, for which he acted as vice president and manager. He made Manville his headquarters, and his home, and was to remain there until the mid 1940's.

Harry was married in 1888 to Edith McLaughlin, a native of Kansas, Edith was born in 1869 in Marshall County. She was the daughter of Charles J. and Julia Ann McLaughlin, and the eldest of a family of 10 children. The McLaughlins came to Wyoming in June of 1885 as part of an emigrant train of covered wagons. The family, which had previously migrated from Kansas into Iowa, came to Wyoming seeking a homestead site. Their first camp was near the Silver Cliff Mine, adjacent to the present city of Lusk.

Soon, the family moved on to within a short distance from the present day location of the city of Glenrock, where they remained the entire summer of 1885. The following spring, they finally settled on a claim on Cotton-

wood Creek near the old Keeline "Hogeye" Ranch. It was there that Edith May became acquainted with Harry "Rosy" Card.

After their marriage, Harry and Edith lived on the Lost Springs Ranch for a period of six years before they moved into Manville.

There were four children born to the Cards. The son, Nathaniel Forrest, was born at Lost Springs in 1890; he married Leone Cook of Illinois in 1914, and was the father of two children, Lucile and Forrest.

Iva May was born at Orin Junction in 1892, was married to John Cosby of Harrison, Nebraska, and is the mother of four children, Evelyn, Richard, Harry and John.

Julia Almira was born at Manville in 1894. She was married in 1915 to Leonard Tebbs. Their children are Edith Belle, Ruth and Leonard.

The fourth child, Alma Estelle, was born at Manville in 1900. She was married to Lon T. Tebbs, brother of Leonard Tebbs, in 1921, and is the mother of two children, Hillman Card and Robert Barton.

The chain of events in the Card family history becomes vague in the early 1900s. The following account, which is certain to be inaccurate in some respects, is compiled from the shadowy recollections of persons who were born and raised and still live in the Manville, Lusk, Jireh, and Lost Springs communities. Exact dates and sequences of happenings were not available.

Harry Card had come to Wyoming when there was open range. He had operated his livestock business on this open grassland, and was accustomed to using vast amounts of free land. Wyoming was undergoing a great change. Fences were being built, claims homesteaded, water wells were being drilled, and the old customs of controlling the land by controlling the watering places was to be no more. The transition from the old to the new method of cattle and sheep management was very difficult for the stockmen, and in some cases, totally unacceptable, but if one were to survive, then he must adapt to the changes, and revise his operation.

Besides his livestock business, Mr. Card had an interest in the Manville Bank. His associates were believed to be A. A. Spaugh, Gus Johnson, Art Dieleman, and a man by the name of Burkett. The bank was established in 1910. Evidently, poor management practices, or lack of any management, together with making too many ill-advised loans caused the bank's failure about the year of 1922.

Ill fortune befell Mr. Card in the spring of 1912. He had purchased a large herd of Texas cattle which were delivered to Orin Junction. He was on the trail with the herd, moving them to his home range near Manville when a raging blizzard struck. Almost all of the animals died in the storm, or shortly afterward. The estimated loss was close to 3500 head.

Times were hard, and money was scarce. As a means of income, men and boys of the area, including John Cosby, son-in-law of the Cards, gathered the whitening bones of the animals. The bones sold for \$6.00 per ton. As late as 1920, men with teams and wagons were still to be seen on the prairies engaged in "bone-picking".

For several reasons by the year of 1934, the extensive land and livestock business which had been that of Mr.

Card, was no longer in existence. From 2000 acres of deeded land, Mr. Card salvaged only 160 acres upon which his home was built. The Cards remained in Manville for several years, during which time, Mr. Card broke his hip, and was cared for by a practical nurse living in the area.

Ultimately, the Cards moved to Cheyenne to make their home near their daughter, Alma Tebbs. Mr. and Mrs. Card died in Cheyenne and are buried there.

Edith May Card is remembered as a petite lady, under five feet in height. She was neatly dressed, and always wore a brooch attached to a black velvet ribbon which encircled her throat. She drove a large, black Graham-Paige automobile complete with side curtains. The car was equipped with jump-seats, and would accommodate seven to nine persons. It even boasted crystal vases which Mrs. Card would fill with flowers from her garden. Edith was instrumental in the founding and maintenance of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Manville, as well as being a member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and of the Mariposa Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Harry Barton Card is remembered as a slightly built, sandy-haired individual, a typical stockman of that era. He was energetic, and quite vociferous. He, too, was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Manville; he was a member of the Order of Modern Woodmen of America, and of the Woodmen of the World.

Although in the latter years of their lives, the Cards were not as affluent as they had been previously, certainly they enriched the lives of the residents of the communities in which they lived.

Ruth Grant

## Carlisle, Charles S. and Sylvia

Charles Scott Carlisle was born March 17, 1876, in Butler County, Nebraska, where he was raised on a farm. On October 3, 1900 he married Sylvia Irene Applegate, born June 16, 1884, who was raised on a neighboring farm. Charles worked as a blacksmith until he and a friend (remembered only as Mr. Folsom) came to Douglas, Wyoming in 1916 to search for a homestead. Charles left his wife and three children, Walter, born September 17, 1902, Eva, born June 10, 1906 and Dale, born June 2, 1910, with Sylvia's family in David City, Nebraska.

Charles and his friend filed on homesteads 30 miles northwest of Douglas on Duck Creek and soon after that Charles sent for his family. They had a long hot trip to Douglas on the train and the next day another long hot trip in an open touring car over rough dirt roads to the homestead site. Their home for several weeks was two tents while Charles was building what we now commonly call a "homestead shack". After he got his family settled in their new little home on the prairie, Charles went into town and worked as a mechanic at the Ford Garage. He drove out to the homestead on weekends as often as possible to take provisions to his family and news of the "rest of the world" that seemed so far away.

Sylvia and their three children tried to entertain themselves out on the hot, dry prairie. They went for many walks, exploring the country around them and



Eva and Dale Carlisle 1916.

were always on the watch for snakes, which were plentiful. They carried a sharp hoe and big sticks and killed many rattlesnakes. Walter would grab the bull snakes by the tail and whirl them around his head and fling them as far as he could.

Duck Creek had little water, but the kids managed to scoop out a place and build a small dam so they had a wading pool. They spent many hours playing there.

There was an old abandoned oil well nearby, which provided a play ground of sorts, to pass away the time until a man called "Dutch Ernie" came out to make arrangements for a crew to dismantle the oil well and for Sylvia to cook for them. He paid her quite well and furnished all the food.

Walter and Dale helped with the tearing down of the well and had quite a learning experience. One day when they were working around the well, a man named Fred yelled from the top of the tower, asking if they could see his eye anywhere down there. Everyone was shocked and speechless until they learned that the man had a glass eye.

During the three years the family spent on the homestead, there were many cattle drives and round-ups, and the cow hands would sometimes come by and leave flour and meat in return for a home cooked meal. The brandings were events to look forward to. All the neighbors for miles around would gather together to sort out and brand their own calves.

It was during these times that neighbors became better acquainted and in many cases, became lifelong friends.

Charles and Sylvia had another daughter, Maxine, born September 2, 1925.

In 1927, Charles opened a shoe repair shop. He was affectionately known as "Pop" Carlisle to all his friends and owned and operated the City Shoe Shop until his death in 1953.

Sylvia lived in the family home at 428 North Fifth Street until her health failed her. She passed away in 1975, at the age of 90.

Walter, the oldest son, was gravely injured in an industrial accident in New Jersey and died June 14, 1926.

Eva married J. Elmer Robinson in 1927 and they had two children, Elizabeth and Richard.

Dale married Dorothy Birchard in 1935 and they had five children; Rosemary, Bonnie, Frank, Toni and Jennie.

Maxine married Rodney Sundquist in 1943 and they have one son, David.

Eva Robinson  
Maxine Sundquist

## Carlton, Edwin O. and Mattie

Orris Carlton was born in Indiana in 1853. His parents owned a small farm in that state, where Orris grew to adulthood. He was married to Elain Weams who was born and raised in the same community, and to this union three children, Nellie, Edwin Orris and Mable, were born.

Orris was a farmer by occupation, raising vegetables and corn. In addition he raised pigs, some beef cattle and milked a number of cows. It was Orris' dream to go west to take up a homestead. He longed to join the wagon trains which were leaving, but circumstances always seemed to prevent his going.

Finally, Orris did move his family as far west as Tekamah, Nebraska. His wife, Elain, and his eldest daughter, Nellie, died after the family arrived in Nebraska. Later, he married for a second time,



Tom and Ed Carlton

becoming the father of three more children, Erma, Berniece and Dave. Orris then realized his lifelong dream, taking a homestead on the Laramie Plains in Wyoming, near Marshall. To support his family while proving up, he was employed at various sheep companies. After his children were grown, he continued to live on his homestead until the time of his death. He is buried in Laramie.

Edwin Orris Carlton was born in 1898 in Indiana. He attended school there until he moved with his family to Nebraska, where he completed his education. When he was old enough, he filed on a homestead on the Laramie Plains.

Edwin was married to Mattie Marie Jackson, the daughter of Andrew and Cora Jackson. Mattie was born in 1898 at the family ranch on LaPrele Creek in Converse County, Wyoming.

Ed and Mattie began their married life in a two-room log cabin on the homestead. Other buildings on the claim included a chicken house and a barn with a corral. Some distance from the house was a slab building which was erected over a large spring. This building was fitted with shelves along the walls for storing foodstuffs. A large box with a water-tight lid was placed directly in the spring to hold pails of milk and cream. With the exception of an iron bedstead and the four-plated cookstove, all the furnishings in the cabin were homemade.

Willa Bell, the Carlton's oldest child was born in the

cabin on the Plains. Since Ed was forced to work out to support his family, Mattie and her baby were alone much of the time. The summers were lovely, and the winters were cruel, bringing terrible blizzards with intense cold. Weather on the Plains was very undependable. A drop of fifteen or twenty degrees in temperature was not uncommon. There was the ever present danger of frost-bite or freezing with the victim being unaware that he was rapidly getting colder. Travel in winters was by sleigh. The frosty air carried the sound of the sleighbells for long distances. This sound was sometimes the only indication to Mattie that there were other folks living on the Plains in winter.

Finally, life alone on the homestead became almost unbearable for Mattie. The winters were so long and lonesome, and the summers brought with them the danger of being molested by wandering outlaws or the Mexican sheepherders who came with their employer's flocks to the Plains for summer range. It was for these reasons that Ed sold the homestead three years after he and Mattie set up housekeeping there.

The Carlons rented the Unland ranch located six miles west of Douglas, very close to the highway connecting Douglas with Casper. This location proved to be even more frightening for Mattie than her lonely home in the mountains. To be sure, the weather was better, but wandering bands of Gypsies and many tramps and beggars came by her door. She was constantly uneasy. If she gave the tramps and beggars food, there were larger numbers at her door on the following day.

While the Carlons made the Unland ranch their home, four more children were born to them, Thomas, Faye, Iona and Edwin Orris. Edwin died shortly after birth.

One summer afternoon during haying season, several wagons were seen coming over "water tank" hill to the east of the Carlton home. They were not the common sort of wagons used by the farmers in the area, but instead were tiny buggies, each drawn by four Shetland ponies. They passed the Carlton home, stopping to camp at a small stream further on to rest and water the ponies.

The Carlons had just finished their noon meal. The men who were helping with the haying were resting before returning to work. Thomas, who was about three years old was playing while his mother washed up the dinner dishes.

Mattie, finishing her work, went out to watch the Gypsies. They were a colorful sight. The leader wore a tight fitting shirt embroidered with yellow flowers atop his lavender trousers. Around his neck he wore a white scarf. The shirt and trousers were embellished with gold braid. The women wore full skirts, brightly colored, vivid blouses, and flowers and ribbons in their hair.

The band rested by the stream for perhaps an hour, hitched their ponies and resumed their journey.

The haying crew was preparing to go back to the field when Mattie noticed that Thomas had disappeared. She hunted feverishly for him and when she could not locate him she called for Ed to help her. When Tom was not to be found, Mattie was sure that the Gypsy band had abducted him. Ed was preparing to saddle a horse to ride to Douglas for the sheriff when the oldest girl, Willa, came



running to tell them that she had found her brother asleep in a closet where he had taken his toys to play.

At that time, there was an alfalfa mill in Douglas. Along with others in the area, Ed raised alfalfa hay which he sold to the mill. There it was ground into meal and resold to dairymen near Douglas, such as Joe Alexander and Charles Huffman.

After some years, Ed moved his family to a farm about ten miles west of Douglas called the Gus "Humpy" Johnson place. It was rather small, so when Ed had an opportunity, he moved to a nearby farm, the Anderson place. There was more irrigated meadow and farm land there, as well as more pasture land.

Later the Carlons moved to the Zimmerman place, located about two miles west of Douglas. There they had better land and a large modern home in which to live. While they lived there World War II began. The government purchased land directly across the road from the Carlon home upon which to build an internment camp for prisoners of war. Since most of the young men had been called to war, it was the custom for the local farmers to hire prisoners from the camp to help during the harvest season. Ed hired several to shock grain. The prisoners came, accompanied by American soldiers acting as guards and worked very well. It seemed to the Carlons, however, that the camp did not furnish enough lunch for working men, and so the womenfolk prepared extra food which they fed to the prisoners. Since they were not allowed to enter the house, Mattie put a table on the back porch where the prisoners ate their noon meal.

Ed Carlon passed away September 5, 1953 following a heart attack. He is buried in the Douglas cemetery. After his death, Mattie moved into Douglas where she lived with her youngest daughter, Kathryn, until Kathryn finished her schooling. Then Mattie moved to Sheridan to live near her cousin, Alice Smith, a widow. Mattie found work in restaurants as well as cooking for large ranches in both Montana and Wyoming. When she was forced to retire due to her rheumatoid arthritis, she made her home in Sheridan.

Willa was married to Jesse Metcalf and became the mother of five children, Stephanie, Ann, Bud, Barbara and Janice. After her divorce from Jesse, she made her home in Shoshoni, Wyoming.

Faye was married to Orland Peterson, the only son of Clifford J. Peterson. They made their home on Boxelder Creek for nine years, later moving to Hagerman, Idaho. They are the parents of two children, Darrel and Susie. Faye and Orland divorced after they moved to Idaho. Faye returned to Wyoming six years later, and was married for the second time to John J. Joslyn. She and John make their home in Sheridan.

Iona married Harold Stinson and is the mother of four children, Harold Edwin, who died at the age of two, Daniel, Jo Ann and Rose Mary. They reside in Shoshoni.

The youngest daughter, Kathryn, married Evert Bourquin. They are the parents of three children, Cynthia, Paul and Bruce. They make their home in Glenrock, Wyoming.

Thomas, who joined the Navy in World War II, returned home to work as a carpenter for Petro Construction Company. Tom was also a talented musician, playing both the Dobro and the Hawaiian guitar. He was

married to Phyllis Badger and to this union four children, Christina, Tommy, Kathleen and Phyllis, were born. Later he divorced Phyllis and married Patricia Schillings. Patricia and Tom had one son, Zane. Tom passed away on July 22, 1982 as a result of a heart attack and is buried in Gillette, Wyoming.

Mattie Jackson Carlon

## Carlson, Oscar and Hanna Family

Oscar Victor Carlson (nee Oskar Victor Karlson) was born September 16, 1874, in Smoland County of Sweden. We have no knowledge of his parents' names.

He migrated to the U.S. in 1891, earning his passage over by working on a freighter. His first stop was in Minnesota where he found work in the lumber camps there. Later he wandered on out to Colorado, finding work in the woods of the Cripple Creek area. His natural talents as a carpenter explains his love for woods and working with lumber.

In 1900, he sent his sister, Hilma, the money to come over to the U. S. She went directly to Omaha and started looking for Oscar, finally locating him in Cripple Creek. He then joined her in Omaha and found work in a planing mill owned by Gustav Alf Sandell.

It wasn't long until he met Hanna Johnson and they were married in Omaha on June 10, 1905. Hanna had come to this country in 1900 with her brother. They went straight to Omaha and Hanna was able to find work in the home of Irving Baxter, a lawyer in Omaha.

In 1909, Mr. Sandell heard about the new irrigation dam and reservoir that was being constructed on LaPrele Creek to furnish irrigation water for this area. This sounded great to him so he had Oscar cut out lumber for a house, take it to Wyoming and file on a homestead for him. After this was accomplished, he sent for Hanna the following spring (1910). It was quite a shock for her, coming out here where there were no other settlers. Oscar was the first settler in this part of the country. All was prairie and sagebrush. For one coming from Sweden to Omaha, then to Wyoming, it had to be the end of the earth for sure. It didn't last long after she was settled, however. Other Swedish settlers started arriving and soon a community sprung up almost overnight. Most of the settlers seemed to come from Omaha and Iowa. So Hanna soon started her Swedish cooking at which she was a master and forgot about being stranded in a forgotten land.

It wasn't long before Oscar decided to homestead for himself, so he filed on some land three miles east of the Sandell place. It wasn't long before the land joining the Sandell place was relinquished and Oscar quickly relinquished his claim and filed on it. He started clearing the land and the part he wanted for crop land he plowed by hand behind a horse drawn walking plow. Modern machinery was yet to be invented so the early settlers had to do everything the hard way. Also, he must start building another house and some farm buildings-also the hard way, by hand. The lumber he used was hauled from a sawmill in the Cold Springs area.

On October 30, 1910, a son, Irving Oscar, was born.



They were still on the Sandell place, but Oscar had started building their own house. When he had completed two rooms, a kitchen and bedroom, they moved in and continued to finish it during off seasons from farm work. It took two years before the irrigation ditches reached his land, so that meant two years of crop failure because of lack of water.

On September 20, 1913, they were happy parents of a baby girl, Martha Henrietta. As time went by, Oscar continued to build and farm. He finished the house in 1918 and the barn in 1922. Also, his children had reached school age and there was no school house. Irving was a year late starting, but they then started in a tarpaper shack on the Wheelock place a mile east of home, and Oscar started building a school house a half mile south of him up on the hill. It was called the "White Pigeon", School District No. 6. It remained as such until 1927, when it was moved about three miles south on the Natural Bridge road to a piece of land donated by Enoch and Erick Carlson. It was then renamed "Pleasant Valley" and remained so until the 1970s when it was abandoned and the children were bused to Douglas. Oscar served on the school board for many years.

The community grew fast and there was lots of socializing going on. Whist parties were started. Sometimes they would play until morning. Birthdays were celebrated, anniversary parties were given. LaPrele Homemakers Club was formed in June of 1924. Dances were held where they could find some space. When Oscar finished his barn, a dance was held there. There was always a fiddler or two around handy in those days. Listening to the stories they would tell one could tell they had a grand old time. Oscar was lovingly called "King of the Swedes."

Irving married Margaret Fackler, daughter of Dan and Augusta Fackler. Martha married Leo Thompson.

By 1935, Oscar began a long seige of rheumatoid arthritis that lasted for many years. He continued to keep active doing some irrigating and riding some of the farm machinery. His son was taking over the ranch work by this time.

He passed away on April 6, 1949 at his ranch home. Funeral services were held at the Congregational Church. Internment was at Douglas Park Cemetery. Hanna died April 11, 1959.

We dedicate this biographical account of our father to the Wyoming Pioneer Association in loving memory of our parents, Mr and Mrs. Oscar Carlson.

Irving and Margaret Carlson  
Martha Carlson Thompson

## Carmin, Lem and Pauline Family

Lem Carmin, who lost his parents early in life, came to Converse County, Wyoming in 1906 from Mathew, Indiana. He worked as a "roundup" cowboy for LeRoy Moore and later as a hand for Jim Shaw, who ran his cattle in the country north of Orin. He also worked for Dr. Wilson of McKinley and Tom Black. Dad became interested in this western cowboy life and loved the area around Orin. After a few years of "cowboying" he homesteaded a



Lem Carmin

couple of miles west of Orin, where he and his wife, Pauline, built a home and started ranching on their own.

Olive Pauline Eastman Carmin (B. September 11, 1889) came to Converse County, Wyoming with her parents, Fredrick and Ellen Eastman, from Bloomington, Illinois in 1908. She was teaching school near the Shaw ranch at Orin when she met and married Lem (B. September 22, 1887).

After moving onto their homestead, they built a modest home, barn, ice house, chicken house and corrals. Dad and mother's brother, William Eastman, became interested in rodeo and began gathering stock for producing rodeos in the immediate area. Dad continued in the rodeo business and became one of the most prominent rodeo producers in the area, furnishing stock for rodeos in Wyoming, Nebraska and South Dakota. He owned many famous bucking horses, including "Made in Germany", "Sweet Mama", "Buster Brown" and "Tick Fever". During the early days that Dad was producing rodeos, Mother became one of the outstanding relay racers in the area. How she found the time to do this and also be a loving, devoted mother would have to be a story in itself.

Lem and Pauline raised four children during the "depression" years. Joe, the oldest, now resides with his wife, Ida May Ayres Carmin, in Douglas. George and his wife, Ruby, are living on the original ranch at Orin in a semi-retired state. A daughter, Phyllis Lyons resides in



Joe and Phyllis Carmin in foreground getting ready to board Orin school bus driven by Charles Hyatt.

Lake Montezuma, Arizona. The youngest daughter, Dorothy, now deceased, lived and reared her children in California.

Our parents told us many interesting stories regarding Dad's early cowpunching days and rodeo producing activities as well as many tales of their life in Converse County. Probably one of the most interesting to us, was when Mother had to ride twelve miles on horseback from her parents home in the south Douglas area and ford the treacherous Platte River twice on each of her weekly trips to teach at the Shaw School at Orin.

After being injured by a brahma bull in 1949, Dad sold his rodeo stock and moved to Texas where he passed away in 1972. Mother, who is now 94 years old, makes her home in Poway, California.

George Carmin

## Carothers, Matthew and Blanche

Matthew Dales Carothers was born in Kimbolton, Ohio on May 17, 1867, the son of Samuel and Eliza Kewan Carothers.

Coming to Wyoming at the age of 16 in 1883, Matt found work with the Douglas-Willan, Sartoris Horse Ranch with headquarters on the Laramie Plains and a ranch on the North Platte River below the confluence of LaBonte Creek and the Platte River. Matt also was a cowboy for the Leman, Cross and Kennedy ranches. He was also told that the western climate would be good for his asthma.

Matt was soon to settle permanently on a homestead on upper Wagonhound Creek close to his brother, William J. Carothers. An uncle, Matt Kewan, had also come to the area and worked for Willan-Sartoris.

By December 31, 1895, Matt had met and married Blanche George, daughter of Fred and Mary Ellen George. They were married at the home of her parents on

### LaBonte Creek.

The Carothers made their home on Matt's place on Wagonhound while Matt continued to work for ranches in the nearby area. Blanche became well known for her caring of sick friends and neighbors.

In 1906 they sold their place to Matt's sister-in-law, Martha Carothers, and purchased the old horse headquarters of the Guthrie Company on Wagonhound Creek from Edgar Gibson.

On January 15, 1909 a son, George William, was born. That same year Percy and Eli Peterson finished building the two-story house that was to be home to the family for many years. The house burned down in the late 1970s.

Arthur E. "Bud" was born on July 6, 1913. He married Dorothy Janet Stone on March 26, 1939. They were the parents of four children: Eleanor, Matthew "Tuffy", Sandra and Michael. Bud died on November 4, 1972.

Margaret Eliza was born February 5, 1914. She married Dale Anderson on November 9, 1936. Their two sons are Leroy and Jim. Leroy is married to Donna Bloem and Jim is married to Pamela Pickinpaugh.

Matthew Douglas "Doug" was born on April 19, 1924. He married Geralene Peebles. They have one son, Matthew. Doug later married Henrietta Harlow.

George married Maxine Stone on May 28, 1939. Maxine was a school teacher who hailed from Mitchell, Nebraska and came to Wyoming to teach school near her aunt, Ruth Furman Whitaker. Upon Matt's death on December 12, 1938, George and his brother, Bud, continued to operate the ranch until 1965. At that time George and Maxine bought Bud's interest and ran the ranch until 1973 when they sold it to Eugene and Esther Wollen and moved to Douglas. Maxine passed away on September 8, 1980.

Blanche died on March 3, 1959.

From information given by  
Maxine Carothers

## Carothers, William and Martha

William J. (Billy) Carothers was born May 31, 1860 in Ohio, son of Samuel and Eliza Carothers, being the second one of a family of eight children. Matt Carothers, Billy's brother, came to Wyoming to work on the Douglas-Willan Horse Ranch for his uncle, Matt Kewan. The ranch was located where the Mike Werner Ranch is now. Billy Carothers came out to visit his brother and worked on this horse ranch a while, then took a homestead on Wagonhound where the Wilson place is now.

Martha M. (Tillie) Westwick was born September 3, 1866 in Galena, Illinois, daughter of James B. Westwick of England and Eliza Atwell of Ireland. Tillie's parents, together with Tillie and two younger daughters, Eleanor and Harriet and two older sons, George and John and their wives Nell and Emma, moved to Wyoming in 1884.

The nearest settlements were Fort Fetterman to the north and Rock Creek (now Rock River) on the Union Pacific Railroad route to the south. They received some of the earliest land grants issued in this area. Tillie talks in her diary of going to Rock Creek once or twice a year for mail and provisions.

George and Nell's oldest son, Robert Westwick, was the first white child born on LaBonte in 1884.

Martha Westwick met the young Billy Carothers and they were married March 7, 1886 and she went to live on his homestead. Their only child, a son, Samuel Westwick Carothers was born in a little log cabin on the ranch, February 15, 1892.

Sam Carother's father, Billy, died when still a young man of 40 years of age on October 17, 1900. Billy was driving in the milk cow when his horse stumbled, throwing him up against the saddlehorn and rupturing his intestines. Dr. Wittke of Douglas was called, but could do nothing, only make him as comfortable as possible until he died four days later. He was buried in Douglas with the Episcopal minister officiating.

Billy left his widow Tillie and his eight year old son

Sam. Tillie took over the ranch and ran it by herself with the help of young Sam. Tillie also raised two other children (her brother's boy, whose mother and father had died - William Westwick who was twelve years old, and also William or Bill Owens, age nine, who needed a home.

Young Sam, together with the two foster children, William Westwick and Bill Owens, and their mother, Tillie had to work real hard to keep the ranch going. They did the irrigating, put up hay, took care of the cattle, etc.

Sam rode horseback about seven miles down the creek to school. Tillie hired a teacher to stay at the ranch during the summertime because school only ran about six months a year, as many days it was too stormy in the winter time. Tillie was very anxious for Sam to have the best education possible. He went up to the eighth grade at Wagonhound School, then he and his mother moved into town so he could finish his education. Sam was a good boy who did all he could to help run the ranch, which was quite a job without his father.

Ferne Sadler, Sam's future wife, was born in Litchfield, Nebraska on November 18, 1905. The daughter of L. E. and Izora Bell Engleman Sadler, the youngest of seven children. Her father and older brothers, Rollie and Harvey, came out to Wyoming in 1917 to file on homesteads in the Dull Center Community, north of Douglas.

Ferne's father, Louis, and brothers, Rollie and Harvey, came out and worked on the homestead in the summer and would return to Litchfield in the winter. Finally, when they had cabins and other buildings built on the homestead, they brought Ferne's mother, Izora, and Ferne back with them to the homestead. Ferne recalls the ride out here in an old chain drive pickup in May of 1922. It rained and rained she remembers, and they spent the night at a campground on the North Platte River. They spent the next night at the Cook ranch and had to fill barrels with water to haul to the homestead because no well was drilled yet. They had the truck fixed up sort of like a camper with a table that folded down and some folding chairs, etc. so they were quite comfortable in spite of everything. They moved out to the homestead which was 72 miles out north and east. They had a one room cabin to begin with, but later added a nice room for their living room. They had an old wood burning stove and a kerosene oven in which her mother turned out some of the best bread and cinnamon rolls in the country. Most of the neighbors always said they would rather have one of Izora's rolls than a piece of angel food cake. Ferne says they had lots of fun in spite of the hard work. She remembers in particular that her family would always get all dressed up on Sundays even though they were many miles from church and hold their church service at home by radio. A few years later there were church services at the school house and they never missed attending.

Ferne attended high school in Douglas and met Sam Carothers there, but she had no opportunity to really get acquainted with him. Then she was a substitute teacher at the Shaw ranch and met some of the other teachers there. At a dance at the Bill Hart Ranch she was dared by the other teachers to ask the young good looking Sam Carothers to dance. When ladies choice came around, she took the dare and asked him, and that was the beginning of their romance. Later she taught at the Dull Center



Harold Carothers

School and they began to go steady. They were married March 17, 1926 in Denver by a minister there. Her sister, Mary lived there and Sam's mother and some of the family attended.

She then moved out to Sam's ranch about fifteen miles southwest of Douglas. Their son, Harold "Had" Carothers was born October 8, 1927 in the old Douglas hospital.

Then hard times came when Sam was struck down with cancer. He spent seven months in a hospital in California and died April 16, 1955.

Ferne stayed on the ranch a while, but when her son Harold married Josephine Jones in June 1955, Ferne moved into town to live with her mother and work in a store. Ferne married Gene L. Payne, Sr., September 18, 1957 and has lived in this community since then. Harold was also afflicted with cancer and died September 13, 1982. He left his wife, Jan Jourgensen Carothers and his adopted children, Kelly Marie, Laurie Ann and Charles (Chuckie) Carothers as well as his mother and stepfather, Ferne and Gene L. Payne and family and many friends to mourn his passing.

Then on January 25, 1984, Gene L. Payne, Sr. died after a happy married life of 26 years.

Ferne has a very cheerful outlook on life and a lot of sparkle and love of fun. She chose to remember the good time and to forget the bad.

Recently, Ferne suffered a broken hip. She fell in the basement and had to painfully crawl up the steps to phone for help. She is home now and using a walker. Another example of an indomitable spirit that has seen her through her eighty years of life.

Faun D. Cole  
as told by Ferne Sadler Carothers Payne

## Carragher, James and Margaret

James Carragher was born on June 12, 1854, in Livingston County, New York, the son of John and Catherine (Carney) Carragher, both natives of Ireland.

His father, John, was a mason by trade and followed that occupation in Livingston County for many years until 1861, when he enlisted in Company G, Eighth New York Cavalry and was sent to fight in the front line of the Civil War. He was captured at the Battle of Wilderness and was a prisoner of war in Libbey Prison, where he died in 1864. James' mother remained in her home in Caledonia, New York, where James spent his youth, dreaming of the time when fortune would be his.

Determined to seek his fortune in the West, James quit farming in 1879, and traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, where he worked for the Union Pacific as a machinist. In 1880, he moved on to Gunnison County in Colorado, where he prospected and mined with varied success for about four years. He then abandoned the business of mining and lived and worked in Denver, Colorado, and the territory of Idaho, as a stone mason. Still seeking his fortune, he moved on to Cheyenne, and later to Albany County. Finally in 1888, he homesteaded on Bear Creek, about fifty miles south of Douglas.

On November 17, 1899, at Cheyenne, James Carragher married Margaret Abney, who was born in Wyoming, the daughter of Jackson and Margaret (Moody) Abney. Margaret's father, Jackson, was born in Kentucky and her mother was born in Ohio. Jackson Abney was engaged in freighting from the Missouri River to points west, before the advent of the railroad. He later located a ranch near Cheyenne, where he raised cattle for many years and was one of the earliest pioneers of the territory.

James and Margaret Carragher sold their ranch on Bear Creek in 1900, at a good profit, and bought a ranch on Trail Creek, a tributary of Horseshoe Creek.

James died in 1904, Margaret in 1912. They are buried in Douglas.

Otto H. Bolln bought the Carragher ranch on November 20, 1913 by a sheriff's deed.

John R. Pexton

## Carson, Harold and Pansy Family

One bright June day in 1923, my husband, Harold, my mother, Mrs. Rose Stevens and I, Pansy, left Broadwater, Nebraska in a covered wagon drawn by a good team of horses for our homesteads 62 miles northwest of Douglas. We brought along four other horses, a milk cow, some chickens and a white kitten.

On our last day out, we stopped for lunch on Box Creek near the Fiddleback Ranch. We used our pliers for some repair job. Later and several miles farther down the road, we discovered we didn't have the pliers. Weeks later we went back and there were our pliers under the big tree, right where we had used them.

We stayed with my brother, James Stevens and wife, Alma for a while until we purchased a homestead shanty and shed from a Mr. Dilday. We moved these buildings on wagons to our homesteads and lived in this little house for years. Two of our three children, Dale and Arlone were born in this house on the homestead. Our middle child, Vivian, was born in the hospital in Douglas.

About two years after getting settled on the homestead, I taught the North Point School for one term. I rode horseback to the school for three miles in good weather. During the winter months I lived in a sheep wagon near the school. There were several pupils and I taught most of the grades from one to eight.



Moving to Wyoming — 1924 Harold Carson and Rose Stevens



We started in the sheep business by getting bum lambs from the big ranches. We sometimes had to get up several times during the night to feed the little bums. We traded wether lambs for ewe lambs to increase our flock. We milked cows, sold cream, raised chickens and sold eggs. That was our income for several years. We raised our vegetables and hogs.

We didn't have a water well for some time and had to haul water in barrels. We got some of our water from Bear Creek. My mother thought creek water would be soft, so one day she washed clothes in the creek water and discovered that the water was "so hard that one couldn't chop it with an ax."

One day, Harold started setting out trees. I said, "Why are you planting trees? I'm not going to live here until they get tall and of some use." We are still here after sixty years.

We sometimes fried meat, put it in a stone jar and covered it with hot, melted lard. If kept in a cool place, it would keep for weeks.

We lived about ten miles from Bear Creek Store, which was owned and operated by Mr. Ed Manning. We went there for our mail and groceries. We also enjoyed going there to meet and visit with neighbors. We had quite a few neighbors until about 1936 when the government bought the land and the people left the area. When we had neighbors, we had dances, Sunday school, card parties, school entertainments and picnics.

Our school was about three miles from our home. Dale rode to school on his shetland pony until Arlone was ready for school. Then they used a larger horse and Vivian rode behind Dale. During Vivian's first week of school, an unusual thing happened. The first part of the week was nice weather, but on Friday afternoon the snow and cold hit. Harold was away on business and Arlone and I were home alone. Dale finally came home alone, having left Vivian at the neighbors. I rode the horse back and got her. That was unusual weather for early September. Blizzards don't usually hit that early in the fall.

One summer, we had rattlesnakes on the hill just east of the house. We killed 136. The men would drive around in the pickup and when they saw a snake they would either shoot it or jump out and kill it with the shovel.

One day in July, 1973, our grandson, Rusty Hild and his grandfather were riding for cattle. A bolt of lightning came down out of an almost clear sky and killed Rusty and his horse instantly. That was very sad for all of us. Rusty had spent every summer at the ranch for several years and had planned to be a Wyoming rancher and veterinarian.

In closing, I think I should tell a little more about our children; Dale was born July 17, 1927. He married Mary DeCock and he is still on the ranch helping operate it.

Vivian was born April 1, 1930. She married Harold Arms who passed away in June 1973 with a heart attack. Vivian lives in Tennessee.

Arlone was born July 22, 1933. She married Raymond Hild. They live in Colorado. They had two sons, Raymond Dale (Rusty) Hild and Gregory Phillip.

Greg married Alison Henderson and they have a daughter, Kira Alexandra, born November 26, 1983.

Pansy Carson

## Case, Samuel and Marilla Family

The lineage of the Case family in America goes back as far as the Mayflower, but the beginnings in Wyoming began with Emily Jerusha Case Churchill, born July 25, 1854 to Samuel Case and Marilla Edwards.

Emily Churchill came to Orin, Wyoming in 1886 after the disappearance of her husband Dan Henry Churchill. She brought with her, her two children Amy R. age 13 and Harry D. age 11. She married George Howe September 2, 1890 and about this same time her father Samuel moved in with her after the death of her mother Marilla. Samuel lived with the Howe family until his death ten years later on March 5, 1901. He was buried in the Douglas cemetery.

Several of Emily's nieces and nephews followed in her footsteps and also moved to Wyoming. They were children of her brother, William Wesson Case and his wife, Ida Hutchins.

The first niece to come was Emma Louise Case who settled in Lusk, Wyoming and married Harry H. Crater on Dec. 1, 1885 at Douglas, Wyoming.

Then Emma's brother Samuel Herbert Case moved to Manville, Wyoming and married Winifred M. Allen on November 4, 1903 in Manville.

The second brother to move into the area was Clarence Walter and his wife Mary Eva Cramer Case. The following story was written by their son Frank Alvin Case, Sr. who is at the time of this writing, December of 1984, living in Salem, Oregon.

Clarence Walter Case, the second son of William Wesson Case and Ida Hutchins Churchill (sister to Emily Jerusha Case husband Dan Henry Churchill) was born in Chicago, Illinois May 6, 1876. He had six sisters and two brothers. He married Mary Eva Cramer, when she was only seventeen on March 16, 1900 in Aurora, Illinois. Mary Eva was the eldest child of Johann Matthais Cramer and Margretha Differing and was born in Kronenberg, Germany Dec. 25, 1882. When she was less than one year old the family left Germany and moved to Chicago, Illinois. During the period from 1883 to 1898 six more children were born to Johann Matthais and his wife.

Clarence Walter Case and his wife Mary Eva had six children, Clara Eva was born July 28, 1901 in Aurora, Illinois; John Wesson was born Dec. 13, 1903 in Geneva, Illinois and George Harry was born in Grandin, Missouri September 4, 1905; and when George was only five days old, his parents with the other two children left Grandin, Missouri in a buck-board wagon and four horses to come to Wyoming.

When they came to the Missouri river, there were no bridges across the river and in trying to cross they lost their wagon and belongings in the swift current. After obtaining another wagon and some supplies, they continued on to Lusk, Wyoming, where they stayed with Clarence's brother and sister a short time. Then they proceeded west looking at land. When they arrived in Lost Springs, they saw a piece of land that they liked, just one mile west of the main street of Lost Springs. But they had heard about Douglas, so they went on to look at Douglas, where they rented a house and settled down for a couple of years. Father (Clarence) worked on farms and did carpenter work.



On March 29, 1907 a son Charles L. was born. During the time they were in Douglas, Father applied under the Homestead Act for the parcel of land that they had looked at while stopping in Lost Springs. It contained a little over 313 acres. Later they applied for an additional 40 acres adjoining the first request.

Father proceeded to drill for water and built a wind-mill, then he cut some of the trees on the back of the property to build a home out of the logs. As soon as the outer wall, roof and plan floor were completed he moved the family from Douglas to Lost Springs. The home was built all by hand tools. No power tools, no electricity. The beds were all bunk beds, except the bed in the living room. He also had to build a lean-to on the back of the house to accommodate the growing family.

While building his home and farming he did carpenter work on some of the buildings that were built on the main street of Lost Springs. His work day was always from sunrise to sunset.

On February 2, 1910 my sister Elsie Mae was born in Lost Springs. Then on October 15, 1911 I, Frank Alvin Case, was born in Lost Springs. On that date Lost Springs had one of the worst blizzards they had ever had. Mother's doctors, Bodine and Cantril, whose offices were in Douglas were unable to come to Lost Springs because of the blizzard. A neighbor helped deliver me.

On July 31, 1911 Lost Springs became the third city incorporated in Converse County. When the land for Lost Springs was dedicated there were not enough electors (the number needed was 30) to incorporate the town, so they included the ranches that were in a given radius of Lost Springs to get the number of electors needed for incorporation. During the period from incorporating to 1916 the town grew to about 250 inhabitants.

On December 15, 1915 our dear father, Clarence Walter Case (only 39 years old), died of pneumonia at the hospital in Douglas.

At that time our mother was nearly 33 years old and she was left with six children and no income. Clara Eva was 14 years old. John was 12 years old, George was 10, Charles 8, Elsie 5, and I, Frank, 4 years old.

As was the custom in those days our neighbors, friends and relatives came to Mother's rescue. A friend of our mother and father in Douglas, asked Mother to let sister Clara come and live with them in Douglas where she could help take care of their small children. Brother John went to work as a section hand on the railroad, earning his board and room with small pay. Earl Fogarty who owned the general merchandise store in Lost Springs hired brother George to help in the store doing odd jobs to earn his board and room and still go to school.

That left only three children at home. Brother Charles was given a part time job by Ollie Cannon, who lived up the road from our home. His pay was small but never the less helped buy food. Charles, Elsie and I went to school which gave Mother a chance to earn a little money doing odd jobs. Two of Mother's brothers, Uncle Matt and Uncle Jerry Cramer came out to Lost Springs from Chicago to visit and see what they could do to help out. While they were there they put siding over the logs to do a better job of keeping out the cold air in the winter time.

On May 14, 1919, three years after father died, my

mother married Lemuel Elijah Pierce, who was related to our neighbor Sadie Fenton, who lived on the farm east of ours. Lemuel's wife, Margaret, had died in the big flu epidemic of 1918. He had three sons, Lewis J., Jacob (Jake) Lewis, and Gerald LaVern. Lewis Jacob was 21 and served in the U.S. Navy during World War I and had six trips from the U.S. to the war zone with supplies.

With the addition of these three boys it made us a family of nine children (five at home and four living elsewhere). During the summer of 1919 we all moved to Dwyer, Wyoming where our stepfather had homesteaded. But Mother did not like the house, so in a few months we moved back to Lost Springs. Soon after Mother was offered a large sum for the property in Lost Springs. Actually she was paid \$2.00 an acre for the land (an unheard price in those days). The buyers name was Marquette.

We then moved to Lander, Wyoming and bought a large two story home on Canyon Street. It had a small building on the back of the property, which provided sleeping quarters for the older boys. George Case arrived from Lost Springs a few weeks later, but only stayed at home for a couple of weeks before going to work for the J. D. Wallace family in Lander. Sister Clara Eva had moved to Laramie, Wyoming to work for our Aunt Emma Crater in her boarding house near the University of Wyoming and also go to school. On July 2, 1920 she married William Thomas Cooper.

During our stay in Lander, Charles L. Case and Jake L. Pierce went to work helping to build a dam on the Wind River about 30 miles north of Lander. My stepfather worked for Scott Chevrolet Company as an auto mechanic and helped build an airplane with ski wheels that was used to carry cargo and the U.S. mail from Lander to South Pass, a town of about four or five families, who were isolated five or six months in the winter time because of snow. Also my stepfather conceived an idea of how to build a home from concrete slabs poured on the ground, then lifted into place for the interior and exterior walls leaving a three inch air space between the two walls. His idea was to patent this method.

At Easter time in 1923, my stepfather and I went to Evansville, Wyoming, where he went to work for the White Eagle Refinery. He bought a piece of land directly across the railroad tracks from the new school building (this school building is now the city hall). We proceeded to build a new kind of home. When we had the walls up, the floor laid, the roof on, and the studs up for the interior rooms, Mother and my sister Elsie moved from Lander to Evansville.

In Sept. 1923 my sister Elsie enrolled as a freshman at Casper High School and I attended Evansville School as an eighth grader. While living in Evansville, Dad Pierce bought a cabinet shop in Casper in 1924. I worked in the shop with him in the summer of 1924. That experience was very valuable to me throughout my life.

In September 1924 I entered Casper High School and my brother Charles and stepbrother Jake, who Mother had left in Lander when she moved to Evansville, moved to Portland, Oregon. Charles went to work for our Aunt Emma Case Burnett at her boarding house.

Business in the cabinet shop went bad that winter so Dad Pierce sold the shop, but he could not find any other

work in Evansville or Casper and when he was offered a job by a brother in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, we packed up and took the train to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. From here I moved to a number of different places, but never came back to Wyoming to stay. Only my brother George remained in Lander and he still resides there. Most of the rest of the family removed themselves to places near Portland. Mother and Dad Pierce both are buried there and out of the nine children only George Case and myself Frank Case are still living.

Frank Case

## Castle, Earl and Rosa

Earl Castle was born in Hermosa, South Dakota on July 30, 1894. He came to Wyoming just before the first World War, working in the vicinity of Torrington. After the war began, he joined the army, serving with the 91st Pine Tree Division from Wyoming. After his discharge from the service, he worked on farms near Mitchell, Nebraska. It was at a public auction there that he met Rosa R. Baughman. They were married on August 11, 1920.

Rosa Baughman was born on January 21, 1903 in Paris, Indiana. Her family had moved to Mitchell, Nebraska in 1915 where her father was employed at various jobs, among them being the sugar factory.

In 1923, Earl was given 640 acres of homestead land in Converse County located 42 miles northeast of Douglas, and the family moved to Wyoming to prove up. By this time, the Castles were the parents of two daughters, Della, born in 1921 and Bonnie Lucille, born in 1923. Their home on Lightning Creek was a two room building made from cottonwood logs. The Castles lived there for five years, and at the end of that time, they sold their land to Fred Williams for \$900.00.

Earl helped with the construction of the bridge which was being built across the Platte River. He owned a Model T car which afforded him transportation to and from Douglas to the homestead.



L. to R.: Rosa, Lucille, Earl and Della Castle 1923.

On one occasion, Earl was unable to return home in a severe winter storm and Rosa, with her two small children, was alone in the homestead house. There was no food at all. In a desperate search for food, she was finally able to kill a rabbit in a hollow cottonwood log. After the rabbit went in one end, the log was plugged up and she was able to corner the rabbit. Thus the small family survived until Earl could return with food.

In 1927 Earl found employment with Charles Saul and continued to work for him until 1945. Then he was employed as a fireman at the Prisoner of War Camp at Douglas for four years. In 1949 he worked a year as custodian at the Douglas High School after which he returned to the Saul Ranch to work until 1966. For the next four years he was employed as a caretaker at the Natural Bridge Park, retiring in 1970.

Earl and Rosa bought a home in Douglas on North Third Street and lived there together until Earl's death in 1979 after which Rosa kept her home and resides there today. Earl is buried in the Douglas cemetery.

In addition to their two elder daughters, the Castles were the parents of six other children; Betty Jane, Eileen Vivian, Earl Dean, Donald J., Kathy D., and Luann E. They have 24 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren.

Rosa Castle

## Chambers, James Oliver and Laura

James Oliver Chambers, "Ollie" as everyone knew him, was born July 15, 1863, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Urie Chambers, on a farm near Mechanicsburg, Penn. When about 15 or 16 he went to Kansas where his brother had located.

A short time later he moved to Ogallala, Nebraska where he was employed on Dick Bean's Keystone ranch. Mr. Bean was unable to read or write so he hired Ollie,



J. O. "Ollie" Chambers and George Pike.

although still a teenager, to keep the books on the thousands of cattle that ran on the Keystone.

He came to Douglas for a visit in 1886; two years later he moved to Converse County to stay. He became foreman of the Ogalalla Ranch of Irvine and Associates, a job he was to hold for 13 years.

He went into partnership with George Metcalf, taking over the land where the Double Box brand was run. Later he purchased the Metcalf interest, purchasing and leasing lands to continue in the sheep and cattle business.

Shortly after the turn of the century, Ollie and his brother-in-law, Clarence A. Slonaker, became partners in a transfer business.

On Dec. 16, 1919 he married Laura Gertrude Moffett at Bloomington, Nebraska. A daughter, Christine was born to them.

Mrs. Chambers served as Converse County Librarian from 1935 to 1966 and according to one account 34,808 books were added to the library during her tenure.

Ollie died in Nov. 1948 in Douglas and Laura on May 4, 1978 in San Diego, California.

John Pexton

## Chamberlin, Albert D. and Jennie

Albert D. Chamberlin, one of a family of three children, was born in Dalton, Massachusetts in 1851. He was the son of Albert S. and Martha Mitchell Chamberlin, both of whom had been born and raised in Dalton. Albert's father was a successful businessman, owning and operating a paper manufacturing business in Dalton. The Chamberlin history can be traced back in



Albert D. Chamberlin



Jennie McReynolds Chamberlin, Second Postmaster - 1888

New England to the infant days of the Massachusetts colony. Members of its various generations were connected with affairs of state and operations in the Indian and Revolutionary Wars. The house in which our subject was born was erected by an ancestor in 1797, and has been occupied by some of the Chamberlin family from that time on.

Albert received his education in the public schools in Dalton, later teaching for a time in the elementary grades. He attended the Academy of Massachusetts, and was a student at a Methodist school located in Jamesville, New York after studying at the Academy.

When he had acquired the education he desired, he entered the paper business, working with his father until the Civil War began. The young man then enlisted in the United States Navy, serving through the entire war as a sailor aboard vessels searching for blockade runners along the coast. He was honorably discharged in 1865.

From the time of his discharge until 1881, he was engaged in the manufacture of paper at Westhampton, Massachusetts where he owned and operated a mill. In 1881, he came to Wyoming, locating at Cheyenne and becoming interested in the livestock business. He was in partnership with A. R. Converse and Silas Doty. Together they formed the firm of Chamberlin, Doty and Co. Albert acted as manager of the company's operations until 1886 when he moved to Douglas.

Albert opened a lumber yard in the area before the town of Douglas had actually been established. Besides the lumber business, he was also engaged in unproductive coal and gold mining. He was associated with DeForest Richards in the coal fields at Inez. In this venture, Albert lost all his savings and withdrew from the mining business. Albert was then engaged in a sheep raising business for the next 17 years.



Left to right: Nettie Logan, unknown, Rose Datesman, Anna Schneider, Lena Lucas, Edith Allen, Jennie Chamberlin and Mrs. George Doyle.

In 1889, Albert was married to Jennie McReynolds of Nebraska. Jennie, the youngest of a family of eight children, was born in 1865 at Peru, Nebraska. She received her education there, after which she taught school for a time. She came to Douglas in 1886 with her brother, James. James had been appointed to act as the first postmaster of Douglas. In 1887, Jennie succeeded her brother in that position, becoming the first postmistress of the town. Jennie and Albert had no children.

Albert was appointed registrar of the United States Land Office which was located in Douglas. He served in this position from 1895 until 1904. During this time, Jennie was also associated with the land office.

After her husband's death in 1920, Jennie operated their sheep business with the help of Albert Sims. Later on, however, she sold her sheep and invested in cattle. Besides the land which she and her husband had owned in the Downey Park area, on upper LaPrele, and west of Douglas, Jennie bought land north and east of the town.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlin were active in the community, and contributed a great deal to its growth. A. D. served one term in the State Senate, having been

elected in 1890. He was prominent in Freemasonry, completing thirty-five years as a member and attaining the Knight's Templar degree, as well as the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite.

Jennie was a charter member of the Woodbine Chapter of the Eastern Star. She was a shrewd businesswoman, and successful in the livestock business although she was widowed. She operated her business from her home in Douglas until her death in 1949.

Ruth Grant

## Charles, Lee Gaines and Emma

My grandfather (Lee Gaines Charles), grandmother (Emma Snyder Charles), and my father (Edison L. Charles), moved to Douglas around 1916.

From my father's recollections, my grandfather was responsible for the construction of four or so small frame houses in the "Charles Addition" of Douglas in the early 1900s. He also remembers four remaining vacant lots being sold to a local saddlery owner for use as sheep grazing land. My father even remembers burying a broken watch



in one of those back yards rather than having it found out by his parents. He has a picture taken some 20 years ago showing at least one of those original houses.

During his stay in Douglas, my father remembers several personal events such as entering first grade in Douglas schools around 1919. He vividly recalls being taken to school by his dad and then quickly departing as soon as he was out of sight. He also recalls some sort of big fair in Douglas around that time which was memorable by virtue of a large chocolate bar that he ate all the way home. In first grade my father met a girl named "Hope"; he was so fond of her that he took my grandmother's opal ring from her dresser to give Hope.

In addition to his house building activities in Douglas, my grandfather was a hardware and lumber salesman in the area. Apparently, around 1916, he purchased at least 320 acres about one mile northeast of Orin Junction. At this time the family still receives payment for a lease on the one-half of the land in which he retained oil and mineral rights. The purchaser of the land is not known. After some years in Douglas my father and his parents moved to Casper.

My brother John G. and I visited Douglas with our parents about 20 years ago and succeeded in locating the "Charles Addition". I distinctly remember the wide open spaces and long empty stretches of highway. Although too young to drive legally, my dad let me drive on the highway south out of Douglas. He slouched down to make me appear larger while my mother nearly had a fit in the back seat.

My father hasn't returned to Douglas since except for a side trip or two while in the Denver area. My brother and I visited in 1979, solely to verify property status in Orin Junction and Casper. My brother did drive through Douglas on business a few years ago only to receive a traffic ticket. He appealed the violation on the grounds that the "Charles Addition" made him something of a celebrity and therefore immune. I understand the appeal was denied after much good laughter in the courthouse.

Lee Gaines died in 1932 and Emma in 1966.

In 1984, my father was 70 years old. He always speaks fondly of the good times and good life he enjoyed in the western part of the United States.

Donald L. Charles

## Church Family

A small portion of the Church Family history while they lived near Esterbrook in the 1880s is related by Guy Newell Sr. in his diary.

"Another family among the tie hacks was a man by the name of Church. He moved in with his wife and three beautiful daughters. Well the boys all went hog-wild, there were about seven boys to each girl and the boys all wanted to go with Evelyn, she was beautiful. To go to the Church place on a Sunday was like looking at the Dodger Headquarters. The old man was very congenial and he always had a joke on some of the boys.

"The Churchs ran a boarding house and had a large dining room. They also had a good many dances. On one occasion one of the boys drove a nice driving team and buggy. The night of the dance he came driving up with his

nice team and put them in the Company Barn. George Berry was his name and was one of Evelyn's suitors. During the night old man Church went out and took the hind wheels off the buggy and put them on the front and put the front wheels on the back. Next morning when Berry went to go home he hitched up his horses to the buggy and climbed into the buggy seat beside his girl, whom he was going to take out for a ride. With his eyes on the girl he never noticed the wheels. The old man was watching and he finally said, 'By Gum! Berry, that is a funny looking buggy. I never seen one like that.' Oh boy was Berry's face red.

"Evelyn was a tall girl and she had the longest hair I have ever seen. She was six feet tall and when she let her hair down and was standing up, the hair would touch the floor. She could play the organ and sing. Her sisters were just as good. They sure could furnish good entertainment."

John R. Pexton

## Churchill, Harry and Family

Harry Churchill was born January 1, 1875 in Chicago, Illinois, the son of Emily J. Churchill. Harry's sister, Amy, suffered ill health. It was thought that she was developing tuberculosis, and since a higher, drier climate might prove beneficial to her, Emily brought her two children to Wyoming in 1886.

The Churchills lived at the Henry Hughes ranch in Platte County for a short time, and then moved to Orin, Wyoming. Harry's mother eventually married George Howe who owned property along the Platte River.

Harry entered into business for himself, owning and operating the Orin Hotel. He was married to Cora Hughes



L. to R.: Ed Schneider and Harry Churchill.



on December 7, 1906. Cora, who was born June 24, 1883, was a native of Colby, Kansas. To this union, four children were born; Emily (b. 1907, d. 1976), Mariatt John Harvey (b. 1909, d. 1941), Sylvia (b. 1913) and Elizabeth (b. 1914).

Harry and Cora Churchill separated when the children were still young. Therefore, Harry and his oldest daughter, Emily, raised the family. They raised a huge garden, cows and hogs, and kept several horses. Harry's step-father, George Howe, had an ice house close to the river. Harry put up ice there in winter, and peddled it to the townspeople during the summer.

Congenial and friendly, Mr. Churchill was willing to help his fellow man in almost any way he could. On one occasion, a train load of Mexican cattle was shipped into Orin. It was customary for ranchers to buy cattle from Texas or Mexico, ship them to Orin, and then trail them to the open range. Most of the cattle arrived in very poor flesh. This load of cattle encountered bad weather on their trip to Wyoming and by the time they reached Orin, most of them had died in the cars. It fell to Harry Churchill to get the carcasses out of the cars and dispose of them. He accomplished the first task with a great deal of difficulty, and then he was faced with burying them. He enlisted some help from the townspeople, and with teams of horses, they plowed ground and removed the dirt with slips to make a large hole. Once the carcasses had been dragged into the hole, they covered them up



L. to R.: Back Row, Harvey Churchill, unknown, Mr. Hughes, Cora Churchill. Front row, Sylvia Churchill, Betty Churchill.



Large oil spill at Orin 1920s.



L. to R.: Everett Weaklin, Bud Pollock, Harvey Churchill and Amy Weaklin.

with dirt.

Harvey, Harry's son, was duck hunting on the river with Buster Pollock. The boy was accidentally shot and for a time, it seemed that he would not survive but he finally recovered. It was to affect him for the remainder of his life, however, and he died a young man at the age of 32.

The Churchill children received their elementary education in Orin, later attending the high school in Douglas. In 1930, Harry moved his family to Douglas where he was employed by the Douglas Wool Warehouse. He was married to Elsie Snyder on September 26, 1939. After her death in 1943, Harry made his home with his daughter, Sylvia Ridgeway. He died on December 6, 1957 and is buried in the Douglas cemetery. Harry's first wife, Cora, died in Douglas in 1964.

Sylvia Churchill Ridgeway

## Clausen, Hans Peter and Nellie

Hans Peter Clausen was one of the early homesteaders in Converse County. He was born in Denmark. There he learned the butcher trade working with his father. He came to the United States in 1908. He worked on the Milwaukee Railroad for a time before he moved on west to Osceola, Nebraska. In Osceola, he entered the butchering business and became a naturalized citizen.

In 1914 he enlisted in the 114th Infantry and served on the Mexican Border. He received his discharge at the end of the war and returned to Osceola and continued in the butchering business.

In 1918 he came to Douglas and took up a homestead about 17 miles north of Douglas in the Lightning Creek area. During the early days on his homestead he worked at several outside jobs. He worked in the Big Muddy Oil Fields near Glenrock when it was covered with wooden

derricks on the wells. He worked for Casper Packing Company as a butcher when it was first starting. He also worked for Arnold's Meat Market in Douglas at different times.

On January 9, 1919, Hans married Nellie Matilda Anderson. She was born November 9, 1891. She came to Douglas from Stromsburg, a Swedish settlement in eastern Nebraska and took up a homestead near Hans. Her brother, Frank Anderson, came from Stromsburg also and took up a homestead a few miles farther north.

Nellie walked several miles to get her mail through a lot of cattle because it was all open range. She used to tell about one day she was walking after her mail and the whole herd of cattle surrounded her. She didn't know what to do for a little bit, but soon thought of the umbrella she carried. She put it out in front of her and started opening and closing it and running at the cattle. It worked. They turned and left at full speed.

Seven children were born to this union: Francis of Douglas (born June 27, 1920), Clara, deceased (born



Pete Clausen with three of his children, L. to R.: Clara, James and Esther.

December 5, 1921), James, south of Douglas (born July 8, 1923), Esther Schnoor of Casper (born March 22, 1925), Newton of Riverton (born November 17, 1927), Marie Jones of Beucyrus, Missouri (born June 29, 1929); and Arthur of The Dalles, Oregon (born May 3, 1935).

Pete, as he was known to his many friends and neighbors, was a respected and well liked member of his community. He was always willing to help anybody that needed a helping hand.

Hans (Pete) and Nellie spent their years together on his homestead to which they added her homestead and several homesteads they purchased from others that had proved up on them, lived on them sometimes for several years, sold out and moved on.

Hans died October 31, 1943. Nellie died June 16, 1967. They are both buried in the Douglas Cemetery.

James Clausen

## Clay, Charles and Agnes

Charles Edward Clay was born in Bedford County, Virginia November 18, 1838 on his father's plantation near Lynchburg. His father, Paulus Aurelius Clay, was the son of Charles Clay, an Episcopal minister and close friend of Thomas Jefferson, also first cousin of Henry Clay. His mother was Mary Louise Watkins.

Charles had three sisters, Margaret, Sallie (b. 1850 in

Virginia, d. in Wyoming) and Nannie Elizabeth (b. January 20, 1847 in Virginia, d. 1938 in Cheyenne, Wyoming), and one brother William Landon (b. March 28, 1855 in Virginia and d. April 17, 1939 in Cheyenne, Wyoming).

When Virginia seceded from the Union the family moved to Richmond. His mother died when William was a small child. Both William and Nannie were raised by a black mammy governess.

Charles was educated at William and Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia. Charles' father was a close friend of Robert E. Lee. Charles fought in the Civil War and was a Captain in the 2nd Virginia Cavalry, serving under General Fitzhugh Lee. Both Nannie and Charles witnessed Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse. Nannie's view was from the branches of a cherry tree.

Charles left Virginia after the Civil War and moved to Wyoming, at that time a part of the Dakota Territory. He worked for W. G. Bullock, a friend of his father from Virginia, as a freighter. Later Charles "Charley" Clay owned one of the two biggest ox team freight hauling outfits in the territory. Freighting between Fort Laramie, Cheyenne, Red Cloud Agency and Fort Robinson, Nebraska. "Bullwhackers" moved merchandise between the wide open spaces of the 1870s transporting 150,000 pounds on each average trip, using both single wagon and double-hookups. Five yokes of oxen were used on a single wagon, six yokes when two wagons were hitched together. Where the ground was soft or an abundance of sand the driver often had to make a new trail, a trip generally taking thirty to forty days. Once while freighting to Red Cloud Agency with 50,000 pounds of sugar across the North Platte River when it was at flood stage, everything got wet except the sugar which was in barrels "but they didn't pry into its condition when it was delivered."

Charley married firstly, a Sioux Indian, Lulu, sometime after 1865. They were parents of four children, Hattie, Susie, Emma and Johnnie. Lulu died before 1873 and was buried at the Sioux Agency in South Dakota.

Charley's sister Nannie and his father Paulus arrived from Virginia on September 6, 1873. Nannie was to take care of Charley's children. They were greeted by a sand storm upon arriving in Cheyenne. Charley had a house on 21st Street for them. There were 12 trees in Cheyenne at that time; and when Charley freighted to Cheyenne he corraled his wagons where the city park is now. Nannie and Charley planted the first trees east of the Priest's home on 21st Street.

After Charley married in 1876, Nannie became a seamstress. On January 26, 1881, she married John Raven Steele of England. He worked for the Swan Land & Cattle Co. Later they owned their own spread. John died in 1891. Nannie nursed Tom Horn when he had Cuban fever. She knew and was a neighbor of William Booker, John and Tom Hunton, Hi Kelly and many others. After selling her ranch she moved to Cheyenne.

William "Bill" joined his family in Wyoming in 1875 and worked for his brother Charley freighting. In 1878 he entered the stock business at Chimney Rock below Chugwater. Paulus returned to Virginia in 1877 where he died in 1880.

Charles married secondly, Miss Mary Agnes Abney,



Charles Clay, Justice of the Peace - 1886

daughter of John Abney of Cheyenne on October 19, 1876 at the home of Jackson Abney, her brother in Cheyenne. Chas. F. Miller and Nannie E. Clay were witnesses, J. Y. Cowhick, Presbyterian minister married them. They lived in Cheyenne for a number of years where three daughters were born to them. Mae (1877-1880), Maude (b. Sept. 27, 1880, m. E. M. Lovell Sept. 4, 1907, Kelso, Washington, d. May 13, 1967 Grants Pass, Oregon), Beth (b. July 23, 1883, m. W. J. Moore August 15, 1899, Elma, Washington, d. April 12, 1976 Ashland, Oregon). The Clays moved to Rock Creek in 1883 where Charley had a store. A son, Charles E. Clay, Jr., was born (Sept. 2, 1885, m. Veda Byles Oct. 30, 1906, Elma, Washington, d. May 1, 1953 Inglewood, California).

Charles Clay was a tall man of slender build, had auburn hair and blue eyes. Mary Agnes was small and had brown hair and grey eyes and was of a determined nature.

On their way to their ranch Mr. Bryant Brooks (later governor of Wyoming) brought his wife by train as far as Rock Creek. There was no hotel there — but Charley invited them to stay. Clay met them and explained his wife had gone to a dance (according to Maude Clay her mother would rather dance than anything in the world). Charley took the Brooks to the Clays' living quarters over the merchandise store. Agnes, wearing a long white "Mother Hubbard" dress and a man's black hat, came to extend a welcome and invited them to the dance. Mrs. Brooks declined, and Agnes Clay nonchalantly told them to "make yourselves at home" and returned to the dance.

The store was sold to William Taylor in 1886 preparatory to moving to the new town of Douglas. His merchandise was packed for shipment when a fire broke out, which resulted in a total loss. An item in the Douglas Budget of June 9, 1886 "C. E. Clay's loss thru a recent blaze at Rock Creek was \$12,000. last week." On November 5, 1887 Laramie Weekly Sentinel this item is listed, "The most novel and interesting case in court this week was the suit of Chas. Clay against William Taylor of Rock Creek. Mr. Clay charged Mr. Taylor with having slandered him by accusing him of setting fire to his store. The jury found Mr. Taylor guilty and gave a verdict in favor of Mr. Clay for \$1,000. damages. It was a novel suit, for this country, and attracted considerable attention. Here-to-fore it has always been supposed a man or a woman could say what they pleased about their neighbors, but it appears there is a new law against it and it may be well for the public to know the fact and govern themselves according." It is thought \$12,000 was a typographical error.

One week before the disastrous fire, Charley Clay had donated and shipped his private library to the Board of Regents of the Wyoming University. "The collection consists of several hundred very choice and valuable historical and classical scientific papers. Some being old and very rare, and being in the family for more than a century and some of which are 246 years old." Laramie Weekly Sentinel April 10, 1886. His name and deed were placed in the cornerstone of the University, Old Main Building.

In June 1886 Douglas wanted law and order. Petitions were circulated and signed. C. E. Clay was appointed resident justice of the peace and J. W. Overman as con-

stable.

While serving as justice of the peace he was threatened by gambler friends of a dance hall bouncer he had sentenced to jail for beating a cowboy.

"You've got to suspend that jail sentence" said one "If you don't we'll tar and feather you and ride you out of town on a rail."

Clay, without answering, walked back of the bench and took out a pistol containing a double charge of powder and shot. The gun, he said, "will always be here to make that sentence good."

Another example of Justice in the West. A. Meyers was shot and killed on Tuesday, by an employee Jesse Richabaugh who gave himself up on Wednesday. Judge Clay empanelled a jury and held an examination, resulting in the discharge on the grounds of self-defense.

On July 28, 1886 Clay's large stock of groceries arrived by rail and he set up store in one-half of Wagner & Son's tent.

On September 19, 1886, the first school board elections were held, C. E. Clay was elected to serve as trustee and act as treasurer. The first school was held in a shack tent with Miss Cora Rice, teacher, with 45 pupils enrolled. Miss Rice contracted typhoid fever a few months later and died. Miss Maggie Brewster was hired to finish the school year.

When lots went on sale September 30, 1886, 242 were sold in the first four days. Owners conducted business upon the back of their lots until new buildings could be constructed. A number of wells were dug, hitching racks for horses put up, and folks went to nearby hills and dug out coal for fuel. The winter of 1886-1887 was extremely cold with deep snow most of the time.

November 1886 a meeting was held and funds pledged, with a committee formed to collect the necessary data to boost for the incorporation of Douglas. M. C. Barrow and Judge Clay were sent to visit Laramie and Cheyenne to gather the necessary information. In March 1887 the census listed 805 souls in Douglas. A mass meeting was held March 10th and it was decided to incorporate. The commissioners of Albany Co. voted favorably in September; and on October 3, 1887, city officials were elected. C. E. Clay becoming a councilman.

Decoration Day in May 1887 was the first public parade marshalled by R. S. Brown and Luke Usher; carrying the colors were 28 veterans and 10 little girls dressed in white. An elaborate program was held at the Slaughter Opera House. Two Confederate veterans, C. E. Clay and George Donnelly, occupied seats on the stage.

C. E. Clay was a very active member of the Ashlar Lodge U.S.A.F. & A.M. when it was organized in Douglas, appointed on the finance committee. He was also a member of the Knights of Pythias, and a honored member of the Eastern Star and Rathbone Sisters.

Because of the poor economy it was necessary for Charley Clay to close his large mercantile establishment in August of 1887. He retained his transportation contracts.

C. E. Clay served in the House of Representatives 1890-1891.

In the early part of 1891, the Clay family moved to Ocosta, Washington where they lived until 1898, moving then to Elma, Washington where he was the marshal.

Charley's wife Mary Agnes was born December 31, 1858 in St. Joseph, Missouri died in Elma on August 22, 1904.

In August of 1905 while attempting to arrest Sam Tremaine of Montesano, "who was filled up with 'bad whiskey' but as he resisted, Clay had to use force, knocking Sam down to get the 'nippers' upon him." After placing Sam in a cell, Clay stepped back to close the door when Tremaine kicked him "striking a truss he wore and inflicting what has since proved to be a fatal wound."

Marshal Clay died August 18, 1905, four days after the attack. Both C. E. Clay and his wife Agnes are buried in the Masonic Cemetery, Elma, Washington.

Virginia Lovell Morehead

## Clay, Walter and Margaret Family

William Clay's parents were born in Lincolnshire, England. His father was a farmer. William was born July 10, 1826 in Gedney, Lincolnshire. He had nine children. He left England in December 1852, landing in New York the following January. He then settled in Albion, New York for three years, moved on to Michigan where he lived for nine years, then to Iowa where he remained only a few years, until his wife died. In 1868, he and his family, along with 16 other families, went by wagon to Nebraska. They were known as the Iowa colony.

George Clay, son of William, was a successful farmer in Panama, Nebraska. He married and had two sons, Walter Ernest Clay and Wallace Clay. His wife died and he remarried, having five more children.

Walter Clay, son of George, was born March 16, 1897 in Panama, Nebraska. On October 5, 1897 he married Margaret Schellinger. He farmed and also worked on the railroad. On April 28, 1900, a daughter was born, Fern Lila Blanche Clay. In 1914, Walter decided to take his family to Wyoming and take out a homestead, after hearing from his brother, Wallace Clay, who had come out about two years before. Marvin Schellinger, father of Margaret Schellinger Clay, and Wallace Clay's sister-in-law, Goldie Sorenson, age 16, loaded their things with the Clay's, in a covered wagon which was pulled by a team of mules.

Fern relates the following story of the trip:

"When we left Panama, we ate an early breakfast, washed the dishes and put them in the cupboard as though we'd be back soon. We took supplies, clothes, and enough dishes and cooking utensils. The first day out, a runaway horse came towards our mules scaring them, almost causing an accident. We made about 25 miles a day, although we never traveled on Sunday. That was the day for washing and baking bread, and also letting the mules rest.

"We took the southern route, leaving Panama through Crete, Hastings, Kearney, Gothenburg, North Platte, Ogallala, Lodgepole, Sidney, Kimball, Bushness, up to Harrisburg, Nebraska, then on to Huntley, Wyoming, Fort Laramie, Guernsey, Dwyer, McKinley, to Douglas. The people were very friendly along the way. They would bring us milk and sometimes a big treat was lemonade. We would stop and visit with those who were close to the road.

"In Lodgepole, the wind blew our wagon over, then one day we traveled all morning without seeing anyone. My dad had to hook the team up and move out of the road so cars could go by. We only saw one car on the entire trip.

"My dad got sick while we were at Sidney and a farmer, whose place was nearby, took him to the doctor. Goldie and I had a chance to play and go to school and visit. We played ball and had a good time for the four days we were there. We arrived in Orin Junction May 15, 1914, where Wallace Clay was living. He was working for the Burlington Railroad. We visited there a couple of days, then went on to Douglas.

"Walter worked building road under the railroads a short time, then worked on a ranch. Around August, he took out a homestead. We put up a tent, which I slept in, and Mom and Dad used the top of the wagon to sleep under, until they got our one-room house done. My granddad, Marvin Schellinger, also took out a homestead joining us. I started to school about two miles west of Irvine. I had to walk five miles to and from school. Miss Ada Newsom was my teacher."

"In 1915, Fern Clay met Fred Duran, who was born in Durana, Spain, May 30, 1888. He came to the United States in 1912, settling in Iowa. In 1914, he came to Casper, worked at the Roundhouse, and for the Standard Refinery. Two brothers, Justo and Thomas, were already in Casper. Justo worked around Casper and Thomas went to Salt Lake and worked in the mines, then back to Superior, Wyoming where he worked the mines there. In 1915 Fred took a homestead joining the Clays. On September 26, 1916 Fred and Fern were united in marriage. They built a one-room house, got their water from a spring which was about a quarter of a mile from the house. Fred built most of his furniture, and bought a new cooking range. Fred continued to work for Standard Refinery until 1917 when he quit and joined Fern on the homestead. He farmed and also worked for the Northwestern Railroad and other jobs, so they could improve on the homestead. He did this for about two years, then he just farmed and ranched. On June 29, 1918 a son was born, George Wayne Duran. In 1920 Fern went to work in Orin Junction at a restaurant for Ourgos leaving George with her mother "Maggie" Clay. She worked for about three months. In 1923, she cooked for the Northwestern Gravel Pit crew for about four months, near Irvine.

The neighbors were the John Lefflers, Bert Moss, John and Ed Schneider, Therman Days, George and Ed Jewell, Tom Christophers, who operated the River View Ranch, Inc., and Henry DeHaan. We traveled by horse and buggy, or horse and wagon. We used the wagon to go to town for supplies, and the buggy for smaller trips. We would go to our neighbors for dances, card playing, ball games, and picnicked by the North Platte River. We all took turns and had a lot of fun.

In 1924, we added two rooms to our one-room house.

On December 14, 1927, a daughter, Lettie Louise Duran, was born.

In 1928, Walter and Margaret Clay moved into Douglas and Fred Duran took their homestead.

Fred Duran died in 1945.

Fern is now living with her daughter, Lettie, in Fruita, Colorado.

Fern Duran Spellman



## Clayton, Ernest M. and Marie

Ernest Mayer Clayton and wife, Marie (Mayme) Hardee King Clayton with daughters Virginia and Edith, seven and five respectively, arrived in Douglas April 16, 1917 after leaving Denver, Colorado April 12th. According to our father's diary, it took three and one half days to get to Douglas from Denver. I, Virginia, remember sitting on an apple crate in the back of the Pierce Arrow truck. I don't remember how we spent the nights on the way to Douglas as there were no motels then. Possibly we camped or slept in the truck.

The first home I remember in Douglas was a small house in a large lot next to the Carey's, (the house Cecil Stark rebuilt) at the south end of Fifth Street. The William Winslows lived across the street.

Shortly after coming to Douglas, Mr. Clayton bought a homestead for himself and one for his mother, who came out from Pennsylvania to stay with us. The homestead was northeast of Douglas in Lowry's pasture (Fiddleback Ranch on Box Creek). As I recall, it was a rather



Ernest Clayton's Buick on Center St. Douglas 1920s

dreary place and must have been mostly prairie as I remember watching the clouds cast cooling shadows on the ground and I would try to get into the shadow before it moved. There were also rattlesnakes, coyotes, gophers and antelope around. Our father built a small house for his family and one for his mother. A short time later our father started working in Midwest, or near there, and our mother said she would not stay out in that lonely and barren place alone with two small children. Soon the homestead was sold and we came back to town.

Shortly after John, our brother, was born on March 6, 1918, we moved downtown and lived behind our father's electrical shop on Center Street. Dr. Hylton and his family lived in the building next door to us. Dr. Hylton had his office in the building. There were so many beautiful big trees lining the streets. In the summer we would like to sit in the car under a big tree and watch what was going on along the street. Saturdays, we kids would go to the matinee and see the movies where the heroine was either on the railroad track with a train bearing down or she was clinging to a tree over the side of a cliff. My favorite was Ruth Roland with her beautiful long dark curls.

Our dad loved to go fishing and every weekend in the

summer, rain or shine, we were camping in the mountains. One of our highlights was Lisle Pexton's ranch.

Aside from the electric shop, our father did photography. He built his own enlarging box and would enlarge prints from many of the snapshots of beautiful mountain scenes he had taken. Two I remember well were the Natural Bridge and the Medicine Bow Falls where we would go fishing. He taught our mother the finishing process and she did the picture work that came into the shop plus the work for the two drug stores, Goodrich's and Steffen's.

Any old timer in Douglas can tell you the Claytons had the meanest Airdale dog in town. All walkers preferred the other side of the street. And later, our mother had a Myna bird that whistled at all passersby.

About 1927, our father bought the Cummings house on South Fifth Street. We lived there for many years and our mother continued to live there after Mr. Clayton's death on May 7, 1958. It was home to our mother until her death on January 14, 1972.

There were four children; Virginia Reynolds Marmaduke of Denver, Edith Morton Knisely of Douglas, John lost at sea in World War II, and Mary Clough of Douglas.

Virginia Clayton Marmaduke

## Clayton, George P. and Jennie

George Clayton was born at Monroe, Wisconsin on July 19, 1854. He first saw Wyoming in 1882 while helping on a trail drive that drove 10,000 cattle from Walla Walla, Washington. Previous to that he had been Postmaster in Sidney, Nebraska before going to Washington.

On March 3, 1885 he was married to Jennie E. Sutcliffe. Jennie was born in Little Rock, Arkansas on January 19, 1868. She and her family came west in 1879 and settled in Fort Steele, Wyoming. In a short time the family moved on to Fort Laramie and in 1882 moved to Fort McKinney near Buffalo, Wyoming. It was here that Jennie met George.

By the end of 1885 they moved to Fort Fetterman where they resided for three years. In 1888 George and Jennie homesteaded in Batts Canyon southeast of Glenrock. Mrs. Blanche Duncan lives there now.

George and Jennie had five children; Vern, Plin, Earl, Irene and Velma. George died in Glenrock on November 4, 1936.

Earl S. Clayton was born on January 23, 1891 in Glenrock. He was married to Gertrude Lythgoe, daughter of Joseph and Jenne Lythgoe, on September 9, 1916. They had one son, Evert, who was born in 1917 and died in 1958.

Earl served as a deputy sheriff in Glenrock for four years and was a mail carrier for years on the Boxelder Route. He served as a Converse County Commissioner from 1937 to 1949. He was appointed County Assessor in 1949 and served in that capacity until his death on April 3, 1958. Gertrude, or "Gertie" as she was better known, died on May 7, 1984.

John R. Pexton

## Clelland, L. W. and Olive

L. W. Clelland was born in Ohio on the 13th of December, 1847, son of William A. and Betsy (Ricketts) Clelland. His father was a cabinet maker by trade and in 1849 he left his Ohio home en route for Council Bluffs, Iowa, after which he was never heard from again. L. W.'s mother died when he was three months old.

On February 25, 1873 he was married to Olive Guthrie, daughter of Isaac F. and Rachel Guthrie. Olive was born on September 13, 1853 in Marion County, Ohio.

Coming to Wyoming in 1881, he settled on Wagonhound Creek, south of Douglas. Olive's brothers, Will and Silas Guthrie, had previously settled nearby on Wagonhound and West Fork LaBonte.

He was appointed deputy county clerk in 1891 when his brother-in-law was elected Converse County Clerk. The appointment was the start of his involvement in county government that was to be a part of his life until his death.

In 1902 he was chosen county treasurer and occupied that position for four years. In 1906 he was elected to the office of county clerk and served in that capacity for four years. In 1910 he was chosen to represent his district in the state legislature and in 1912 became the candidate of his party for the state senate but lost the election by a single vote. In 1916 he was once more elected county clerk and served until 1921.

Mr. Clelland purchased the old Fort Fetterman land site when it was sold in the 1890s. He operated a sheep ranch using the Fetterman site as his headquarters.

L. W. died on May 13, 1922; Olive on December 31, 1924.

John R. Pexton

## Clough, Albert and Mayme Family

Albert Aaron Clough came to Douglas in 1896 at the age of 23. He had worked as a youngster on the Council Bluff Non-Pariel to learn the printing trade and also in Omaha at the Omaha World Herald. He entered the employ of Bill Barlow's Budget located in a frame building south of and adjacent to the present Bolln grocery store. He became foreman and later co-owner. In 1914, he and M. R. Collins sold The Budget to Thomas F. Doyle who came here with his family from Omaha. Mr. Doyle's first issue of The Budget was December 3, 1914. Following the death of Robert F. Potter, who established the Douglas Enterprise in 1907, Mr. Clough became one of the owners and active manager of The Enterprise. In 1922, he recruited Floyd W. "Bart" Bartling from the Casper Tribune to work as machinist-linotypist. Bart worked for 18 months at The Enterprise. The Enterprise grew to be recognized as one of the outstanding weekly publications in the state. Mr. Clough, better known as Bert to his friends, continued as publisher and active manager until his death.

On July 6, 1904, Bert and Mayme L. Jarchow were married in the Episcopal Church in Douglas. Mayme was the daughter of William and Mary Jarchow who came here from Iowa about 1899. Mr Jarchow was proprietor of



Clough family in "Our Jitney"

the Sanitary Market. Mayme and her sister Josephine were members of the first graduating class from Douglas High School in 1902. Josephine married William Ernest Adams in April 1905.

The Cloughs and Collins had a mountain cabin a few miles southwest of Cold Springs. It was a 2-3 hour drive each way, depending on how many times one got stuck during mountain showers. On the way we always watched for the Bear rock.

The cabin site was an idyllic spot-rocks to climb and beside the cabin a sparkling stream crossed by two rustic foot bridges. On the creekbed, fool's gold glistened in the sunlight. They often invited friends to the cabin for weekends. Upon arrival, the women would start peeling, slicing and frying potatoes while the men set out for favorite spots to fish, confident of a good catch for supper.

Now the cabin is gone and a dirt road crosses the sparkling stream. The area is known as the Campbell Creek Campground.

Bert and Mayme had two sons; Frederick of Boulder, Colorado and Albert of Douglas. Bert died on November 14, 1936 at age 63, Mayme on May 14, 1980.

Mary Clough

## Cole, Elvin "Red" and Cora Family

Elvin "Red" Cole was born in Miller, Nebraska, November 14, 1903, son of Eugene and Hattie Morgan Cole. His father and mother came to Wyoming in 1917 to homestead on Spring Creek, south of Douglas in Converse County. Red was 14 years old at this time, about the middle of eleven children. His folks proved up on the homestead, and then Red's father moved to Glendo to run a blacksmith shop, which he continued running until 1945 when he retired. Eugene died in 1948 at the age of 85.

Cora Jane Lees was born at Cora, Wyoming, and was named Cora after the town where she was born. She was born November 28, 1910, daughter of Chet Elmer and Maude Dehorety Lees, and was the next to the youngest of seven children. Her father drove a freight wagon from the lumber camps around Pinedale to Rock Springs for several years. Then they moved to the ranch where Lone



L. to R.: Eugene, Elvin, Stanley, Bernice, Lyle and Cora Cole holding Norma. "Getting ready to go to a rodeo."

Tree Bible Ranch is located now. Her father died in 1924 of heart trouble.

Red Cole married Cora Lees in Douglas on August 18, 1925. They moved to the Hern place at Orin after they were married. They went to Nebraska for a short time to harvest beets and their eldest child, Lyle Dean was born there. When Lyle was only one month old they moved back to the ranch in Wyoming, near Orin.

Bernice and Betty were both born in Glendo at Red's folks' place with a doctor coming down from Douglas. Cora almost lost her life when Betty was born because the doctor had already gone back to Douglas when she started to hemorrhage. Through the nursing of her mother-in-law and her father-in-law elevating the bed with bricks, her life was spared.

Stanley, Norma, and Janice were born in Smith's Maternity Home in Douglas.

The highlight of the year in those days was going to the Wyoming State Fair. Everyone went and they would meet at the North Platte River for picnic lunch with their neighbors. They had rodeos in which everyone participated. They played musical chairs on horseback, and had wild cow milking, kid's pony races, lady's quarter mile horse races, potato races, stake races, and the bed roll races. Besides this, they had the events that we have today of calf roping, steer wrestling, bareback and saddle bronc riding.

Red and Cora and all the children participated in these events. They not only participated in state fair rodeos, but traveled for miles around to take part in rodeos. They would always have to get up real early and do all the chores and even have to make preparations for the animals at night time in case they had to stay overnight.

They never missed a rodeo, no matter what they had to go through to get there. They would pack a big lunch because sometimes it would have to be for supper too.

One of the Coles' special events was the wild horse race. They had a team that participated in this for many years. Red, or one of the boys would ride, one would mug (hold the horse's head while biting it's ear), and one held the rope. Some of the Cole boys are still taking part in the wild horse race in the Guernsey Old Timer's Rodeo.

The older boy, Lyle, competed in his first kid's pony race at the state fair in 1932 when he was seven years old,

riding old Brownie.

They had quite some experiences through the years in the rodeos. One time, when Red and Van Irvine were in the wild cow milking at the state fair, Van roped the cow and Red was supposed to mug the cow for Van to milk it. However, somehow the rope broke, so Red grabbed hold of the cow's tail and held the cow that way until Van could mug it. Then Red grabbed the bottle from Van, milked the cow, and ran to the judge to win third place in the race. The crowd went wild about that one.

One time, years later, Stanley was riding in the wild horse race at the state fair. Stanley's horse was well on the way to winning the race when it turned around. It hit head-on with Donald Brow's horse. The collision killed both horses and put both men in the hospital, but they weren't badly hurt, fortunately. Stanley didn't want their team to draw out of the race so Lyle Cole got permission from the fair board to take Stanley's place riding. He got Walt Davies to mug for him and they won a first one day and a third the next.

Another time, when Lyle and Bernice were quite small, they didn't have the price of admission into the fairgrounds, so they decided to slip through a hole in the board fence. All went well until they came face to face with a Brahma bull that had gotten out of the arena. They made tracks getting out of there, you can bet, and fortunately made it out ok before the bull took them.

Red Cole and family ran sheep in the years 1941, 1942 and 1943. They had moved out to the Powell place west of town, and the kids rode horseback to the Pleasant Valley School. During a blizzard of April 1945, they lost a lot of sheep and were forced out of the sheep business and moved into town. They then moved to the place where they are living now, at #32 Irvine Road.

They contracted to bale hay then and baled hay for people all over the county. They had a hay baler that they had to block and tie the bales themselves. They had a matching team of black horses, Boots and Toots, that they used to sweep up the bales. Lyle's wife, Faun, learned how to harness the team and sweep the bales, while Lyle piled them without benefit of a farmhand, dragging them to the top of the stack. The rest of the family mowed the hay, raked it, and ran the baler.

Red's favorite horse was old Sox, who lived to the ripe old age of 21. In the forties, when Sox was 14 years old, Red entered the endurance horse race from Gillette to Douglas. Stanley rode in the race, at the age of 13, one of the youngest ones to enter. The race took place on June 12, 1947 and there were six inches of snow in Douglas that day. Red completed the race on old Sox, and Sox lived on for seven more years so guess it didn't hurt him any. Sox was a priceless horse because he was used for rodeoing and roping as well as a cow pony and also was a really good, gentle kid's pony. He was one of those rare horses that could do almost anything.

In August 1952, Norma and Stanley represented Wyoming in the National High School Rodeo in Augusta, Montana. That was in the years before Wyoming had a state high school rodeo. So they qualified to go to Nationals in a state high school rodeo in Nebraska. Norma competed in barrel racing, pole bending as well as competing in the queen contest using one of their favorite horses, Scarlet. Norma did not win as queen, but was voted on by

her fellow contestants to receive the clock trophy for sportsmanship. Stanley competed in roping events and also the boy's cow cutting contest. Norma and Stanley were among the first contestants to compete in the State and National High School Rodeos from Wyoming.

In 1977, Red Cole was honored at the Wyoming State High School Rodeo in Buffalo for being a long-time rodeo supporter of the state high school rodeo and for having seven grandchildren performing in the state rodeo at one time. This was a state record. Those grandchildren taking part in the rodeo that year were; David Cole, Dixie Huxtable, Janet Steckley, Glenn Cole, Ronald (Strawberry) Cole, Donita Steckley and Jimmy Huxtable. Ronda Sedgewick, rodeo organist and writer, wrote an article about Red Cole and his rodeo family for the national rodeo paper as well as the local papers.

In 1977, Janet Steckley represented Wyoming as Miss Rodeo Wyoming in the Miss Rodeo American Pageant in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Red and Cora Cole raised all six of their children here in Converse County and they still live here except for Stanley and Linda Cole who have the Cole Lumber and Construction Co. in Wheatland.

Cora Cole still resides in her home on Irvine Road, south of Douglas. She and her son, Lyle, run cattle south of Douglas on a ranch on Irvine Road. She also has Cole's Trailer Court, south of town on Irvine Road. Red Cole died on October 18, 1979 following a short illness. Cora will often be found at rodeos and other sporting events that her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are participating in. She also bowls on two teams. Of course, she misses Red a lot, but she is carrying on all the activities they enjoyed doing together.

We are proud of this family and the contribution they made to Converse County and especially to the sport of rodeo in this state.

Faun D. Cole  
as told by Cora Jane Cole

## Collins, M. R. "Ral", Florence and Anna

McDonald Ravelin Collins was born in DeSota, Iowa, Nov. 9, 1868, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Collins. His mother died when he was a small child. For eight years the family lived in Iowa and then moved to Aurora, Illinois, where they made their home for seven years and where Collins received his first education.

The next move was a response to the call of the West and the family went from Illinois to North Loup, Nebraska, living there for about a year. In 1886, Ral, as he was popularly called, and his father went to Lusk where Ral started his long and successful business career.

He worked for his uncle, Dennis Collins, in the old Lusk Hotel for a time and then joined Nat Baker in the mercantile business. Soon, he bought the store, changing the name from Baker-Collins to Collins Mercantile Company and then after several months, Harry Snyder bought an interest and the name was changed again to Collins-Snyder. After this venture, Ral held a position as cashier of the Lusk Bank.

While living in Lusk, he was married to Miss Florence Adele Jenks of that town. One child, Florence, was born to them. Mrs. Collins died when their daughter was one year old.

Collins was on the board of county commissioners in Converse County when the present counties of Niobrara and Converse were a single unit, known as Converse County.

He moved to Douglas in 1905, becoming manager of the Douglas Mercantile Co. and later was associated with the First National Bank of Douglas for a short time. He also held an interest in the George Bolln Co., with Waldo Bolln, George Bolln and Wilkie Collins, his brother.

In 1907 he organized the Douglas National Bank and was elected it's first president, capably filling that position until his untimely death.

He served the town of Douglas as a mayor and was a president of the Wyoming Banker's Association at one time. He was secretary of the first Wyoming State Fair and the first secretary of the Good Roads Club, one of the first town clubs. Besides taking an active part in these organizations, he served on the school board of the Converse County High School and on that of District 17.

He was always a staunch booster and benefactor in building and improving roads in the community. One of his chief accomplishments was assisting in the establishment and routing of the Yellowstone Highway for publication in the Blue Book, a guide book of the old days which was probably the most authentic information for tourists at that time.

Largely through his efforts the Fort Fetterman U.S. wood reserve on Boxelder Creek was deeded to Converse County by the government for park purposes.

On July 31, 1916, he was married to Mrs. Anna Potter, the widow of Robert Francis Potter, and became the instant father of five young children. He was a devoted husband and very good father to the Potter children.

Ral loved to fish and for many years, he shared a lease with Bert Clough, on the old house at the deserted lumber mill above Cold Springs. The two families spent most of the summer weekends in the old cabin in the mountains where they all fished and sometimes hunted prairie chickens and generally had a wonderful time in the outdoors.

In the spring, as soon as the snow was gone from the roads, the Collins and Clough families, with their friends, drove up to Cold Springs for a stay in the house there for the weekend. Many times the cars would get stuck in the soggy place on the unsurfaced road and the men would have to corduroy the place with boughs and small limbs from the trees to pull the cars out and onward. It was a difficult trip a lot of times but after reaching their destination all the passengers felt it was worth the effort.

Ral's daughter, Florence, was married to John Peterson in Douglas and they had two children there before moving to California to live.

In February 1935 Ral was working in his front yard when he fell and broke his hip. He suffered from that for ten days and could not recover. He died on Feb. 13. He was buried with Masonic rites from the Masonic Temple and the whole community mourned his passing. It was a great loss to everyone and he left a lasting impression on the community.

Margaret Potter Bowman



## Combs, E. B. and Nellie Family

E. B. Combs, or "Elzie" as he was affectionately called by his family, was born in Magon, Illinois, November 17, 1862. His family moved to Tecumseh, Nebraska, when he was about 15 years old and lived in that area until the spring of 1882 when he moved to Laramie, Wyoming where his sister and brother-in-law, Minnie F. Barrow and Merris C. Barrow were living. (Minnie and Berris Barrow later moved to the Douglas area and started "The Douglas Budget" and wrote and published some books under the pen name of "Bill Barlow" who was known as the Sagebrush Philosopher.) While still living in Laramie, Minnie and Merris decided it was time for her brother to take a wife and so through encouragement and correspondence with Merris' sister, Nellie M. Barrow, she and E. B. Combs were married November 16, 1887 in Tecumseh, the day before his 25th birthday. His bride was 18. Her father and Merris' father was Reverend Robert C. Barrow, pastor of the First Christian Church in Tecumseh.

E. B. Combs continued to live in Tecumseh until the spring of 1896. Being of a restless nature, and by then having three sons; Guy-born September 12, 1888, LeRoy-born July 20, 1890, Gene-born April 10, 1892, and one daughter, Helen-born September 19, 1894, he decided to move the family west to a "better life" and came to Douglas. The Barrows helped their getting acquainted and settled on the Fetterman Flats northwest of Douglas

about five miles.

The family stayed with relatives and E. B. and his boys started work on a dwelling for the family on the land he purchased adjacent to the Morton Ranch. Having a team of horses and a milk cow, what more could you hope to have! Grubbing out a living in the new area was really a challenge with a diet of rabbits, potatoes, and very little deer and antelope. They managed to survive with a great amount of hard work, including hiring out his team and \$35.00 Montgomery Ward wagon, hauling goods for neighbors and acquiring some orphaned lambs and calves and trading or bartering for a few chickens. Better fortune came his way around the turn of the century and they formed a corporation known as "E. B. Combs and Sons". He was the first sheepman to introduce Oxford sheep to this part of the country when he saw an ad in a publication that a breeder in Oregon was selling his entire band of sheep and he purchased them for \$5.00 per head straight run of yearlings to square-mouth ewes. Delivery took most of the summer and he took possession in Downey Park having built a set of sheep pens near what is known as Point of Rocks. He purchased some 1200 head and got his stud rams from a breeder in Nebraska and had those shipped by railroad for a price of \$20.00 per head. Oxford sheep are coarse-wooled sheep but were known at that time to have more twin lambs than other breeds.

Investing in more land in the mountain area, and his boys now old enough to take up homesteads, their opera-



E. B. Combs family: L. to R. Helen, Gene, Roy, Guy, Nellie, Ed and unknown.



tion began to grow. Gene and Roy later took up homesteads north of Douglas on Soldier Creek and since they were still all in the family corporation they summered in Downey Park and the Cold Springs area and wintered at the main ranch on the Fetterman Flats and on the boys places north of Douglas.

Tragedy seemed to follow good fortune and in the summer of 1902, the oldest son, Guy, was hunting with a sheepherder of the corporation by the name of Ward. The story was told that the two were hunting rabbits and Guy accidentally fell while climbing up a rocky draw and his gun discharged, shooting him in the temple and he died almost instantly. He was not quite 13 and it must have been a tragic trip for his father to bring his oldest boy to town with a team and wagon, stopping at streams along the way to moisten his scarf to put on the boys face to keep it from discoloring. Not too long after the accident, the herder was said to have left the Douglas area and was never heard from again. E. B. was known to place bullets in the chamber of the 22 rifle and jam it on the ground or other hard surface to see if he could get it to discharge. It would never discharge, leaving some doubt as to whether it had been an accident or not. All in all, it was a difficult trip for a parent to make of thirty miles or more.

Cattlemen disliked having sheepmen crossing or even coming close to their lands in this country in the early 1900s. E. B. Combs had a sheepwagon burned completely to the ground, the herder beaten severely and his life threatened, the dogs killed and the sheep scattered over a wide area, killing some outright and wounding others so they were extremely difficult to gather again. E. B. was determined that the sheepmen and cattlemen could get along together. Rumor had it in the area that a herder for a Casper sheep outfit was killed and his body never found on the Cold Springs area.

When World War I was declared, Gene enlisted in the Army and took his basic training at Camp Lee, Virginia, and was then shipped to France and was there until the war was over. During World War I it was usual, especially in farm and ranch families, to draft only one son for military service. Roy, being the oldest, stayed on the ranch with his father to continue the operation of raising the sheep. After Gene's discharge from the Army in 1920, he decided to raise commercial cattle along with sheep. He married Colista Bicknell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Bicknell - Mrs. Bicknell being the former Myrtle Doyle of Minnesota. Gene was an active partner of E. B. Combs and Sons until 1929 when he sold his interest in the corporation and branched out on his own. Gene was active in civic affairs and the American Legion, and helped with the production of the Wyoming State Fair for a good many years. He was badly injured by a bull during the State Fair Rodeo one year and sustained injuries from which he never completely recovered. He died April 7, 1954.

Gene and Colista Combs had one son, Raymor James Combs, born June 13, 1927. He was born in Douglas and educated in the Douglas schools. He grew up in the ranching business as his ancestors before him. He joined the Army in the 1940s and was stationed in Alaska along the Aleutian Islands until he was discharged. He returned to the ranch and went into the ranching business with his father. In the late 1940s he worked as a brand inspector

for the State of Wyoming and worked the shipping markets at Ogden, Idaho Falls, Denver and Omaha. While working for the Omaha market he met and was later married to the former Lucille Kelly on September 13, 1950. They moved to Casper where he was handling the brand inspection at Casper, Lusk and Wheatland. In the later part of 1951, Raymor and Lucille moved to the ranch north of Douglas. Raymor and Lucille had two daughters, Kathleen Ann and Bridget Michaela. Raymor took an active interest in community affairs, American Legion, Kiwanis, Farm Bureau and the Wyoming Young Republicans and was chosen as Outstanding Young Rancher of the Year for 1960 by the Wyoming Junior Chamber of Commerce. Raymor died as a result of injuries in an automobile accident on May 10, 1961, while returning from a business trip with his family to Cheyenne.

Roy remained single for many years before starting a family. He inherited the mountain property from his father and acquired additional land as it became available. He ran commercial Hereford cattle and Rambouillet sheep; summering his livestock on the mountain meadows and wintering on the local range worked well for his operation. At the age of 45 he married Mary Muriel Gitthens in Boulder, Colorado on June 27, 1935, daughter of Mary Frances Koontz Gitthens and Frank Jeremiah Gitthens. There being a lack of herders during World War II, Roy crossfenced most of his land with woven wire fences as did most of the sheep people.

Roy was a one-man public relations team in promoting his county and state. Wherever he traveled as President and Vice-President of the Douglas Chamber of Commerce, he promoted his area. He was President of the Wyoming State Board of Agriculture for twelve years and a member of the board for 15 years. He was Superintendent of the Sheep Department for the State Fair for 22 years. Roy passed away December 23, 1963 while working on a sheep corral with his son. His wife, Muriel, died December 18, 1969.

Muriel and Roy had two children, Mary Helen and LeRoy Nelson, Jr. Mary resides in Sheridan and is married to David Hanlin, District Maintenance Engineer for the Wyoming Highway Department. Mary Helen was born March 20, 1938 in Douglas. Mary and Dave Hanlin were married on August 16, 1961 and have two children, Steven Joseph and Lisa Ann. LeRoy Nelson, better known to everyone as "Lee", was born in Douglas April 22, 1941. He married the former Patricia Ann O'Brien of Chicago, Illinois on January 19, 1964, and resides in Douglas. He was educated in the Douglas schools. He continued in the ranching business until the spring of 1975 when the predator problem and the need of finding winter range contributed to his leasing the ranch and not continuing in the business of his father and grandfather. He was asked to take over the job as Superintendent of the Sheep Department for the State Fair in 1962 as one of his side activities. He has been active in Boy Scouts most of his life, achieving his Eagle Badge regardless of the fact that he was born with part of his kneecap missing. He helps as Santa Claus around Christmas time making visits all over the city and county. They have two children; Mary Frances, born October 16, 1964 and John LeRoy, born July 7, 1968.

Helen Marie Combs was born in Tecumseh, Nebras-

ka on September 19, 1894. She attended Douglas schools and the University of Wyoming. She was married to George Warner of Crawford, Nebraska on November 1, 1923. He worked at the power plant at Natural Bridge for a good many years and as an automobile mechanic for LeBar Motor Company for at least ten years and later had a repair shop of his own. Helen and George had one son, Robert Combs Warner, born May 22, 1925. Robert received his education in Douglas and the University of Wyoming. He joined the Merchant Marines after high school and later went into ranching with his father, running sheep and some cattle. Robert married Georgia Brown of Wisner, Louisiana, December 29, 1950. He stayed in the ranching business until the spring of 1962 at which time he moved to Laramie where he still resides and is with the journalism department of the University. Through his efforts, the library at the University has received several paintings by Alfred Jacob Miller. In addition, Robert has written a book regarding this artist known as "The Fort Laramie of Alfred Jacob Miller." His hobby has been photography at which he has been notably successful.

Lee Combs

## Conner, "Tex" and Maud

Harney T. "Tex" Conner was born on August 17, 1896 in Silver, Texas, the son of Silas M. and Ursula Norfleet Conner.

Coming to Wyoming in 1917, he homesteaded on the head of Deer Creek south of Glenrock.

Tex married Maud S. Hiser, daughter of Elias and Mary Hiser, on November 22, 1922. They are the parents of four children; Alva, Harney A., John W. and Roy J.

He worked for various ranches in the area, among them were the Diamond Dot Ranch owned by C. D. Zimmerman and the Thompson Brothers north of Lance Creek in Niobrara County.

Tex and Maud reside in Glenrock at the time of this writing.

John R. Pexton

## Converse, Amasa R.

Amasa R. Converse, for whom Converse County was named, was born at Hinsdale, Massachusetts on March 26, 1842. At the age of 23 he moved to Omaha, Nebraska where he owned and operated a china and glassware business. Henry Wagner, who had a place of business next door, recalled how A. R. dropped by his shop and suggested: "Wagner, let us pack up and go to Cheyenne." And they both did.

When Converse reached Cheyenne, he found little more than a tent town sprawled along the banks of Crow Creek. It would be a while yet before the tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad would reach town (November 13, 1867), and he was anxious to get a head start on the competition. Spotting an adobe building already built at the corner of 16th and Hills Streets (now Capitol Ave.), he bought it (located where the Inter Ocean Hotel would later stand - now the site of the Plains Hotel). There he

opened a furniture and crockery store to await the arrival of the U.P. tracks, crews and the boom town conditions which would follow.

In May of 1868, Converse fell ill. At Amasa's urging, Frances E. Warren, formerly from his hometown of Hinesdale (residing at that moment in Des Moines, Iowa), moved to Cheyenne where Amasa hired him as a clerk for \$125 per month. The following year he and Warren went into partnership under the firm name of "Converse & Warren." Then in 1871, Converse organized the First National Bank of Cheyenne, becoming its first president, a position he held until his death. He and Warren were also in the sheep business together for a period of time.

By now, the railroad construction gangs were long gone and the economy was hurting. What had been a community of some 5,000 people had dwindled to less than 1,000. On May 17, 1871, Converse wrote the U.S. Comptroller of the Currency in behalf of the bank stating: "We are at present in very bad condition." And speaking of the "real estate and currency held as security" he said, "They are not of much value if forced to an immediate sale." Being a pioneer businessman did not guarantee instant success.

But then there was the potential of the livestock business. Why not take advantage of the millions of acres of free Wyoming grass? Converse saw the possibilities clearly. In 1872 he joined forces with 15 Wyoming stockmen. They met with the Colorado Stock Growers Association to formulate plans. What emerged resulted in the formation of the Laramie County Stock Growers Association the following year.

Several investors were already trailing large herds of cattle into Wyoming from both Texas and Oregon. Some were bringing them in by rail from the midwest. The time had come to act.

In 1875 he organized the National Cattle Company, running his herds along the Chugwater. He even found time to become involved in politics. Being a strong supporter of the Republican Party, he was appointed Territorial Treasurer of Wyoming in 1875 and again in 1877. During his second appointment, he joined the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. And while at it, joined the ranks of the select group privileged to build a home on "Cattlemen's Row." A strong supporter of the Cheyenne's First Presbyterian Church, Amasa, along with A. H. Swan and George Searight, contributed \$3,500 each.

Expanding his operations northward in 1880, he formed the million dollar Converse Cattle Company with himself as president and William C. Irvine as vice-president. The company two years later bought the V5 and U Bar L outfits, which ranged their cattle on Lance Creek and also acquired the U L A from John Kendrick and partner. (At this time his livestock interests covered a portion of the original Converse County.)

Continuing to expand, his herds soon numbered upwards of 30,000 head, registered under 28 separate brands.

Then tragedy struck. While on a business trip to New York City (1885), Converse fell ill. Paralysis set in and for two agonizing months his wife "watched over him with unceasing care." ("Democratic Leader" Cheyenne,

June 10, 1885) Then on June 9th, the very day Truman Hicks, his trusted secretary and bank teller arrived from Cheyenne, A. R. Converse passed away.

Exhausted from the ordeal, his grief stricken widow collapsed and was confined to bed. Mr. Hicks took charge, shipping the body to Three Rivers, Michigan where Amasa was buried June 12, 1885. All the Cheyenne newspapers carried some form of resolution or memorial. One carried "In Memoriam" the full content of "A Service Dedicated in the Memory of A.R. Converse."

Mrs. Converse's health restored, she returned to Wyoming where in 1886 she registered unabashedly in the Cheyenne directory as "Capitalist." Soon she and Truman Hicks were married. In due course of time, Hicks became president of the bank Converse had once headed.

Although never residing in what is now Converse County, Mr. Converse did have large ranch holdings within the county as it was originally formed by the territorial government. During the county's formation, his name was presented in memorial by A. A. Spaugh to the Tenth Wyoming Legislative Assembly and was duly adopted May 21, 1888. Although he passed away while barely 43 years of age, Converse's name will live on as part of Wyoming's heritage.

Gene Potter

## Cook, Archibald and Florence H. Cook, Tom and Nellie

Archibald David and Tom Cook were born in Scotland to John and Margaret Johnstone Cook. Tom on January 19, 1861 and A. D. on October 31, 1862. John, a coal miner, brought his family to America in 1868. They settled in Mildred, Pennsylvania. The boys heeded the admonition to "go west young man go west" when their father was hurt in a mining accident.

A. D. married Florence H. Hartman on August 19, 1880. Florence was born at Van Buren, Ohio. She came, at the age of four, to Boone County, Iowa in 1864 with her parents, Amos William and Eleanor Trout Hartman. There she received her education and taught at Moingonia, Iowa. Archie was busy working for a general store in Moingonia but when the Black Hills gold strike occurred he took part in the excitement, making the trip by way of the old stage route from Sidney, Nebraska. Two years later he returned to Iowa to enter the employ of the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley R.R. prospecting for coal in Iowa and further west at a salary of \$100.00 a month.

I am going to let my grandmother, Florence H. Hartman Cook, tell their story of early day Converse County which was published in the *Douglas Enterprise*, Tuesday, June 23, 1936.

"A new coal mine was opened on Shawnee Creek, three miles from the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley R.R. Archie and Tom Cook signed a contract with the company to drive entry. Tom was there before us, as a log cabin had to be built for us by the company. It was small and poorly built, mud being used instead of plaster. Near dusk we saw our first herd of antelope from the

train windows, hundreds of them. We thought the hill was moving. It was October 30, 1886, when we arrived at Shawnee Station with our small children, Arthur and Ethel, and a few boxes of household goods. We were taken to camp in a lumber wagon, sitting on our trunks. The camp consisted of a company store, selling only staple groceries and camp supplies, a bunkhouse for the single men, a boarding house and six cabins for the families who were all from our hometown in Boone County, Iowa.

"At the boarding house we ate our first 'Wyoming potatoes,' dumplings and 'slumgulleon.' During our stay of eighteen months we enjoyed eating fresh antelope and deer, hunting them from a lumber wagon, jolting over sagebrush and gullies. The sunshine was so bright and warm that we did not realize until later that it was Wyoming's coldest winter, although the range cattle died by the hundreds around our camp.

"During the blizzards we had to hang our surplus carpets and blankets on the walls to keep out the snow. During one of the worst storms a passenger train was snowed in near Shawnee for about a week. The crew managed to get through to us for aid and it taxed the larders of the camp to feed them. We cooked meat and made biscuits for hours each day. We supposed it was western hospitality we were giving and it was like finding money, when months later, the railroad company paid us ten cents for every biscuit sandwich.

"During the winter Tom met my sister, Nellie, at Chadron, Nebraska, and were married on December 18, 1886. The men were all at work but the women and children greeted them in true western style as they arrived. There was a shortage of dishpans afterwards, due to the children's enthusiasm with the drum sticks. We had no school nor church, but neither were there saloons nor gambling houses.

"For recreation we roamed the hills and chalk buttes, being interested in the rock formations, pine trees and shrubs, so different from our Iowa rolling prairies. The wild flowers, too, were a joy to us.

"In the evenings the families visited together playing Pedro and High Five by kerosene lamps. The men must have been more amused than interested in the games as most of their wives had never seen a deck of cards before and could not understand why a one-spot counted more than a two-spot.

"Douglas was already on the map, and was our trading place. If any of us were ill, Dr. Barber was called from Douglas. After the doctor would hold a clinic for the whole camp, pulling teeth, prescribing for minor ails, he was paid his regular office fees.

"Early in the spring Archie and Tom built us each a better cabin, peeling the logs, using plaster, dirt roof and good flooring. Housekeeping was easier.

"There were rumors of an Indian uprising. The men made light of it, but we were still tenderfeet so we moved the children's trundle bed into the corner behind our bed, and kept the axe beside the pillows.

"The mine closed for the summer, and both the Cook families camped at Irvine while Archie and Tom worked for the section boss, Fred Hildebrand, Sr. Irvine was a tie camp then, and Alex Cunningham was running a store there for C. H. King of Douglas.

"Our keenest remembrance of our stay there was the

hot sun, the swarms of rattlesnakes, and assisting at the birth of Carl Hildebrand without a doctor's supervision. Carl, when grown up, became a noted bronco buster at our state fairs and at other rodeo gatherings.

"At Shawnee camp that winter we wanted to celebrate Christmas with a community tree. Trees had never been so easy to get, but trimmings? Neither Lusk nor Douglas had trimmings for sale, not even popcorn, cranberries, candles, not even oranges and apples, not even toys left when we tried to buy. So we contented ourselves with hanging up stockings filled with cookies.

"We had not yet learned of the pioneer's best book, Montgomery Ward's catalogue. The Douglas stores had nothing finer than cambric in white goods and Nellie and Florence ripped up their fine white dresses for material and lace for baby dresses for her first child.

"The mine closed for good in January 1888, and we left our homes and four of the families moved to Douglas, the two Cooks, Tom McPherson, and Jim Peyton. They, or their descendants still live there.

"Archie worked on the streets until he was employed in a meat market owned by Floyd Lockwood, who was from our old home in Iowa. We were happy to attend church and Sunday School again, and to send Arthur to school. His first teacher was Attorney William F. Mecum. Two years later Miss Mary Cooper was Ethel's first grade teacher. Our water, for all purposes, was hauled from the Platte River and cost us 35 cents a barrel. We became experts in saving water. We had no ice for a few years. Except for the abundant game and the wild small fruits, the living expenses were high, as there were no gardens.

"We remember only one tree, a cottonwood beside a well on Second Street. A few doors north Mr. Oliverreau had a few shrubs and flowers in his back yard. His daughter, Mrs. Harry Pollard, and children, are still living in Douglas (1936). We had no green grass, but our streets all sparkled with bits of broken bottles from the 13 saloons we were reported to have had at that time. It is not probable that our good citizens needed all these liquid refreshments, even with only unfiltered river water to drink, but our cattle country was full of cowboys who made frequent visits to town.

"Our marshal, John W. Overman, used to appoint special officers at such times to help him. Archie was helping him arrest a man one night. They were chasing him through a vacant lot and to frighten him Overman fired near his feet just as he ran into a clothes line. His fall knocked him unconscious for a minute and the marshal thought he had killed him with his shot. He was so shaken that the crowd joked about it for years.

"Both Archie and Tom had always played in a band and soon hunted up the old players and any new ones they could find in town and organized a band with Archie as leader. The players enjoyed their meetings and so did their families. All the children learned to dance there, and many boys, in their early teens, joined the band, and learned to love music.

"July 4, 1889, we were invited to a country picnic at the Natural Bridge given by the ranchers on Lower LaPrele Creek and it was our first view of Wyoming ranches. In the evening we ate supper at the George Powell Ranch, where he already was trying out fruit

trees for an orchard. That night we attended a country dance at Captain and Mrs. O'Brien's. People came from miles around. The beds were covered with sleeping babies, just as Owen Wister described it in 'The Virginian.' Even the pretty school marm was there and those O'Brien boys could call the changes in the square dances more musically than we hear them called now on our radios.

"That day we met people who later retired, moved to town and were our neighbors and friends. There were no fences in the early days and the herds of range cattle driven past the town to the shipping pens were a menace to our small children.

"When Wyoming gave her women the franchise, Nellie and Florence voted but felt we had no knowledge of the issues nor did we know the candidates. A few years later when Archie was on the county ticket seven times in succession and then on the state ticket twice, we lost all our scruples and voted the Republican ticket straight every time. Bread and butter for the children seemed more important than conscience. We never locked our doors when we went hunting or fishing for a few days, nor did we ever find a ranch home locked when the family was absent. Our husbands were always playing in the band during those meetings. Our last three children, Douglas C., Beatrice, and Nell, were born in Douglas, as were Tom and Nellie's three girls, Florence, Donna and Eleanor. When Archie's work for the government compelled us to leave Douglas in 1922, we moved away parting from our family and friends with sincere regret.

"We are thankful for the 30 years we lived there and glad that three of our children, Tud Cook, Mrs. Ben J. Steffen, and Mrs. William J. Smith, and their children are still a part of that community. When we hear the song, 'The Hills of Home,' to us it always means Douglas, Wyoming."

Some of the members of that band she mentioned were Esmays, Cooks, Rices, Anthens, Steffens, Rouses, Ruhls, Schmidts. Harry Ruhl lived in Lost Springs for many years.

Florence always loved the Laramie Peak area, and her dying request that her ashes be strewn among the wild flowers in the mountains south of Douglas where she had spent so many happy days on early-day camping trips was respected. On March 17, 1942, Archie joined her in death and his ashes, too, were brought to the mountain meadows.

Tom built his own home on North Third Street in Douglas with brick made in the kilns of Mr. Peters where he lived out his life. He was known for his work in the famous Florence Hardware sheepwagons, and was also a deputy sheriff for Sheriff Campbell during the Johnson County War. Many houses in Douglas were built by Tom Cook. Tom and Nellie's children were: Florence H., Donna (Chapin) and Eleanor (Jamieson). His beloved Nellie left him on April 17, 1917. On June 11, 1919 he married Ada B. Brown, daughter of Walter and Dora Bennett Brown. Ada was an early day teacher in the Douglas schools. Ada died August 25, 1947. Tom died on September 8, 1950.

Annetta Smith Walker

## Cook, Louis and Katherine Family

Lou Cook, Sr., Wyoming pioneer rancher, came to Wyoming from Des Moines, Iowa in 1891. He worked for his uncle Jake Mill on his ranch near Lusk, Wyoming. He witnessed the Lightning Creek Indian fight in 1903. After working a few years, he homesteaded on Cow Creek and started the C Ranch.

In 1909, Lou married Katherine Crum in Sioux City, Iowa. I recall my parents said they travelled for years by buckboard to the ranch. Back in those days there were no cars and everything had to be trailed or freighted by wagon. They also had a home in Douglas. Four children were born: Louis C. Jr., Feb. 21, 1912; Frank Thomas (Tom), Jan. 2, 1914; Ralph D. (Kelly), Mar. 14, 1916; and Catherine J., June 24, 1918.

Lou Cook raised sheep and cattle, the C Ranch was one of the largest ranches in the county. The sheepherders all had their sheepwagons, horse, and sheep dog, usually a band of sheep was 2500 head. All of Lou Cooks' herders had full supplies at all times. At one time Lou Cook bought four head of elk and, by wagon, brought them to the ranch to start herds — well the first morning they jumped the high corrals and were long gone!

Katherine Cook was an active member of the Eastern Star, Woodbine Chapter, served as Worthy Matron and was a devout member of the Methodist Church. Mr. Cook belonged to the Masons.

Lou Cook was a true pioneer and worked hard to do his part for the Wyoming State Fair each year. He trailed horses in from the ranch each year to ride at the fair. The Cook home in Douglas had a barn and corrals, many a young man was treated to ride a pony. Lou Cook was a very generous man, and the kids loved him. When his boys were in grade and high school they were all very active in all sports, Lou always attended every sport whenever possible when he was in town. Kelly played football at the Wyoming University. Catherine was Miss Converse County in the '30s.

Louis Jr. served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After the war lived in Vancouver, Wash. — he was a successful real estate broker, married Elaine Booke of Provo, Utah and they had two children, Louis Craig and Danise Kimberly. Louis passed away July 15, 1953 of a heart attack.

Frank Thomas (Tom) served in the U.S. Army (Signal Corp.) during World War II. After the war returned to Douglas where he worked for Coast to Coast, then Bolln's Grocery. Tom passed away because of cancer July 3, 1971.

Ralph D. (Kelly), served in the U.S. Army (Intelligence Div.) serving overseas in Europe. Kelly married Elizabeth Feraud of Worland, Wyoming, they had one daughter, Jo Ellen, also three grandchildren. After the war Kelly settled in Worland, Wyo. where he owned Kelly's Bar. Kelly passed away Sept. 9, 1982.

Catherine J., married Harold McColl, they lived in Douglas, Wyo. Harold served in the U.S. Army (Infantry) during World War II. After the war they returned to Douglas. Harold was a Mason and Catherine was an Eastern Star, she was Worthy Matron of Woodbine Chapter in 1953. In 1954 they moved to California. Harold had a severe stroke Nov. 15, 1964, was in the hospital two

years, now is home - gets around with brace and cane. Catherine started to work at the Los Angeles Times newspaper in 1956. She had a very fine career in Classified Advertising, she took many top prizes on her sales desk, trips to Brazil, Mexico, Japan, New York, Bahia fishing and many more. In 1971 Catherine went into management and supervised several big divisions. She retired from the Los Angeles Times June 24, 1983. She was honored on her retirement at a party with 200 in attendance. They have their home in LaMirada, California. Catherine is the only one of the original Cook family living.

Lou Cook passed away May 17, 1948 of a heart attack. Katherine Cook passed away May 11, 1978. Mrs. Cook lived in the family home in Douglas over 65 years, everyone was always welcome at the Cook home. When Katherine Cook passed away she was the oldest member of the Methodist Church and a 50-year member of Woodbine Chapter, Eastern Star. Mr. and Mrs. Cook were loved by everyone.

Catherine J. McColl

## Cooper, Andrew and Esther Family

Andrew Cooper was born in Massachusetts in 1831, the son of Charles and Mehitable White Cooper. Andrew was a barrel maker and carpenter being skilled in wood working.

He married Esther Andrews in 1854. Esther was born in 1832 at Bethel, Maine. They had one son, Lyman, and three daughters, Nellie, Mary and Maude.

The Coopers moved to Iowa in 1864, remaining there until coming to Wyoming in the early 1880's.

Lyman, born in 1854, was the first of the family to come to Wyoming. In 1878 he came to Cheyenne and three years later moved to Fort Fetterman. He settled in the Esterbrook area in 1882. He had a homestead on Mary Cooper Creek and on LaBonte Creek below the mouth of Owl Creek. The buildings were situated where Dick Pexton lives now.

Andrew brought the rest of his family to Wyoming, settling near where Lyman was located in the Esterbrook area. He homesteaded immediately south of what is now Esterbrook and close to what is now called the Mary Cooper Spring. The village of Esterbrook was to be named after Esther. Also, Mary Cooper Creek was named after Mary.

Andrew and Lyman were instrumental in starting the Esterbrook Copper mine. Lyman was quoted in the April 15, 1903 issue of Bill Barlow's Budget, "Lyman Cooper was showing samples of ore from the Esterbrook shaft, which was almost pure copper. Mr. Cooper says the vein now shows four feet in width at the bottom of the shaft."

Andrew also ran cattle and hewed ties by hand for the new railroad coming into the Fort Fetterman country.

Andrew and Esther moved to a log cabin on Lyman's ranch on Wagonhound Creek soon after the turn of the century and in 1913 they moved to the home of their daughter and her husband, Nellie and Jim Willox on West Fork LaBonte Creek.



Esther died on March 19, 1916; Andrew on March 23, 1920.

Andrew's father, Charles, was evidently in the Springhill area also as an article in a Laramie paper in 1908 stated, "Springhill, May 24, 1908, We are very sorry to chronicle that Mr. Charles Cooper died recently at Springhill. His remains were taken to Iowa."

Lyman married Jennie Newell, daughter of George and Adelia Newell, on April 13, 1892 at the home of Col. and Mrs. E.H. Kimball in Douglas. A son, Ray, was born in 1892 to Lyman and his wife. Lyman and Jennie were later divorced with Lyman later marrying Clara. He became associated with his brother-in-law, James Willox, in the cattle business and formed a partnership, Cooper-Willox Company. They operated a ranch on LaBonte Creek first before moving over to Wagonhound Creek and West Fork LaBonte Creek.

Lyman served Converse County as its representative to the Wyoming State Legislature for eight years in the early 1900's and served as Speaker of the House in his last term. He died on June 5, 1913.

Lyman's son, Ray, married Ethel Morton, daughter of Alexander and Jennie Morton, on December 31, 1912. They had one son, LeRoy. After Ethel's death, Ray married Freda Dustman Newell. They lived on Ray's mother's ranch on Mary Cooper Creek until its sale to Jim Moran in 1954. They then moved to LaPorte, Colorado. LeRoy is married to the former Carol Taylor and lives in Douglas.

Mary Cooper became a teacher and taught at several of the early time schools throughout Albany and Converse County before her marriage to Jim Brockway. A letter from Mary to Mrs. George Cross, Sr. was recently found. Excerpts from it are as follows:

"Inez, Wyoming, September 28, 1892. I am going to board the first month here and after that when Maude comes I am going to rent a house. I have such a nice place to board at Mr. Slichters. They live near the railroad just opposite to where the track branches to go out to the mines, which are about three-quarters of a mile from them. The school house is not quite half way between, being nearer to Mr. Slichters. The school house is quite a fine tidy little frame building painted and plastered and seats for 30. There is a \$55 Anatomical Chart (Chart on Physiology), a set of roller maps and a larger globe.

"I am going to try and have an organ in the school house now. I think I will have about 30 pupils when they all come this winter.

"I didn't know but what some of the miners' children would be rather unruly in school but they are all very good children so far and only lack soap and water."

"There are about a dozen houses in Inez besides the works to the mines. The house I am to rent is Mrs. Chamberlin's (they are at a mining camp beyond Casper.) It is up on a hill a little distance from the camp or 'town'. I am glad that it is, although the miners are very quiet except on pay days when they get pretty jolly over their whiskey."

Maude married Alex Brockway, a brother of Mary's husband.

John R. Pexton

## Copenhaver, Milton and Sadie Family

Milton Copenhaver was born on September 20, 1871 in Spavia, Illinois. His parents were Taylor O. and Mary E. Ethire Copenhaver. Milton married Sadie A. LeFever, daughter of Jackson LeFever, on December 20, 1892. Milton and Sadie arrived in Douglas on June 12, 1918. Their son, Everett, and daughters Alma, Hazel and Pearl, accompanied them. The Copenhavers bought a place five miles north of Douglas where they engaged in a small cattle ranching operation for several years. Sadie died September 9, 1936 in Douglas. On October 5, 1940 Milton married Mabel Smith. Milton died December 8, 1942.

Earl J. Copenhaver, oldest child of Milton and Sadie Copenhaver, was born September 27, 1894 at Pawnee City, Nebraska. He was reared and educated there and was the first of his family to come to Converse County. He came on an emigrant rail car in 1916 to seek one of the many ranching jobs available. While working on ranches, additional land was opened for homesteading and he filed in the Dry Creek area and completed "proving up" the homestead while working on a nearby ranch.

"Cope" returned to Pawnee City to marry Florence Martin, also born there on December 6, 1897. They were married on March 27, 1918 and came directly to his homestead, this time by automobile. They lived there the next eight years. Earl and Florence had three children: Arrah Lucille, born May 28, 1919; John Milton, born July 28, 1923; and Rhoda Jean, born April 10, 1926.



Left to right: Everett, Earl and Milton Copenhaver, Mark and Paul Martin, brothers of Mrs. Earl Copenhaver. May 1925.



Left to right: Jim and Alma Stevens, Earl and Florence Copenhaver, Myrtle and Everett Copenhaver, Hazel and Bob Ramsey. December 1923

They moved into Douglas in 1925 where Earl was employed at various jobs; until he opened the first service station in Douglas. This station was The Texaco, located at the corner of Center and 4th Streets, the present site of the First National Bank. He spent the next 19 years operating service stations, bulk gas operations and car dealerships. In 1945 he sold his last Douglas business, "Cope's Sinclair," located at the present Gambles store site. At this time Earl and Florence moved to Norco, Calif. and spent the next 15 years there in real estate business, until he was appointed Postmaster in 1960. On his retirement, they moved back to Douglas in 1970 to be nearer their children.

In the late 1930's and early 40's, Earl served two four-year terms on the City Council and many years on the Volunteer Fire Department. Both he and Florence spent many years helping with the Legion ball teams and were active in other civic affairs. They were both very active in the I.O.O.F., Earl being Grand Patriarch in 1937-38 and Florence, State President of the Rebekah Assembly in 1940-41.

On July 10, 1974, Florence passed away at Douglas, after a lengthy illness. Earl sold their home and moved to the LaBonte Hotel and on Sept. 27, 1976, his 82nd birthday, he and Olga Rupe Downs were married. Olga came to Wyoming in 1939. She was a nurse at the Casper Hospital, until coming to Douglas in 1942 as administrator of the Douglas Hospital. In 1945 she married John Downs of Douglas, but continued nursing until her retirement in 1962. She is presently living in Douglas. Earl passed away suddenly on December 14, 1983, being active in the Senior Citizens organization until the time of his death.

Earl and Florence's daughter, Arrah, was married to Forrest Spoeneman on Nov. 25, 1936. To this union were

born two boys, Kenneth Wayne on Sept. 7, 1937 and Earl Joe on Aug. 30, 1938, both born in Douglas. Their father died in California July 23, 1950. Arrah worked in banks in Casper, California and Douglas for many years. In November of 1971 she was united in marriage to Nile Hardy of Douglas, and lived here until her sudden death on Feb. 12, 1975. Her son, Kenneth, has worked for various airlines since graduating from business school and is now living in Eugene, Oregon. Earl Joe is drilling superintendent for test holes at the atomic test site north of Las Vegas. He has two sons, Rodney Scott and Heath Alan.

John Copenhaver graduated from the Wyoming University and taught one year in Greybull, before taking the position of Plant Manager for Magcobar in Greybull. He was with Magcobar until his death, having had plants in Greybull, Iran, Canada and Louisiana. He was married to Carolyn Lee of Rock Springs on Sept. 5, 1949. They had three children: Forrest John, born Nov. 11, 1950; and Jack Allen, born Jan. 5, 1954. Both boys were born in Greybull and their daughter, Deidra Ann, July 11, 1959 was born in Camrose, Canada. Carolyn died after a brief illness on June 10, 1976 and John passed away suddenly of a massive heart attack on Nov. 23, 1977. Their son, Forrest "Frosty" is with Magcobar Inc. and is living in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Frosty and his wife, Nancy, have four children, Bradly, Kristin, Tessa and Justin. Jack is self-employed at Copper Mountain Co. and Deidra "Dede" is living in Burlington, Wyoming with her husband, Monty Wardell and three children, Jeremy, Jason and Jennifer. Monty is a mason worker and is in construction with his father.

Earl and Florence's second daughter, Rhoda, graduated from Douglas schools and worked in Washington, D.C. and Denver in secretarial work. On

June 21, 1948 she married Eddie Moore, son of Leroy and Helen Slonaker Moore, in Douglas, and they lived on the Ogalalla Ranch, 65 miles north of Douglas, until their older daughter started junior high school, at which time, they moved into town, and commuted to the ranch. Eddie became active in several fields; State President of the Wyoming Wool Growers Assn., Wyoming Highway Commission for six years, chairman of this for two years. In 1975 he was elected to the Wyoming Senate and at present is President of the Wyoming Senate.

They have five children, all born in Douglas: Rebecca "Becky" Lynn, born Aug. 26, 1949; Victoria Marie "Vicki" on Oct. 1, 1951; and triplet sons, Frank, Vern, Parker on Mar. 4, 1953. All five children graduated from Douglas schools. Becky and her husband, Dennis Costantino, live in Rock Springs, Wyoming where they have a clothing business. They have two children, Victoria "Vicki" Lee and Anthony "Tony" Edward. Vicki Moore married Steven Good of Douglas and they have two children, Ryan Moore and Lacey Moore. Vicki taught school in Douglas for five years and Steve is in the fixed base operation at the Douglas Airport with his father. Frank Neal Moore married Elaine Werner, daughter of John and Barbara Werner. They live on the Spearhead Ranch, north of Douglas, with their three sons, Frank Todd, Keith Michael, and David Edward. Vern and Nancy Goodrich, daughter of Henry and Shirley Goodrich, were married in Douglas and make their home on the Ogalalla Ranch with their three children, Jennifer Leigh, and twins, Bret Henry and Kati Rene. Parker James married Karen Gillhouse, of Denver, in 1974 and they are ranching in New Mexico, with three children, Jesse Kendall, and twins Ross Jackson and Sarah Janelle.

Alma Mary Copenhaver was born May 23, 1896 at Keota, Iowa. She was raised in Pawnee City, Nebr. and taught school there before moving to Douglas with her parents in 1918. She taught school near her parents' ranch, north of Douglas, and again in the Dry Creek School. She taught both of her sisters, Hazel and Pearl. Alma married James Madison Stevens at Douglas on June 2, 1920. Alma and Jim had a homestead in the Verse area, north of Douglas, and owned and operated the Verse Store on Highway 59 for many years, before they sold their interests and moved to a farm west of Douglas. Alma also served as Postmaster of Verse for many years. Jim passed away March 30, 1982 and Alma is now residing at Michael Manor in Douglas.

Everett Copenhaver was born April 22, 1898 in Keota, Iowa. He only stayed in this area a couple of weeks and returned to Nebraska to teach school for two years and attended the University of Nebraska studying accounting. He married Myrtle Dickinson, of Pawnee City, Jan. 16, 1921 and they then moved to Douglas. Everett had filed a homestead cornering the one Earl had, but he worked as agent for the American Express Railway. He and Myrtle never actually lived on their homestead. He has told the story that the law said you must live on a filed homestead a certain amount of time, so periodically, they would make the trip out and drag a log from the house to the outhouse, to keep the weeds down and the snow packed; making it look as if someone were living there.

Everett and Myrtle had two children, born in Douglas, Ross D. on Mar. 4, 1924, and Constance "Connie" Irene on Oct. 12, 1926. Myrtle died at the age of 29, in childbirth, as did the infant on Oct. 24, 1928. Everett married Ethel Newcomb Feb. 9, 1930 in Casper. Ethel was born in Sheridan on Sept. 16, 1899. She had one daughter, Evelyn Grace, who went to school in Douglas and is now residing in California.

He represented Converse County for four years in the State Legislature and was Chief Clerk for the 27th and 28th State Legislatures. In 1943 Everett and Ethel moved to Cheyenne for his appointment as Deputy Secretary of State, serving in that capacity for two years, then was Assistant State Examiner for two years. In 1946, he was elected State Auditor and again in 1950. In 1954 he was elected Secretary of State. He was elected State Treasurer in 1962 and is the first person in the history of the state to have been elected to three of the five elective offices, having served eight years as Auditor, four as Secretary of State and four as Treasurer. After thirty years in the State Government, he retired in 1973 from the office of Auditor. His wife, Ethel, had died in Cheyenne on July 2, 1969. He had married Mildred Jesmer in Baggs, Wyoming on Nov. 26, 1971 and after his retirement, they moved to Powell, Wyoming to be near their children — Everett's son, Ross, and his wife, Kay, who is Mildred's daughter.

Ross Copenhaver is an attorney in Powell, Wyoming. Ross and Kay Jesmer were married at Baggs Sept. 14, 1948. They have three sons, Ronald Dee, born in Laramie and is living there at the present time. Ron is an attorney and he and his wife, Carmia, have one daughter, Melissa. Mark Dean was born in Powell and lives there with his wife, Ann Hansen. They live on a farm with their two children, Zachery Dee and Sarah Ann. Ross and Kay's third son, Tracy, is also an attorney and is associated with his father's law firm in Powell. He is married to Teresa Thomas and they have two children, Ryan James and Alisa Katherine.

Everett and Myrtle's daughter, Connie, graduated from nursing school and for many years was active in this profession. Connie married John Peetz, Jr. of Sidney, Nebr. on Nov. 26, 1947 in Denver. They have three sons and three daughters. John has his own law firm in Sidney and has been joined by two of his sons and one daughter-in-law.

Connie and John's daughter, Cynthia Marie, married Larry Taylor of Henderson, No. Car. in Wurzburg, Germany where Cindy was teaching and Larry serving in the armed service. They have one daughter, Margaret, "Maggie", born in Seoul, Korea, and at the present time this family lives in Belgium. John Peetz III, is an attorney with his father. Michael is married to Shelley Hanson of Elsie, Nebr. He is a surgeon and she is an anesthesiologist, both practicing in Greeley, Colo. They have two children, Elizabeth Ann and Joseph Michael. Rhonda Jo is a pharmacist and married to Michael Pepper of Edina, Minn. They live in Lincoln, Nebr. with their two children, Patrick "Packy" and Jessica Kay. Connie and John's third daughter, Judy Lynn, is a registered nurse and married to Bruce Harms, M.D. of Deschler, Nebr. They have two children, Andrew John and Monica Lynn and live in Madison, Wis. Jeffrey Thomas Peetz

married Sarah Gerhart of Newman Grove, Nebr. Jeff and Sarah are both attorneys and in the firm with his father in Sidney.

Hazel Susannah Copenhaver was born in Lewiston, Nebr. Dec. 14, 1903. She married Robert Ramsey in Douglas Sept. 14, 1921, after graduating in Douglas. They moved to Butler, Tenn. for a short while and returned to Douglas, where Bob was employed at a lumber company here. They had five children: Betty Jane, born June 12, 1922 at Butler, Tenn.; Virginia Lee, born in Douglas, June 23, 1924; Robert, Jr., January 1, 1927; Mary Ann, born April 25, 1932 and James Milton, born on Feb. 2, 1926, all three in Douglas. Robert Jr. died in Douglas April 23, 1933. Hazel and Bob moved back to Tennessee around 1940. Bob died there in April 1962 and the rest of the family all live in the Hampton, Tenn. area.

Pearl Marie Copenhaver was born in Pawnee City, Nebr. Aug. 29, 1910. She married Harvey Preston Allen in Casper on April 22, 1933. Harvey worked for Russell Trucking in Douglas several years and was Postmaster of the Douglas Post Office for two years, before moving to Laramie where he was employed by the U. P. Railroad from 1943 to 1948. At that time the family moved to Eugene, Ore. where he worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad. Pearl taught school two years, north of Douglas, at the Graves School, two years at Hildebrand School, west of Douglas, and one year at Shawnee before she was married. Pearl and Harvey had four children, all born in Douglas. Peggy Arlene, on Mar. 3, 1934; Dorothy Jean, Dec. 12, 1935; Harvey Jr., Dec. 4, 1937; and James on June 26, 1941. James was killed in a hunting accident Oct. 15, 1955 near Eugene.

Rhoda Copenhaver Moore

## Cowell, Elmer and Ethel

I, Elmer, was born on July 28, 1902 at Grand Island, Nebraska, the son of William and Henrietta Cowell.

Mother became a telegrapher to support the family when Dad became ill. The family lived in towns throughout the west before coming to Converse County to homestead in 1917. Dad died in 1918.

I came to Douglas on January 20, 1920, at the age of 18, as cashier for the CB&Q (Burlington) Depot. There were no trucks and all freight came in each morning in eight cars from Denver and Omaha.

I worked there two years and was transferred to Casper where they were very busy with the development of the Salt Creek oil fields. The railroad and freight office was swamped with work. I stayed there only two years, returning to Douglas; I started driving the laundry wagon for George Ashland, the Douglas Steam Laundry, and stayed there six years. While working there, I met and married Ethel Brighton Schmidt. She became chief operator at the telephone office and worked there several years.

My mother and Harry Merwin were living on the homestead which was composed of four sections, homesteaded by relatives in the family: Henrietta Cowell, Henry Schlichting, Herman Schlichting and Harry J. Merwin. Harry Merwin and my Mother were married in 1951. She died on May 30, 1957.



Dusting for Mormon Crickets south of Glenrock 1935.

In the beginning, we all formed a partnership and began buying a few cattle and milk cows. Ethel's and my homestead was about eight miles north, just below Duck Creek. We built a house and proved up on it and then, about 1924, sold it to Joe Reynolds as it was surrounded by his pasture.

My working in town enabled us to pay expenses as we went along and to improve our buildings. In 1930, I went to the ranch and we bought a tractor and machinery to farm about 450 acres of dry-land farming. We produced some feed and milked 15 to 20 cows; there were 500 laying hens and we also had four brood sows and raised hogs.

I bought the second Chevrolet truck ever sold in Converse County and we had a load of fat hogs—eleven head. I loaded them in the truck and started to Casper Packing Company. We burned out the rods about ten miles out from the packing house, so had to walk to a phone and call Nolan Chevrolet Company to come and get us. They arrived and pulled the truck to the packing company and unloaded the hogs (\$3.65 per cwt.) and then went on to the Chevrolet garage. The next morning we went after it, but our check for the hogs wasn't big enough to cover the garage bill! We found a pawnshop and borrowed \$75 on Ethel's wedding ring: interest \$5 per month—note for six months only. It was several months before we could claim the ring.

We raised very little until 1935 which had a wet spring and then we were able to raise a lot of feed. In 1936, I went to a farmers' meeting in Douglas and they were trying to organize so that we could take part in government programs, such as subsidies available on wheat, corn and hogs. I was elected chairman and we organized; but since we had no county agent, the commissioners contacted Washington and learned that if the commissioners would maintain an office and hire a secretary, the government would furnish the literature and the county could have access to the programs even without a county agent.

Commissioner Leonard Shaw asked me if I would serve as Acting County Agent to get it organized and I agreed. I stayed ten years. A great many programs became available, for example the Range Program for building reservoirs - and others, too: Picket Pin



Squirrels (gophers) in Box Elder Community - 1937, Mormon Crickets on LaBonte Creek and on Upper LaPrele and the Grasshopper Program for the LaPrele Community or anyone else with irrigated ground that had grasshoppers.

The Picket Pin Squirrels were very thick in the Box Elder Community and had holes dug in all irrigated meadows. The water, spread out to irrigate, went into the squirrel holes and seeped away so that no water got on our hay. The people up there came to see me and we organized a program under the Agricultural Adjustment Administration Program. The county financed the program and the ranchers signed up under AAA and met specifications. After compliance, the ranchers would get partly reimbursed for their expenses.

The program worked very well. I hired Earl Scott to be there and look after it. We used poison oats and the rancher and his sons would ride under the direction of a foreman; they would ride abreast just a few feet apart, each with an open sack of the oats and throw a handful around each hole. When one ranch was covered, the crew went to the next ranch and their riders helped with the spreading and riding. There was a great deal of cooperation and things went smoothly. It lasted until August when the squirrels hibernated; the next year you could see what a good job was done. We had spread several car loads of poison oats!

The Mormon Cricket Program started with a bang. They suddenly showed up on LaBonte and Upper LaPrele. They only come out every seven to nine years and certainly were a surprise to all. They stay in a band and head in one direction only. A band would cover 30 to 40 acres and may move half a mile or a mile then stop and eat. The ground would be bare when they moved on. They would seldom fly and they had a beezar on their rear ends, which when they would rear up and stick in the ground, would deposit up to 200 eggs each.

C. L. Cookins, State Entomologist, came in and helped us get going. We got arsenic by the barrel and diatomic earth by the carload. We used WPA men for labor (144 men which were restricted to a maximum of a 40-hour week). We furnished them with fresh coveralls each morning and when they came in at night, they took baths under the supervision of safety engineers to be sure their bodies were thoroughly covered with suds.

They wore masks and used hand-operated dusting blowers. When they arrived at a band of crickets, the men would form a long row abreast and walk and turn on the blowers and cover the crickets with arsenic dust. The crickets didn't eat the dust but when they walked in it, their feet got sore. They would lick their feet and get poisoned.

When ranchers on LaBonte and Upper LaPrele would locate bands of crickets, they would notify the scouts who put flags around the bands so that the spraying crew could find them. We haven't heard of any Mormon Crickets for many years.

The grasshoppers had been building up for several years; some even had been blown from South Dakota. We fixed a mixing plant and got in a carload of bran and a carload of 55-gallon containers of liquid arsenic. The LaPrele farmers patronized the program well and also anyone else that wanted to poison.

Effective poisoning is gauged by the temperature and the feeding habits of the grasshopper, so that when you spread the poison it won't dry up and blow away. The grasshoppers roost on the stem of the plants and in the morning, after the temperature gets up to 50°, they get down on the ground and feed until it gets to 80°. Then they get back up on the stems of the plant. Lots of homemade spreaders were made and they would scatter the bait very well. Most grain and alfalfa fields had a band around the edge where the hoppers had fed. After the spraying started, it stopped the damage.

Converse County had the largest percentage of participation in these programs in all of these Western States. Some of the others who contributed faithfully to the success of the AAA were Leona Bruce, Mavis Featherston and Carroll Ballard.

When I finished as Acting County Agent in 1946, I bought, on credit, 600 old ewes from Jack Morton and that started us on the road to more land and more sheep.

Carroll Mohr, who represented the Fiddleback Company and Mountain Home Company, was on our AAA Committee. He offered me a lease on 17 sections of land northwest of Glenrock for \$600 per year for five years, which must be purchased at the end for \$2.00 per acre. I took Jack Morton up and showed him the land and he said to go ahead and he would see me through.

That fall, I bought 1400 old ewes from Paul LeBar and trailed them to Cole Creek. Many small sheep owners around wanted to sell out; Pat Leach, Perry Dewitt and several others, so in just a few years, I had 40 sections of land. I was terribly in debt but that is a wonderful winter country for sheep and we began to pay off some of our debts.

About 1950, we started building fences to make pastures so we could turn the sheep loose. I bought 20 semi loads of Arkansas Cedar posts and we had our first post-hole digger, so we built 75 miles of fence. Sheep-tight woven wire around the buildings and corrals and #5 and #6 wire properly spaced with posts in pastures.

We let the sheepherders go and looked after the sheep with horses and pickups. The sheep do better, shear more wool and bring in a ten pound heavier lamb when they are turned loose and do as they please.

In 1939, we had adopted Mary when she was only a few hours old. This completely changed our lives and I bought a house on Fourth Street that Percy Peterson had built recently. His wife sold it to me for painting it for the down payment, and to pay her \$30.80 a month plus the taxes; \$4,000 purchase price.

We had some good years and finally bought some yearling cattle to summer in the Sand Hills. They did real well, so we continued to run more cattle both in Cole Creek and Hyland.

James Davies and family and Harry Picklesimer worked for me all through these years. Jim trained and sold Border Collie sheep dogs which we used exclusively with the sheep.

We used to buy hay and pile it up until we needed it and were hauling some from the Niels Rasmussen place on LaPrele Creek. Niels was bound he was going to sell me his place as he was old and had had a heart attack and wanted out. We bought all his second cutting and each day that we would come to load, he would cut his price



another \$5,000. As he came down, naturally it made it more attractive than ever.

Finally, I told him yes, if the bank would go with me. So, I went to town and Dale Hinman of the Converse County Bank approved the sale. We now had an irrigated place to look after. I intended it for Clarence (our son-in-law), if he and Mary took an interest in it; but they were too inexperienced.

The next spring I hired a farmer, Larry Heimsoth, who really did a magnificent job farming. He stayed eight years and we built up several feed lots and pens plus a lamb feeding yard. We had about 1000 cattle on feed, 3000 lambs, and about 700 calves up and down the creek. We raised 450 ton of alfalfa, lots of oats cut for green silage, and 50 acres of silage corn; about 14,000 tons per year. This was new for Wyoming and my guiding stars were Berry and Paul Lind of Eaton, Colorado who advised me whenever I was having trouble.

When Larry Heimsoth lost his wife and left, I hired Bernard Andrews of Big Horn Basin. He did a good job feeding and farming for another eight years - or until I sold it to Dick and Catherine Strock in 1972. Earlier, in 1964, I sold the Cole Creek Ranch and the Hyland Ranch to Bob and Ann Boner. They are still operating it.

Ethel was having trouble with the stairs in the Peterson house, so we traded with Frank Ellis who, with Archie Bruce, had built a nice stucco home at 726 South Sixth Street - all on one floor. We were very happy with it and after going back and forth to Arizona for several years, we sold it. After 1972, we stayed year-round in Arizona.

We lost our daughter to cancer in 1977, but she did leave two wonderful girls. We have seen them through school and college. Now they are married to very nice young men and have homes and careers of their own in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Eugene, Oregon.

Ethel passed away on November 2, 1983, at 83 years of age. We were married 59 years.

Elmer died June 8, 1984.

Elmer Cowell

## Cowger, John and Nettie Family

John Cowger was born February 27, 1878 in Monticello, Indiana, the son of George and Mary Cowger. He married Nettie Fowler in Lost Springs, Kansas on December 31, 1910. He died July 14, 1955.

Nettie Fowler Cowger was born July 6, 1889 to Daniel and Katherine Fowler in Lost Springs, Kansas. Children were Edwin, Jack and Velma (Reeves). Nettie died March 21, 1962.

John and Nettie Cowger arrived in Douglas on Halloween night in 1916, bringing with them household goods, thirty dollars cash and two small children; Edwin, four years and Velma, two years of age.

My grandfather, O. E. Fowler and his sons Gene, Lee and Dennis had come out and filed on homestead. When they returned to Lost Springs, Kansas to get their belongings and families, my parents decided to come to Wyoming with them.

They were lucky enough to corner the homesteads; Grandad's, Lee's and our place all met at a corner. This

made it convenient to have a common well. Someone had faith because they dug a thirty foot well, by hand, and rocked up the well walls as they dug and struck very good water.

When we arrived at Douglas, housing was scarce and all of our families and the O'Leary family had to move into an old laundry building which we divided into apartments by hanging blankets.

The first winter, Dad did odd jobs around town, including working for Fred Cannon and the Douglas Electric Company. The next spring, he went to work for Morton's ranch doing their haying. My brother, Jack, was born in a tenant house there. During that summer Dad and my uncles finished a one room house on the homestead and Jack Morton moved us out there on a high wheeled freight wagon, in a rainstorm, using eight head of horses.

At first there were no schools and when I was ready for school, we moved to town for that winter. Dad worked for the Peters Brick Plant and later that winter he hauled coal for the Electric Company. I started to school at the North Grade School but the winter of 1917 and 1918 was so cold it froze the water pipes and we finished school in the old courthouse basement.

Through the early years, in the fall, Dad would go back to Kansas and operate a steam thrasher for the grain harvest, then work his way back through Nebraska harvesting corn. In the fall of 1926, when I was ready for high school, Dad came to town and bought the Johnstone Dray and Storage business and operated it for the next forty years.

During these years no one had any money, but we all ate well and enjoyed life.

Our Wyoming dry land would grow anything. The gardens produced without irrigation and fed us all year. My people strip farmed and raised very good grain crops. In 1926, our last year in the country, we raised thirty bushels of wheat per acre and received a dollar a bushel for it.

This is bringing back old memories of riding in a lumber wagon to the Vollman School House for all night dances. Neighbors who attended were; The Vollmans, Schlichtings, Hornbecks, Domsallas, Hornbuckles, Taylors, Numericks, Fishers and many more.

Our old place is now part of the Lee Fowler Ranch.

Ed Cowger

## Craig, John and Ruth

Although it has been many years since Ruth Craig has been able to visit Wyoming, she still entertains her many grandchildren with tales of the time she and her husband, John Henry Craig, homesteaded land in Wyoming.

Ruth and John's great adventure began in the spring of 1920. Ruth remembers that it was on April 22, 1920, that a minister from the Carterville, Illinois Christian Church by the name of J. M. Slick encouraged a group of people from Carterville to go to Wyoming for the purpose of homesteading land. Mr. Slick was from Gillette, Wyoming. Eleven people from Carterville decided to become pioneers. Their names are as follows: Ray Miller, Ruth Lauder Volner, Dewey Volner, Harry Eaton, Carmen



J. H. Craig - 1920.



Ruth Craig - 1920.

Eaton, Ross Green, Otis Hall, John Barnes, Ruth Rowatt Craig, John Henry Craig, and Harry Trevaryan. Nine of the eleven went out together. Ruth, who was 20 years old, and John, 26, followed a week later.

Before going to Wyoming, Ruth and John traveled to Roseburg, Oregon, in search of land. However, they found that the land they were considering purchasing near Roseburg cost \$8 an acre. Since their entire savings consisted of \$50, they decided to join the group planning to homestead land in Wyoming. They made the trip by train arriving in Gillette on June 1, 1920.

All of the 11 people from Carterville planned to homestead land near or adjoining the John Paisley sheep ranch, which was about 50 miles from Gillette. All of the men in the group were veterans of World War I, which gave them an advantage in homesteading since they did not have to stay on the land as long as other citizens to qualify for ownership.

Each of the cabins, which the men built, consisted of one room measuring about 12' by 15'. The cabins were constructed from pine trees cut and dragged five miles to the location. Big logs were then cut, notched, and filled with adobe to make the walls. The roofs were made from smaller poles cut from the tops of the trees. Gunny sacks were laid on top of the poles, then gumbo was put on the top of the sacks. Sometimes beautiful cactuses bloomed in the gumbo atop the roofs. Each cabin contained only one three-foot square glass-less window. The floor was earth that had once been a cactus bed.

Pine logs were split to make beds for the houses. Wild grass was then thrown over the logs and the grass was covered with army blankets; feed sacks stuffed with grass were used as pillows. The Craigs put a wooden grocery box on top of a tree stump to use as a table. A flat-topped stove with an oven was the only piece of purchased furniture that they had. Fuel for the stove was knotty pine limbs. Ruth remembers that it was necessary to turn the limbs over carefully to be sure a rattlesnake was not hiding among the limbs. For drinking water, the Craigs were forced to use the same hole from which the wild animals drank. Ruth dipped water from the hole with a five-pound coffee can.

One day while Ruth was waiting for John and the other men to finish the cabins, she and another young woman heard that two young men would be passing the site where the men were working. The two young women decided to ask for a ride. The young men offered to let the women ride on a load of screen wire in the back of an open truck. It was a long, hard fifty-mile trip over dirt roads riding on top of the screen wire in the back of a truck. Ruth still remembers ruining her best dark blue, silk dress riding on those screens, but she says it was worth the trip to get to see her husband.

After Ruth was able to move into the cabin with John, she recalls seeing rattlesnakes, antelope, prairie dogs, prairie chickens, and coyotes, but she was most bothered by the field mice. She recalls that when she and John left the table, the mice would climb onto the table in search of food.

Probably the most frightening incident of the Craigs' homesteading days involved a rattlesnake. One day John stomped a rattlesnake to death. The nails coming through his worn shoes helped him kill the snake. Later those

same nails accidentally made several cuts on the top of Ruth's foot. Since they were 25 miles from the nearest place that they could have gotten help, there was nothing to do but wait to see if Ruth died. They feared some poison might still have been left on the nails from the rattlesnake. It was a long, tension-filled wait for the young homesteaders.

Another vivid memory that Ruth still treasures is the day that a rancher delivered 30 letters from her anxious mother back in Illinois. She and John had not seen anyone for 27 days when a rancher arrived with a gunny sack full of letters and copies of "The Saturday Evening Post", which provided some welcome reading material. Just as Ruth started to dash out of the door to greet the newcomer, he yelled for her to stay inside. The rancher then got off his horse and killed a two-and-a-half-foot rattlesnake just outside the front door of the cabin.

Before Ruth and John borrowed a horse and wagon to use to go into Bill to buy groceries, they once had to live on nothing but canned tomatoes thickened with flour for eight days. After eight days, John was forced to begin walking to town for food. Fortunately, on the way he met a rancher bringing them food.

Still another fond memory that Ruth likes to relate to her children and grandchildren is how she got her graduation watch back after it was lost. She remembers that she and John took time out one day to take a long walk in the hills. When she returned to the cabin, she realized that she had left the watch, that her father had given her for her high school graduation, on top of one of the hills, but she had no idea which hill. Later a man came by their cabin and happened to mention that two men had found a watch. Ruth and John went to the men's cabin. After explaining that the watch was a gift from her father, the men returned the watch even though the young couple did not have any money to give the men as a reward.

In the following years, John built a storm cellar for the cabin and made improvements on the land. Although the other nine people from Illinois failed to complete the homestead requirements, John Craig became the owner of 640 acres of land. He received a patent for 480 acres in Converse County on February 4, 1930, and a patent for 160 acres in Campbell County on September 29, 1924.

Otis Hall, one of the group from Carterville, married a Wyoming girl and remained in Wyoming. The other people from Illinois returned home.

After homesteading land in Wyoming, Ruth and John returned to Carterville and then moved to Herrin, Illinois. They became the parents of five children: Carroll Eugene Craig, Margaret Ellen Craig Trotter, John Henry Craig, Jr., Paul William Craig, and David Rowatt Craig.

Many years have passed since the couple homesteaded land in Wyoming, John passed away in 1978, but Ruth still remembers her exciting adventure.

by Linda R. Craig  
with Ruth Rowatt Craig

## Cram, Erwin and Lorinda Family

Erwin M. Cram was born in Waukon, Iowa on April 20, 1858, the son of Willets W. and Mary Partland Cram. He married Lorinda Leatherman, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Moyer Leatherman, on April 19, 1885. Lorinda was born in Plainview, Minnesota on April 10, 1866.

Erwin and Lorinda had 14 children. They are:  
Addie, b. January 22, 1886, m. George Marburger, d. 1967  
Ralph W., b. June 22, 1887, d. July 14, 1963  
Mary E., b. November 23, 1888, m. House and Funk  
Roy E., b. September 26, 1890, d. October 7, 1903  
Orlando H., b. December 13, 1892, d. April 19, 1955  
Lola L., b. January 29, 1895, m. Hartsock, d. December 9, 1976  
Carl S., b. January 2, 1897, d. World War I, November 3, 1918  
Harold D., b. December 10, 1898, d. October 19, 1963  
Boy triplets b. February 22, 1902, died at birth  
Lynne E., b. January 29, 1903, d. June 22, 1974  
Ruth G., b. February 4, 1905, m. Haley and Hope  
Oscar J., b. August 20, 1907

The following story of the family's life in Wyoming is related by Ruth Cram Hope.

"We left Brocksburg, Nebraska on April 4, 1916 with two heavily loaded wagons. Mother, Father and I were in the first wagon and Harold, Lynne and Oscar were in the second wagon.

We only traveled about 15 miles a day on Highway 20, always having to camp where we had water for the horses and milk cow. Sometimes Mother had to boil the water for drinking. We never traveled on Sunday, that was the day mother baked bread and did the washing. We



L. to r.: Ralph, Harold, Lynne, Orlando and Oscar Cram 1943.

had a nine by twelve tent with a four hole camp stove with oven.

I think the highlight of the trip was being stranded on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in a blizzard. I don't remember the exact date we landed in Shawnee, as I remember it was nearly six weeks from the time we left.

My father filed on 160 acres of land one and one half miles west of Shawnee. We lived on the Horace Woodward place until the house was built.

My father was Justice of Peace in Converse County in 1923. He performed the marriage ceremony for two of his children, Harold to Veda Pickinpaugh and Ruth to Laurence Henley.

My three brothers, Ralph, Orlando and Carl, served in World War I, Orlando serving overseas in Germany. Carl died of the flu in 1918. Upon returning home, Ralph and Orlando filed on homesteads. Ralph filed north of Shawnee and Orlando north of Douglas in the Walker Creek area.

Our social activities consisted of dances which were usually held in the railroad section house or in someone's kitchen. They were held every two weeks. There were also box suppers to raise money for whatever the cause might be.

Of all our family, only one sister, Lola, chose to stay in Nebraska."

Erwin Cram died on March 8, 1937 and Lorinda on March 23, 1943.

Ruth Cram Hope

## Croco, Arthur and Hallie

Arthur Cecil Croco was born in Argos, Indiana, February 11, 1883. He graduated from high school there and studied engineering. As a young man he worked with his father on the farm. They had black walnut trees and a granite quarry. For adventure he came west while still a young man.

Arthur Croco met and married Hallie Susanna White of Knox, Indiana, June 7, 1907. She was a musician, playing piano and organ, and was a very good singer.

Hallie Croco was the daughter of Edith Anderson White. Edith homesteaded five and one half miles south of Lost Springs in 1909. She had a grandson she raised, George White, also her son Asher lived there. She later moved into Lost Springs and lived there for a number of years. In September, 1946 she moved to Casper. On December 10, 1946 she passed away at the age of 80.

With some other men from Indiana Arthur came west and filed on a homestead in April 1909, three and one half miles south of Lost Springs. He returned home to Indiana and after their first baby, Henry Asher, was born April 30, 1909, Arthur shipped their possessions west with a man named Pete Krause, in May 1909. Hallie and the baby came a few weeks later. By then, Arthur had a "house" built, covered with tar paper which was later replaced with wood siding.

Arthur's cousin Clyde C. Howell, homesteaded across the road; the Cannons a mile north; Ed Kamp, a mile west; and Grandma Edith White (who was well known) two and one half miles south. The area was called "Hoosier Avenue" and we children attended school one



L. to r.: Henry, Edith, Ellen and Hallie Croco.

half mile south at the Hoosier Grade School. My first teacher was Susan Liebrick.

William Earl Croco, Arthur's brother, homesteaded adjoining Arthur's land. He worked as a sheepherder and cowboy and helped on his brother's farm. Returning to Argos, Indiana, he helped care for his mother and family. William was never married.

Times were very hard and Hallie left son Henry with her mother, Grandma White, to be taken care of, and taught school in the LaBonte area. Some of the Georges and Johnsons were her students. She boarded at the Johnsons. While there, she "mid-wifed" at the birth of Clarence Nunn. By the fall of 1912, she was expecting, so she had to give up teaching.

On March 19, 1913, twin girls arrived at the Croco home. Mrs. E. W. "Auntie" Cannon and Grandma White delivered the babies N. Edith and N. Ellen. When Dr. Christiansen arrived from Manville, we were four hours old, but he still charged for the delivery of two babies.

As babies, we shared a large oblong basket as our bed, and were dressed in white until we were nine months old. When the folks took us to town, the cowboys enjoyed giving us chocolate and licorice, we'd have more on the outside than in. Mother really got upset. One time, as she was going home in the buggy, a cowboy rode up and grabbed one of us while going up "Putt's Hill", just south of Lost Springs. Mother was terrified and crying by the time she topped the hill. The cowboy sure had a laugh teasing Mom.

The Crocos did their canning-lots of vegetables. Dad even found a way to hold melons until Thanksgiving. I can remember when we cleaned wheat and ground it for our cereal and stomped the dried beans out of the pods. Mother would pre-cook meat in roasts and fried steaks, put them in quart jars and water pack or pressure them. I have done this to take on our hunting trips.

April 28, 1917, another baby, Joseph Jean came to stay with us. The folks had a nice family now. We were a happy bunch of kids. Dad made a tricycle with wood wheels for Joe. We had picnics, no weiners, but always cookies and chocolate drinks. We went to the Prairie View Presbyterian Church. Frank Thomas was the first





L. to r.: Earl and Arthur Croco stacking sheaves on Croco homestead.

minister I remember. Dad and Mother would have us sit on our little red chairs around them, that is where we first learned of God and His Love. We kids thank God for Bible reading-believing parents.

On October 22, 1921, a little girl, Artha Lois was born. Dad called her his "Little Red Bird" in later years, for Mother had made her a red dress.

Our first sorrow came when our father, Arthur, died April 22, 1926. Mom was left with five children to feed and clothe. She never let us know we could quit school and we all graduated from high school in Douglas, Wyoming.

On May 6, 1927, a year and some weeks following the death of our father, little Artha was taken. Mother must have felt that the sky had fallen. I can still see her in the rocking chair by the window sewing the burial dress, with every stitch, a tear.

Hallie was very involved in the community and was called on to help lay out the dead, deliver babies and was the church pianist and organist as well as singing at church affairs. She was the state wide interviewer for the Historical Project of Converse County in 1936 & 1937. Hallie married James B. Libby of Cheyenne in 1938. They lived in Cheyenne until his death in 1950. Hallie then moved to Casper to be near her family and passed away in 1952.

Son, Henry Croco married Metta Mae Townsend of Orin Junction. He was a field engineer for Oil Well Supply in Casper and collected antique cars.

Daughter, Ellen married W. Oscar Hutchison of Douglas. His family had a ranch west of Douglas. Oscar worked for Marathon Oil. Ellen established her own business in Casper, the Kut-n-Kurl Beauty Shop.

Daughter, Edith married Sidney T. Humberson of Douglas. He worked for Pittsburgh Des Moines Steel in Casper. Edith at the age of 50, entered college, graduated and became a Licensed Practical Nurse. Edith worked at Memorial Hospital in Casper.

Frisbie T. Humberson worked for Chicago Northwestern and lived in a section house at Douglas from 1912 to 1915. He then homestead south of Douglas near what they called "Red Canyon". We believe it is now owned by the William "Bill" Nunn family.

Son, Joseph served in the army during World War II. After being discharged he went to work for the Union Pacific Railroad as an engineer. He married Josephine Burns of Iowa. Josephine passed away leaving Joe with an infant son. He then married Agnes Kathryn Collins of Iowa. Kay, as she was called by her family and friends, was a school teacher. She passed away in 1978. Joe is now married to Agnes Korkow of Denzig, North Dakota.

N. Edith Croco Humberson

## Cromwell, Luther and Nancie Family

Luther (Con) Cromwell and Nancie Cellan were married in Oklahoma about March 1904. I, Warren Cromwell, was born August 6, 1906, near Alva, Oklahoma. My brother, Gerald, was born November 25, 1908.

We moved to South Dakota in 1913, coming to Wyoming in April 1917. Dad homesteaded in Boxelder country in 1922. I was 16 at that time. The first two years we moved back to Casper for us boys to attend school. In the spring of 1923, as Dad was preparing to move back to the homestead, I suddenly got smarter than any high school teacher or books. So I resigned from all school activities and climbed aboard the wagon bound for Strawberry Canyon.

We cleared aspen trees from the land for hay meadows (still producing for the Grant Ranch). The post office was six miles away on Boxelder — the post mistress was Mrs. Hiser, who later became my mother-in-law. I had to ride around the mountain, or over it, to get the mail.



Luther Cromwell and bear.



We did not have a radio, telephone, or electricity. Mail was delivered at the county road on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. We looked forward to mail day. Many times we were disappointed when items ordered from Sears or Wards did not arrive.

The first dance I fiddled for was at the old GR Ranch. Lloyd Huxtable held the dance in honor of his buddy, Roy and Helen Smith, newlyweds. The GR buildings are just about gone now. About the only amusement we had was the country dances at the old school house, located where the Fred Grant dancehall is now.

I homesteaded 640 acres now owned by the Grants. On December 3, 1930, I married Louise Hiser. Louise was born in the old Hiser house on Boxelder Creek, which is still used as a residence. She was born September 4, 1912, the tenth child of eleven. She tells people the reason she married me was that she felt sorry for me and my dad, as we were doing our own cooking and housework. Glad she took pity on us.

During the homestead years, we cut wood, fence posts, and corral poles for nearby ranches. Also, we had trap lines as long as ten to fifteen miles to earn money. Sometimes I worked for ranchers — Hisers, Grants, and Willard (Cap) White, on what is now the Huxtable Ranch. Times were very tough in those days. We sold high butter fat cream for \$1.50 for a five-gallon can. A car load of fat cows and three-year-old heifers netted us six hundred dollars in Omaha. We put the money into the Glenrock State Bank to buy winter supplies, and the government froze all bank deposits.

My brother did not stay on the homestead very long — the bright lights of the cities were more attractive.

Our first two babies were born in Glenrock: Dale on December 8, 1931, and Sadie on January 19, 1933. We lived in a small one-room cabin, which is still standing. In 1933 we moved to Natrona County, and our youngest daughter, Selma, was born in Casper on June 19, 1936. In 1937 we moved back to Converse County. We rented the Ernie Pou place, which we later purchased. We moved to Casper in 1945 and back to Glenrock in 1960.

Daughter Sadie now lives and works in Denver, and daughter Selma lives and works in Great Falls, Montana. Our son, Dale, lives in Glenrock and works at the Dave Johnston Power Plant.

I have tried my hand at ranching, oilfield work, firing locomotives, and power plant mechanic. I was the first maintenance man at the Dave Johnston Power Plant, near Glenrock. I have been retired 12 years, just fiddling around. Louise says she did not retire. There's still plenty house work. (Guess she is still sorry for me).

I am the only one left on my side of the family.

Warren Cromwell

## Crosley, Charles and Katie

Charles H. B. Crosley and Katie A. Crosley moved from Kansas to Wyoming in October 1917. With them were seven children: Dell, age 12; Ervie, age 12; Britt (Harry), age 8; Gladys, age 6; Ray, age 5; Willard, age 3; and Dorothy, age 7 months. They traveled in an Overland 75 touring car. The trip took a week and they camped out on the way. Since I (Gladys) was almost

7-years-old, I remember some about the trip, but not how they managed to stow all of us and all the needed equipment, clothing, food and such in that car. With a 7-month-old baby there had to be some means of doing laundry along the way. I remember on occasion, we would get hay from near-by hay stacks to use for sleeping on. There were no sleeping bags then.

It rained all of the last day of the trip. We couldn't cook out, and stopped for lunch in Chugwater, everything was closed, and all Dad could find was one pie, which didn't make much for anyone. We arrived in Lost Springs rather late, and went to a hotel. As I remember it was run by a Mrs. Crabb, and she soon had a good hot meal for all of us.

We moved into Brink's Bee Hive for the winter. The Buffingtons lived downstairs. I remember Dale and Dorothy especially. That family had come from Kansas, also, and I believe printed a newspaper.

Dad had been to Wyoming earlier and applied for the homestead. That winter our two-room "dwelling" was built with the help of Harry Parker, a Mr. Hess, and, no doubt, John Tipton.

Those of school age attended the Lost Springs School that winter. I had started second grade in Kansas, but was put back to first in Wyoming. Lillie Meinzer was my teacher.

In April of 1918 we moved to the homestead. It was a cold, snowy day. There must have been two wagons, one for household goods, and one for the family. The one we were in had sideboards on and straw was put in the bottom for warmth and comfort. A tarp, or maybe the camping tent was over the top to protect us from the weather. We made a stop at the Onyon Mine, then on to John Tipton's. He lived half a mile from our house. We had known him in Kansas. I don't know how he knew when we would arrive but he had a meal ready. I remember only the biscuits, they were the lightest I have ever eaten, and I never figured out how he made them.

Living in a two-room house out in what seemed like a wild country, was different to say the least, but Mom made it a home, and although life wasn't easy I don't ever remember feeling neglected, or that things should have been better.

I remember how the howling coyotes scared me and all the stories we heard about the "big grey wolf" and the panthers, though never saw any of the latter two.

Dad worked in town much of the time as mechanic and blacksmith. He would come home about every two weeks with a supply of groceries. He worked in Lost Springs, Manville and Shawnee, and years later had a shop back of the LaBonte Hotel in Douglas.

Mom held down the fort and coped with the problems of raising a family, she helped the boys in the field at times, and a couple of times took on the job of doctor. One time when there had been a bad snow storm and we were snowed in, Britt and Ervie were at the wood pile splitting wood, and somehow Ervie got hit in the head with the axe. He was really bleeding when he got to the house. Mom started trying to stop the blood, but it was a deep cut. She told Britt and me to look in a certain book on how to stop bleeding, and we found powdered rosin would do it; so we got the rosin out of Dad's violin case and powdered it, and it did work, then she put Ervie to bed in a dark

room. The next day or two a neighbor, Claude Smith, came by with a team and wagon to see if we needed any supplies from town. Mom sent Ervie along so a doctor could look at the wound, and we were all so proud as he said Mom had done everything necessary except to stitch it, and it was healing well. Another time Ray fell off the shed and cut his leg very badly on a knot, but that time Dell had a car, of sorts, and he took him to town after Mom had done some first-aid. Such times and the times it would be so stormy and Dad couldn't get home with supplies must have been times of great worry for our parents.

We had hired men a couple of times those first years, to put in the fence and do such work the boys just weren't old or experienced enough to handle. One hired man was Henry Douglas who had a homestead 'over East' in the timber.

West 20 Mile School was built that first summer. There were five Crosleys to attend that fall. We walked three-quarters of a mile, which was not bad, when compared to the Hansons who walked three miles. I'm not sure if they were there that first year, but Robert Edwards and Howard Bear attended. There was a new teacher every year I attended there, and one year two teachers in one term. I remember Mrs. Harbor, Emma Bushy, Mrs. Harmon, Mrs. Parker, Ray White, and Zelta Wintermote, who instilled in her pupils the desire to want to learn. I feel that one room with eight grades gave us a good basic education.

There was never a producing well on the homestead, one was drilled, but no water, so from 1918 until 1941 all water had to be hauled in barrels, caught during rare rains, or snow was melted. No small task, when in the end there were twelve in the family. Our mom was big on washing, scrubbing and bathing, but we learned to do a lot with a small amount of water. To this day I am mindful of the amount of water I use for dishes or whatever. We were so grateful to be able to get 'soft' water from Bear's spring, but if in a hurry we would use the 'hard' water from the Valentine's well.

The "World War I" flu didn't pass us by. Dad was working in Shawnee and became ill. Not knowing what he had, he came home, and soon all the beds were full of sick people. I'm sure Mom and my oldest brother weren't exactly well, but they stayed up and cared for the rest of us. It was winter, and there was all that extra bedding to be washed on the board and dried in the house most of the time. What a task, and what a worry.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Parker were a great help to us during our illness. I can remember he would cut wood and stack it by the door, and he, no doubt, hauled the water. She would trudge the mile through the snow from their place to ours every day or two to help care for us and give us 'treatments.' She was an osteopath, and although I, for one, dreaded the treatments, I'm sure they did us a lot of good.

Three children were born on the homestead. Jess in 1919, Agnes in 1921 and Thelma in 1923. Mrs. Parker was there to deliver the babies. Mrs. Conner was also there when Thelma was born. By that time I was old enough to just about be chief cook and bottle washer.

Sunday School in the area was first held at "The Old Stark Place" then later under Irwin C. Noyce, a Sunday

School was organized at West Twenty Mile School. At one time there were about 100 members.

We all worked hard on the homestead, each one had chores to do, but we had a lot of fun times also. We played 'Hide and Seek,' 'Shadow Tag' by moonlight, and if there was enough of us we had baseball games of sorts.

Dad worked away from home a lot, especially those first years, but later he had a shop at the homestead and did blacksmith work there. He could make so many things with metal. I remember especially the fancy handles on stove pokers, and the metal flowers he used to fashion. Mom was as adept with a piece of material as Dad was with metal, she made a lot of our clothing. Dad liked to play the violin, maybe fiddle to some, but to us it was the violin. He would hear a tune only once and be able to play it. He played for country dances a good deal, and later Dell helped with the banjo and Ervie with the guitar. It was great in the evenings to listen to them play. I used to think it was so neat when Dad would be playing the violin, and it would be bedtime for kids and I would go to sleep while listening to the music.

We had 4-H clubs for awhile. I was in sewing with Lillie Meinzer as leader. My older brothers raised animals as I remember, and Ervie, especially, did judging. He got a trip to Sioux City, Iowa with a judging team.

The state fair was the big event of the year, maybe even bigger than Christmas. If one hadn't been to town any other time of the year, you could count on going to the fair. I well remember my first trip to the fair. Dad was working as patrolman down by the race tracks. Mom, with the help of Dell, was herding the rest of us around the exhibit halls. It was so great back then, so many wonderful exhibits of produce and livestock, chicken, etc. raised in the state. We were in the building with chickens and birds (it is no longer used). I became so interested in some exhibit and didn't notice all the rest had left. When I went out to join them, there stood an Indian in full dress of a Chief. We were still new enough to the area, and I had heard stories about Indians, so I was sure he was just waiting to scalp me, and I was sure he was eight feet tall. I didn't know where Mom and the rest were, but I figured I could sneak around and get to Dad. Just as I had my nerve keyed up to try, Dell came back to find me, and with him there the Indian didn't seem nearly so huge.

Quite often the whole neighborhood would get together, usually after Sunday School for a picnic, or we had ice cream socials, watermelon feeds, dances, or grown-ups and kids alike would play such games as "Last Couple Out". It was a good community in which to grow up.

I believe it was in 1924 Dad ran the first mail route north of Shawnee. I have no idea how many miles it covered, but it served the families on West 20 Mile and on over into the Walker Creek area, then back to Shawnee. It ran two days a week, and at times called for a lot of snow shoveling, and at other times was a lot of mud to contend with. The mail carrier, in those days, not only carried mail, but hauled cream, eggs, and groceries.

In 1924 Dell, Ervie, Britt, Howard Hanson and I started to Shawnee High School. We batched in a little house just south of the school building. Howard dropped out before the year was over, but often told of how he

went through high school - in the front door and out the back door. The second year I worked for board and room at the Fred Logans, he was principal at the high school. Dell, Ervie, and Britt batched. The third year Britt, Curtis Hanson and I batched in what had been the printing office in Shawnee. The fall of 1927 Dad started driving the school bus on the north route, so we lived at home.

Living wasn't easy on the homestead, trying to make a living on a dry farm. Dad was by far a better blacksmith than farmer, and like so many if it didn't rain during the growing season, there wasn't much of a crop. We always seemed to have a good garden, every bit of water available went to the garden, such as wash water, and water from bathing. Mom canned a lot for winter use, and we made 'do'.

At first we had quite a lot of trouble with range cattle, before fences were in they would be right up around the house and scare us half to death. Later they would break through the fences and ruin a crop.

I'm sure anyone who lived in West Twenty Mile area during the years my parents were there will remember Mom's raised doughnuts. It would be great to come home from school and she would have fresh doughnuts for us. No one could ever make them quite like Mom did, not even her daughters. I'm sure many will also remember how Dad made a cannon, and would load it up about 4 a.m. each Fourth of July to be sure all the neighbors were awake to get chores done so we could get going on a big picnic.

As time went on and we grew up, we left home to work out and helped, money wise, as we could. Eventually we all married except for Ervie. Dell married Lorena Johnson. Britt went to Alaska in 1935 and later married Mary Kvafinkoff. I married Gerald Herrick, Ray married Josephine Showalter, Willard married Esther Knetch (sp?), Dorothy married Raymond Reese. Jess went to Alaska in 1939 where he met and married Patricia Cooper, Agnes married Vernon May and Thelma married Fay Titus. From these marriages Mom and Dad acquired 27 grandchildren.

In 1941 after all the family was raised and on their own, Mom and Dad sold the homestead to Willard Hoffman, who had earlier bought the John Tipton property. They dismantled the homestead dwelling, which then consisted of three rooms, and used what they could to help build a home in Douglas at 1018 South Jefferson Street. Dorothy now lives there.

For some years Dad worked at the Museum in Douglas, which he really enjoyed. He would dress the part in fringed leather pants and beaded and fringed coat. Many of his donated items are still at the Museum.

Death first came to the family when Ervie drowned in the Payette River at Payette, Idaho in 1934. In 1951 Ray died from injuries he received by being hit by a train at Orin Junction crossing. Mom died in Douglas in 1952, Dell died in Albany, Oregon in 1955 and Dad died in Douglas in 1963.

This is written to the best of my ability, as I really didn't live at the homestead much after 1924, just summers and about one other year. I lived in Washington State in 1932 to 1934, then back to Douglas, then left for good in 1941, so there has been much that has happened that I know nothing about.

Gladys E. Herrick

## Cross, George H. and Lea Family

George Harry Cross was born in Montreal, Canada in 1854. He was of Scotch ancestry. He was the son of Alexander Selkirk Cross and Julia Fisher Lunn Cross. He was educated in private elementary schools, Montreal High School, the Upper Canada College and Nicolet College. He spent four months touring Europe, and upon his return, he enrolled at McGill University. He did not attend the college, however, for upon hearing of the adventures of friends who had come back to Canada from the Colorado Territory, Fred St. Denis and William Keeler Roy. He decided to leave Montreal for St. Louis where they would outfit themselves for a trip west.

The three traveled via the Western Pacific Railroad from St. Louis to Riverbend, Colorado Territory. This was the headquarters for many large cattle outfits. The young men found lodging for \$15.00 per month on the Dowling ranch located on the Big Sandy River. The Dowlings, being fellow Canadians, welcomed their countrymen, who made themselves useful in any way they could. The newcomers were fascinated hearing of the experiences of a Canadian named Dick Seaner, who was a buffalo runner. The Kansas Pacific Railroad paid the runners \$500 a month to slaughter the animals so that they could bring their trains in on time. They were often delayed for hours waiting for stampeding herds to pass. The United States Government supplied the runners with free ammunition, and paid a bounty on every tail brought in.

In the spring of 1875, George worked for a time on the Spring Cow Hunt, but left when the hunt reached Fort Bent.

George did not find any suitable vacant land along the Arkansas River, so he returned to the Dowling ranch. Together with his two companions, Fred and Willie, he bought a team and wagon and some camping equipment. The three returned to Fort Bent where they each bought a herd of cattle. The price paid for steers was \$9.00 and \$7.00 for cows. Any small calves belonging to the cows were thrown in at no charge. The cattle were from Texas, long-horned and multi-colored.

They drove the cattle to northern Colorado. Enroute, they camped on Cherry Creek which is today in the heart of Denver. Forty miles north of the present city of Ft. Collins, they established a camp on Lone Pine Creek. There they built a cabin and a corral. They were obliged to corral their animals each night to protect them from the mountain lions which preyed on the stock. Sometimes the lions would jump into the corral and somehow manage to lift an animal over the fence, dragging her away to consume her.

It soon became obvious that the range around the camp which the three young men had named "Little Canada" was overstocked. There were many other cattlemen in the area. Some of them decided to take their cattle to LaBonte Creek, Wyoming Territory, in search of better grass, since in the present location, their cattle were not fattening properly. George, in the company of several others, namely Alex Wilson, Clint Graham, Bill Daley, Joe and Andy Sullivan and Charley Campbell, were preparing to move their herds north into Wyoming and into Indian country. Fred and Willie wanted nothing

to do with the Indians, and at the last minute, George, too, decided against going. The other cattlemen left with their cattle for LaBonte Creek.

In the summer of 1876, Fred St. Denis and George drove to the LaBonte ranch to visit. They were told of many narrow escapes which the cattlemen had had with the Indians, and learned that Andy Sullivan had been killed in one such encounter.

Fort Fetterman was the nearest supply station. The LaBonte cattlemen often went there, and sometimes they drove beeves which they sold to feed the soldiers stationed there.

George rode with the LaBonte Creek boys to visit squawman "Speed" Stagner on LaPrele Creek that summer. "Speed" warned them to be very careful since the Indians were hunting buffalo near Red Canyon. George was charmed with the view of Red Canyon and remarked that he would like to own a ranch there.

In the fall, George and Fred St. Denis returned to "Little Canada". By the spring of 1877, the Indians were conquered and sent to live on reservations. Once again, cattlemen in northern Colorado planned to herd their cattle into Wyoming. This time, George gathered up his herd and accompanied them. Upon reaching LaBonte Creek, George cut out his cattle, deciding to remain at LaBonte. Soon afterwards, all the others had left except Alex Wilson. He and George Cross carried on together.

In March of 1878, George and Alex drove towards Laramie Peak for a load of logs. A raging blizzard caught them. Wilson or Indian Creek was named after Alex. They almost perished in the five day storm. They were unable to find their horses, so they decided to walk home. It was an agonizing ordeal due to the fact that the drifts of snow were 20' deep along the creeks. Cattle were later found dead in the tops of trees where, blinded by the raging blizzard, they had drifted. Later, Alex Wilson, who suffered from rheumatism, sold out to Bill Guthrie. George moved to Wagonhound Creek and formed a partnership with Jack Douglas-Willan. A few years later, Willan and Cross sold the Wagonhound holdings.

In 1883, George applied for his citizenship papers. Then he filed on a homestead which he named Braehead after his ancestral home in Scotland. He hired Peter George to build a three room log house on his claim. George traveled to Chicago that fall with a shipment of beef and from Chicago continued on to Montreal to visit his family. In January of 1884, he was married to Lea Marie LeVasseur, his childhood sweetheart. Lea was the daughter of Benjamin LeVasseur and Matilda Roy-Voisine LeVasseur. She had been born and raised in Cacouna, Quebec, Canada, and had received her common school education there. At the time of her marriage, she was studying to be a teacher.

The newlyweds traveled to Cheyenne and on to Rock Creek by train, where they boarded a Concord stage-coach to cross the Laramie Plains. The stage broke down at the Seven Mile Station. The coach was beyond repair, so they continued their journey in an open buckboard. Blizzard conditions continued throughout the entire trip, which took one week. The passengers almost froze to death. There were stage stations located along the route about every ten miles. At one such station, they were marooned for three days and nights while the blizzard

raged.

Upon reaching Braehead, George and Lea found that the carpenter who was to have the cabin completed by the time of their arrival, had decided to trap during the winter months. The roof of the cabin was unfinished, and as a result, the house was full of snow. They stayed with Peter George, the carpenter, until the weather improved and then returned to Cheyenne and remained there until April when Peter George wrote them that the cabin had been finally completed.

It was a lonely life for Lea Cross. George was gone all day building fences, grubbing sagebrush, picking rocks, tending the cattle or riding into Fetterman for supplies and mail. Lea was always glad to see the three friendly squaws who had been discarded by their white husbands come riding in from Spring Canyon where they lived. They wanted sugar, flour and coffee from Lea, but they were "company". Every few months, "Little Frenchie" (Jean Cazaubon) who was a peddler, would arrive, his wagon filled with things the isolated families needed.

In 1884, Lea gave birth to their first child, a daughter whom they named Maggie. Mrs. Arrowsmith, a homeopathic doctor and Mrs. Charley Rice attended the birth. Mrs. Rice traded a milk cow named Bell to Lea for Lea's wedding dress. The cow was old and toothless, but nonetheless necessary now that the Crosses had a child.

By this time, the troops had left Fort Fetterman. There was no longer a doctor available, so the stockmen organized the Fetterman Hospital Association. It was funded by 77 men, businessmen, stockmen and cowboys. The purpose of the organization was to employ a doctor for the citizens of the area. Dr. Amos W. Barber, formerly the army doctor at the fort, accepted the position, and became known as the "Cowboy Doctor". He used one room of the soldiers' barracks as his hospital. It gave the community a feeling of security to know that medical aid was available to them once more.

George H. Cross petitioned for a school for the children of the community. He donated an acre of land, as well as building another room on his own house so that the teacher would have a place to live. Mary Cooper was the first teacher when the school opened in January of 1887. The Beaver Post Office was originated that year. It was established in the kitchen of Charley Rice's home, and Charley was the first postmaster.

In 1887, a second daughter, Julia Irene, was born to George and Lea. Dr. Arrowsmith and Mrs. Rice once more attended Lea, but the birth was complicated. Finally, Dr. Barber was called. He was able to save the lives of both Lea and her baby.

The new county of Converse was organized in 1888, with Douglas as the county seat. George Cross, Edward David and Frank Wolcott were elected as County Commissioners. There were only 13 post offices in the entire county. It was rated as a fourth class county, having a debt of \$120,000. The commissioners worked zealously. They let a contract to Brenning and McFarland to build a jail to house public offenders. The jail cost \$4000, but was of sturdy construction, having walls 14" thick. Serving the public as commissioner marked the beginning of George Cross' political career.

The Cross family went to Canada in 1889 for a visit and, of course, to show off their two little daughters.

Tragically, both girls contracted diphtheria and died while the family was visiting there. The parents returned to Wyoming and to an empty house. George occupied himself with improving his land, and contracted to build a larger house. The lumber for the new dwelling came from Marshall's sawmill. He was nominated for State Senator on the Democratic ticket in 1894. He was opposed by Joe Kennedy running on the Republican ticket. Since they were very good friends, they did most of their campaigning together. When the election was over, and George Cross had been successful, Joe Kennedy remarked that "Cross beat me because he'd tell every woman with a baby that her baby was the prettiest in Converse County even though the child was ugly as a mud fence!"

Among the bills Cross introduced in the Third Legislature was one to create and establish a State Board of Health. He was re-elected to the Fourth Legislature during which he asked for appropriation for bounties on wolves and coyotes which were killing so many cattle. He sponsored a bill to prohibit public money from becoming a source of profit to the officer who is the custodian thereof.

When Mr. Cross returned home, he organized several Wolfers Clubs in the county. These clubs pursued and killed predatory animals. Many of Douglas' businessmen were going into the sheep business at that time. A sheep war broke out between cattlemen and sheepmen who were encroaching on their grazing land. George Cross went into the sheep business with George Goodwin and O. P. Witt with the stipulation that they couldn't graze on upper LaPrele. Witt trailed the sheep all over the country. One blizzard after another reduced the flocks and Mr. Cross was glad to sell out to the Sims brothers, who had recently come to Wyoming from Texas.

George Cross was re-elected to the Fifth State Legislature. In 1910, he was nominated to run for Governor, but he refused to accept the nomination. He served for the last time as Senator in the Eleventh session of the Legislature.

The LaBonte Hotel was built by Edward Taft David, Otto Bolln and George Cross. He also was appointed President of the State Fair and of the Wyoming Pioneer Association. He was instrumental in the organization of the Converse County Bank. Perhaps his greatest contribution to the community as far as the rural residents were concerned, was the organization of Shafner's Ranch Telephone Company. It was no longer necessary to race a horse to Douglas to get a doctor when illness struck or an accident occurred.

George H. Cross is quoted as saying, "With the help of my good wife, we struggled through Siberian blizzards, winter winds, lightning storms, spring floods, dry summers and rustlers. Meanwhile our family increased. We had five beautiful daughters and four sons including our twins, Robert and Sandy, and we filled our big house."

Julia Mary Cross, daughter of George and Lea, was appointed as a Receiver of Public Monies for the United States Land Office. The only woman to receive that honor, she served in Converse, Natrona, Niobrara and Fremont Counties, and the Salt Creek Oil fields, for four years. She received more than 18,000 homestead filings totalling over 12 million dollars.

Elsie Cross married Robert Hawley. Both were active in politics. They had one son, Robert.

Alzire Cross was never married. She was a teacher in several local schools, and active in various local organizations.

Alexander Selkirk "Sandy" Cross became the manager of Braehead Ranch, raising fine Shorthorn cattle. He was the father of four daughters.

Robert, twin brother of Alexander, died of influenza while serving in the armed forces during World War I.

William Hutchison Cross became the owner and manager of the Tomahawk Ranch in 1922. He was elected to the 21st and 22nd Sessions of the Wyoming House of Representatives, and to the Senate for Sessions 23 to 26, inclusively. He retired from politics, but in 1972 was persuaded to run for the House of Representatives and was successful. He and his wife, Barbara, have three sons. The eldest, William Alexander "Rory" Cross has been elected five times to the House of Representatives. The second son, Robert is a prominent veterinarian in Converse County, and Richard, the third son, now owns the historic Boot Ranch.

George Harry Cross, Junior was a member of the Board of County Commissioners for Converse County. He served for nine years. Most of the time he acted as Chairman of the Board. He and his wife had four children, three boys and one girl.

Elizabeth Maisie Cross married Edwin J. Ball of California. The couple had one son, George Cross Ball, who is a celebrated painter.

Emma Cross Morton, known as Criss Cross, was active in community projects. Her husband is deceased. She makes her home in California.

Lea Cross died on August 10, 1940, George H. Sr. died November 28, 1946. George H. Jr. died November 3, 1970. Sandy died November 20, 1969.

Emma Cross Morton

## Curtin, William and Caroline Family

Wm. Emmet Curtin  
1880-1968  
Born-Patterson, NJ

Caroline (Keenan) Curtin  
1878-1973  
Born-Iowa

Eve (Curtin) Mullenex, Long Beach, California

Thomas W. Curtin, Douglas, Wyoming

Gerald T. Curtin (deceased), Watonga, Oklahoma

Peter A. Curtin (deceased), Douglas, Wyoming

Avis T. (Curtin) Smith, Thermopolis, Wyoming

Margaret M. (Curtin) Mills, New Paris, Ohio

Paul R. Curtin, Douglas, Wyoming

Francis W. Curtin, Thermopolis, Wyoming

William Curtin migrated to Spalding, Nebraska in his early days with his parents who originally came from Ireland. They were engaged in farming and livestock in and around Spalding during his youth and early manhood. William "Bill" was a pretty fair baseball player in his younger years and played some semi-pro baseball.

Caroline C. Keenan and William Curtin were united in marriage at a ceremony at Omaha, Nebraska in 1903. The Catholic ceremony was performed by Father McGovern, later to become Bishop of the Wyoming



Catholic Diocese in Cheyenne. To this union were born eight children, five boys and three girls.

Hard times and drought in Nebraska made William and Caroline Curtin migrate to Wyoming, where land was being opened to homesteading. This was in 1916. The Curtins took up homesteading east of Douglas near the Pine Ridge Flat Top country. They remained in Wyoming until their deaths.

In 1924 William and Caroline Curtin disposed of their homestead and moved west of Douglas on the old Peyton place. The place was under the LaPrele irrigation project. There they engaged in farming and livestock until the mid 30's. During this time they made many friends and good neighbors in that area which lasted throughout a lifetime. Caroline Curtin was one of the early members of the LaPrele Homemakers, which she continued throughout her life. Bill Curtin started auctioneering in Nebraska and continued on in Douglas. He cried many sales in and around Douglas, and with his Irish wit, got many a laugh during the course of a sale. In the period from approximately 1925 to 1939 all eight of the Curtin girls and boys were graduates of Converse County High School.

In 1936 the Curtins moved to Douglas until World War II broke out. With four sons in the service, Caroline and Bill bought a small farming acreage between Glenrock and Parkerton, where they lived until approximately 1947. They moved to Douglas, where he opened a second hand store and operated it until his retirement.

William Curtin passed away in 1968 at the age of 88. He was survived by his wife, Caroline, who passed away in 1973 at the age of 95.

Paul Curtin

## Cushman, "Lizzie" Family

Elizabeth "Lizzie" Newell Cushman was born in Bellefontaine, Ohio on April 13, 1845, the daughter of James II and Elizabeth Newell.

Lizzie was married to Henry Cushman during the Civil War. Henry was a surgeon and served in the Union Army stationed at Louisville, Kentucky. He was born in Vermont before moving west with his brothers to Wisconsin and then to Iowa where he met and married Lizzie in Louisa County. Their children were Edward E. (born on November 26, 1865) and Francis "Frank".

In June 1885 Ed and Frank, along with two of their uncles, John and Robert Newell, came west to Wyoming to join the other Newells that were already there. They came by covered wagon from Louisa County to Atkinson, Nebraska and then southwest to North Platte, Nebraska and then followed the Union Pacific Railroad to Cheyenne.

Edward, in his reminiscences, tells about one of the first sights he saw when they reached the Union Pacific, "the Union Pacific train engines were carrying streamers of crepe in observance of the death, within a few days, of General Grant."

After working at a few jobs around Cheyenne they moved westward to Rock Creek and then north over the Fetterman Stagecoach Line road to Toltec where they branched off and went to Bear Creek and Horseshoe Park.

Lizzie came later in the year by train. She also came by Rock Creek. She and Henry were divorced by this time. She "squatted" on a parcel of land near Springhill, receiving her patent in 1891.

She was the first Postmistress of Springhill when it was established on July 21, 1887, having been instrumental in getting the post office established.

Lizzie also was a teacher, teaching one of the first schools in the Esterbrook area in her home at Springhill. She also taught at Fetterman City (Fort Fetterman) and was one of the first teachers in the new town of Douglas.

Ed went to work at the old Fort Laramie Sawmill on Mill Creek which was abandoned shortly after his arrival in Wyoming. Charles Webble was operating the mill at this time. Ed helped freight the lumber to Fetterman, Douglas and Fort Laramie.

At the end of one of his trips to Fetterman with lumber, Ed was hired to take down a log building at the "Hog Ranch" across the river from Fetterman and move it to Douglas. He recalls, "It was one of the roughest jobs of hauling I ever did. I came down the river on the north side and it appeared to me that the greater part of the way was entirely without a road and that most of my wheels were 'rough locked' half of the time. It was the first wooden building erected in Douglas."

Ed's next job was working in the hospital at Fetterman. He remarks, "I was then dignified by the title of 'hospital steward.' Doctor Barber was sometimes called away in emergency cases as far as a hundred miles, upon which occasion I would tend the dressings of the wounded. Patients in the hospital were, in the main, men who had suffered gun-shot wounds or been badly hurt in falls with horses. Some of them were typhoid patients. Mountain folk called it 'mountain fever', the home remedy for which was sage tea."

Following his stint as "hospital steward", Ed taught school on the Platte River a few miles above Guernsey. The site of this school now lays beneath the waters of Guernsey Lake. Ed tells about getting his certificate to teach in the following narrative, "Dr. Wyman, the State School Superintendent, living at Cheyenne, sent out the examination questions to one of the school directors who gave them to me in the living room of his ranch which had a well supplied library. He left me there to write out my answers to the questions submitted while he went about his ranch work. For years I considered it as proof of his confidence in me, but later years have led me to believe that it might have been that he thought there was great need for a teacher and feared that I might not pass the examination."

Later Ed taught school at "The Shawnee." It was at a settlement of coal miners from Boone, Iowa. The camp and the school were broken up by an explosion of the boiler at the top of the shaft, killing the engineer.

Ed was later admitted to the bar and practiced law in Washington state and was appointed as U. S. Judge of the western district of Washington.

Frank also moved to Washington and was elected to the Congress of the United States as its Congressman. He was also a lawyer.

Lizzie followed her sons to Tacoma, Washington where she died on June 11, 1919.

John R. Pexton

## Daniels, "Abe" and Hiram

The first Daniels to come to Wyoming was Arthur Bruce Daniels, second child of Mason Smith and Theodocia Melvina (Ross) Daniels. He was born in Concord, Wisconsin, March 1, 1855. In 1882 he made his second trip from Gunnison, Colorado to Rawlins, and in 1884 he went from Rawlins to Rock Creek. All of this time he was engaged in freighting. He freighted from Rock Creek to Buffalo and the adjoining fort until the completion of the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad to Douglas in 1886, freighting from Douglas to Buffalo until the Burlington Railroad built through the northeastern part of the state. Then he quit freighting.

A newspaper account contained this statement, "His brick business block on North Second Street was one of the town's first improvements." "Abe" as he was familiarly known, built the first two-story building in town with the exception of the bank buildings. The upper story for a long time was used for lodge purposes. It is a guess that this building was the original Saddle Rock Saloon which was owned by Abe. In Guy Squires' account of the building he said it was built of brick made at a brick yard located along the Platte River just south of the fairgrounds. The roof was flat while McDermott's saloon just south had a pitched roof. Every time it rained the water poured onto the Daniels' building from McDermott's, eventually crumbling the bricks which caused the second story to topple over onto the McDermott building. After buying both buildings, Squires reconstructed, according to his account, "Daniels' historic Saddle Rock as well as other buildings."

Many stories have been recalled of Abe's kindness to the unfortunate. He befriended scores of "men on the plains." Shepherders coming into Douglas in the fall with a check covering their entire earnings from herding sheep all spring and summer would go to the Saddle Rock for a relaxing day or so. Abe acted as their banker, cashing their checks, giving them some money for their immediate needs, and when they were ready to return to their sheepherding duties, he would give them the balance of their pay. Had he not done this, they would have been "rolled" and had no money for their winter expenses.

He was a member of the Masons, Eastern Star, Odd Fellows, and Eagles. For many years he served the Masonic Lodge as Chaplain. An early day resident recalled that since Abe was Chaplain, he headed the Masons who followed the deceased in the funeral procession as they marched up the hill to the cemetery. Abe, who was a very portly gentleman, carried the Bible on a wooden structure which rested comfortably on his belly.

In his obituary it was recounted that Abe "owned one of the best ranches on the LaPrele and is a stockholder in the Table Mountain Sheep Company." Abe served on the city council for several terms and also was influential in establishing the library which was dedicated in 1910.

Abe married Esther Downey, December 6, 1890. They adopted two of Abe's sister's children, renaming them Arthur Bruce Jr. and Esther. Because of a haunting fear over his failing health, Abe took his own life on March 25, 1912. His mother died the following January 12, 1913 and his wife died November 8, 1931.

In the early 1890s Abe's youngest brother, Hiram Ross Daniels, and their mother (Abe and "Hi" were two of eight children of Mason and Theodocia Daniels) came to Douglas from Verona, Nebraska, after the death of their father. He was born in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, August 25, 1871. In 1896 John J. Steffen induced Hiram to take charge of the jewelry department in the Steffen Drug Store in Douglas. This was the beginning of a business career in jewelry, music and gift goods that had been continuous for 44 years at the time of his death, February 1, 1940. As founder and operator of the Daniels Jewelry and Gift Shop he had the distinction of serving longer than any other Douglas businessman in the same business. After his death Lyle Olsen operated the business until it was sold to Christina Thompson and Georgia (Mrs. Ted) Daniels. They, in turn, sold it to Mary Gwynn and Louise Queen in March 1945. In March 1985 the jewelry business and building were sold to Bob and Janice Schwartzkopf.

Mr. Daniels had owned jewelry stores not only in Douglas, but also in Glenrock, Lusk and Wheatland. He was interested in photography, taking and developing his own pictures. Many of his pictures were made into postcards, especially one he took of Natural Bridge. This photo was also sent to Germany where a firm used it on mugs, plates, pin trays, and other items which he sold in his store. One of his favorite advertising slogans was, "A square deal for your round dollar."

Hiram Daniels married Florence May Curtis, December 8, 1900. She had taught school in South Dakota, but in Douglas she had operated a dressmaking and hat shop until her marriage. To this union were born three sons: Leslie, Theodore and Hiram, Jr. Mr. Daniels bought a "ranch" bordering on the southern edge of Douglas and across the Platte from it. The boys always joked that their dad bought this land to keep them busy after school and out of the pool hall. Although all three sons have died, that part of the ranch east of the river remains in the Daniels family.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Daniels were very active in the Congregational Church, serving in many capacities. Both had taught Sunday school classes for many years. Ted had said that while his father was busy helping organize the first church in Douglas, his Uncle Abe was establishing the first saloon. Like Abe, Hi was active in civic affairs, serving many years on the school board, as justice of the peace, and as the official weatherman. Being weatherman sounded tame enough but in one account in the "Douglas Budget" he was threatened that if he didn't produce the kind of weather all wanted and not the continual snow they were having they would replace him. He was an early captain of the old Company F, Wyoming National Guard.

Hi was an expert on rocks and minerals having spent many enjoyable hours exploring much of Wyoming gathering specimens and Indian artifacts. It had been his intention to polish and catalog these specimens upon his retirement.

Leslie, the eldest son of Hiram and Florence Daniels, was born in Douglas, October 13, 1901, and spent the major part of his life in Colorado and Wyoming. In 1917 Leslie enrolled in a gardening project in the first 4-H Club in Converse County. This experience influenced his inter-

est in botany, zoology, and entomology. Entomology was the field in which he served for 45 years.

When Leslie was ready for college in 1920, Mrs. Daniels moved with her three sons to Boulder, Colorado. He earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the Colorado Agriculture College, now known as the Colorado State University, in Fort Collins. The University of Minnesota granted him his Ph.D. degree in 1956.

In 1924 Les married Anne Whipp of River Falls, Wisconsin. She had come to Douglas to teach in 1919. They lived in Fort Collins for 43 years, moving back to the "ranch" when he retired in 1967. "He was living proof," Anne always said, "that you can come back home and be happy." Leslie and Anne had two daughters, Rosemary Smith (Mrs. Everett) who lives on the Daniels' ranch and Donna Lowe (Mrs. James) who lives in Marin County, California.

When Leslie moved to Fort Collins to continue his schooling he was an instructor in entomology. Upon graduation he accepted a position with the university as an instructor, eventually becoming head of the Entomology Department of C.S.U. He also was the chief entomologist of the experiment station at C.S.U. He was instrumental in developing the Agriculture Handbook which was used throughout Colorado.

On two different sabbatical leaves, Leslie and Ann visited agriculture experiment stations throughout the United States.

Leslie dedicated his life and interest to research and teaching, specializing in the relationship between insects and plant disease, especially as it pertained to potato production. His influence in this field was a big factor in the knowledge now known regarding the subject of plant disease as well as on the economic impact on farmers in the state of Colorado.

One farmer who specialized in the production of potatoes told Leslie that if he, Les, had found the solution to the plant disease which attacked the potato plant and if he, the farmer, made \$21,000 on potatoes that year using Leslie's recommendations, he would buy Leslie a suit. The farmer succeeded and he bought a suit for Leslie.

When Anne and Leslie returned to the ranch they followed his agricultural interest, raising large vegetable gardens and beautiful flowers. During this time, Les served a term as president of the Wyoming Pioneer Association. He also served as police judge and was bailiff of the Converse County District Court for a time.

After declining health, Leslie died May 3, 1984. Because he gave credit to his 4-H Club experience for awakening his interest in the field of botany and entomology, it is particularly fitting that his wife, Anne, has established a scholarship with the Converse County 4-H Foundation in his memory.

The second son of Hiram and Florence Daniels was Theodore, better known as Ted or T.C., who was born February 21, 1903. He lived in Douglas most of his life having gone to Boulder, Colorado his senior year in high school and then on to the University of Colorado, earning his law degree, L.L.B. in 1926. He passed the bar in both Wyoming and Colorado that same year and then returned to Douglas to open an office in the Unity Temple Building to practice general law for 30 years.

While practicing law in Douglas he served as county

attorney of Converse County for ten years. At one time he and John Dawson, a prominent Douglas attorney, were partners until John moved to Illinois to go back to his other love, being a pharmacist. After World War II, Joe Sullivan officed with Ted until Ted went on the bench.

Ted was elected to the House of Representatives in 1946, serving as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, as majority floor leader, and finally as Speaker of the House of the 33rd Legislature in 1955. During his term as Speaker, the Legislature approved funds for the Wyoming Pioneer Museum, and in 1956, Governor Simpson and Ted, who was chairman of the Wyoming Pioneer Museum dedication committee, laid the corner stone of the fine new building which was dedicated on Pioneer Day at the Wyoming State Fair.

Ted was appointed judge of the Seventh Judicial District by Governor Milward Simpson and began serving March 1, 1957. He served a little over 18 years. On April 24, 1975, while he was conferring with counsel in his chamber, he suffered a fatal heart attack. It had been his intention to retire the following July. Funeral services were held in Casper with burial in the family plot in the Douglas cemetery.

During his years on the bench he presided over many noteworthy trials. Shortly after taking office he ruled that trading stamps were illegal. This was not a popular decision but the Wyoming Supreme Court upheld him. Another even more unpopular decision was the ruling that a welfare mother was entitled to medicaid funds to go to New York for an abortion. Again the Wyoming Supreme Court upheld his decision.

The Miranda decision which said the accused must be read his rights before he can be questioned forced Ted to dismiss a case where a young man accused of murder had confessed and even shown authorities where he had disposed of the body. But even though the Miranda decision was handed down after the accused had confessed, according to the United States Supreme Court, the evidence could not be used because his rights had not been read to him and Ted had no recourse except to dismiss the case.

But it wasn't always great stress, unpopular decisions, and heartache in the courtroom. Sometimes there were humorous situations. In one instance an attorney, Clarence Cypreansen, was arguing a divorce case before Ted when, according to the newspaper account, "the solemnity of the court was disrupted by Judge Daniels exclaiming, 'Zip! You're on fire!' Smoke was billowing out of his pocket. Court recessed for about ten minutes while the flames, caused by loose matches in his pocket, were extinguished."

On another occasion Ted was presiding over a case involving a difference between two ranchers. One of the attorneys was having difficulty getting the witness to answer his question. So Ted turned to him and said, "Mr., just what caused this situation?" The witness, an older man who had known Ted all of his life, turned toward him, putting his arm up on the bench and said, "Well, it was like this, Teddy." With difficulty the dignitaries suppressed their smiles and proceeded with the trial.

Ted was a lifelong member of the First Congregational Church in Douglas and an associate member of the church in Casper. He had served on all the boards in the

Douglas church and had been a member of the choir in both churches. He had been superintendent of the Sunday school and had taught the high school boys class in Douglas for more than 30 years. Each spring the last session of the class was a weekend camping trip to Laramie Peak. Many of the boys through the years climbed the peak on this outing.

He loved music in all forms and was instrumental in organizing the Oil City Slickers Barbershop Chorus in Casper, serving as its first president.

In 1937 he was married to Georgia Nordgren, who had taught school in Douglas and Seattle, Washington. They had two children, Pat Burton (Mrs. Scott) and John Theodore. Pat, who lives in Lakewood, Colorado has two children, Daniel Begakis and Elisha Burton. She is a supervisory paralegal and is Chief of the Debt Collection Unit in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Denver. John, who is married to Sandra Kay Munsinger, lives in Casper and is in the construction business.

The third son of Hiram and Florence Daniels, Hiram Ross, Jr., after a long lingering illness, died at the age of 14, in 1927.

Georgia N. Daniels  
Anne M. Daniels

## Daniels, John and Mary Family

John Daniels and Mary Elizabeth Stingley were married August 1, 1861 in Nodaway County, Missouri. To this union were born six children; Olive Livona, Sara A., William L., Nelson Milo, Joseph Milton and Lydia Parthena.

Their son, Joseph Milton, married Grace Garnett Young in the Maryville, Missouri, area of Nodaway County in the early 1900s. Their children were Chester, Guy (who died at 5 months of age), Roy and Dennie. Grace Daniels died of cancer on May 28, 1908. Ella Rachel Walden was Grace's good friend and nurse during her illness and later became Joseph Milton Daniel's second wife. She had a daughter, Lela Petitt, by a former marriage.

Joseph, Ella and family moved to Smith Center, Kansas, and Marie Elizabeth was born in 1910. Later the



John and Mary Daniels



Joseph Milton Daniels and mules he raised

family moved to a farm near Wewela, South Dakota, where Wayne Milton was born in 1916 with an Indian midwife named Raymos attending.

In 1920, the Joseph Daniels family packed their belongings into two "covered" wagons and with a herd of horses traveled past cabins with sod roofs where sunflowers and cactus were blooming, to the Cow Creek Buttes area of Wyoming in Converse County. They moved to Douglas, Wyoming, the first winter so that Marie could attend school.

Lela Petitt homesteaded first in 1920 at the base of the Pinnacle Rocks, Cow Creek Buttes, in Converse County, proving up on the place in 1925. Lela later sold her homestead in 1952 to Rollie and Gladys Sadler. In the summer of 1920, Joe Daniels built a cabin on Lela's homestead and later bought the Lowry relinquishment homestead on Middle Creek. Floyd and Eva Rounds and three sons and Curtis L. and Elizabeth Emmons and one son (Joe's nieces) homesteaded in the same area, so a school was established for the three families. Eva Rounds taught at this school the first year, then Bess Russ came to Wyoming, at the age of 17, to teach there and later to marry Paul Miller and become a part of the community.

In 1921 John and Mary Daniels moved west to the Cow Creek Buttes area of Converse County and homesteaded near the Emmons and Rounds families.

Dennie and Roy Daniels stayed in South Dakota and visited Wyoming periodically; later they married and moved to other areas. Chester married, had a family and then mysteriously disappeared while seeking work around the South Dakota area. Joe Daniels hired a detective, but no trace was ever found of Chester.

Marie recalls early memories of living in Wyoming; of her father's raising mules to sell to the army and a favorite story about the first and only gray wolf seen by her mother and herself near the Buttes. Marie also raised a baby porcupine on a "sugar tit" made of bread, sugar and milk mixture and tied up in a rag. Wayne recalls the finding of a "still" on Middle Creek after the snowbanks melted and the copper pipes became visible.

Wayne recalls several rather amusing stories about his father Joe's uncanny knack for accidents, usually involving the team of horses. One time Paul "Blinky" Miller and Joe Daniels were returning home from Dull Center, Wyoming. They were travelling in an old Model T

Ford, coming through the gap in the Cow Creek Buttes, with Paul at the wheel. The trail through the buttes was passable for a wagon but almost impossible to travel by car. Part way down the steep incline, Paul lost control of the Model T, pulled back on the steering wheel and yelled "Whoa, whoa". The wheel came off and they continued to the bottom with Paul yelling all the way, "Whoa, whoa". Joe said "?!X\*?!", why didn't you put on the brake?"

Joe Daniels was hauling blue shale rock for the homestead house roof, carrying the load with his team and wagon. While Joe was unloading the rock one horse caught his bridle, broke it, bolted ahead, upset the wagon box, rocks, Joe and all. Seen in the distance was Joe Daniels walking up the road, black as night and covered with shale dust. The horses were long gone with the front wheels of the wagon still hooked to the team.

Another incident happened with the team, wagon and a load of hay. Wayne went to unhook the horses' bridle, which was caught on the tongue. The horse, "Lightning", was startled, jumped, and broke the bridle straps and lunged forward breaking loose from the tongue. The horses ran down a steep hill with Joe yelling, "Whoa, ?!X\*?! , you whoa". When the wagon reached the bottom of the hill the hay rack caught on the gate post breaking the double trees and freeing the team.

After John Daniels passed away in 1924, Mary Daniels filed on a new homestead, in her name, on lower Middle Creek, just a mile below the present day Converse-Niobrara County line. She was in her 80's. The homestead was approximately 5 miles below Joe Daniel's homestead. Wayne recalls a flood on Middle Creek that frightened his mother as water was flowing 6 inches deep through her home during the night.

In 1929, Marie Daniels married James Oscar Middleton and moved to his homestead (see Middleton story). In 1933 Wayne Daniels filed on his homestead two miles northwest of the Joe Daniels Middle Creek homestead and proved up on it by 1936. In later years, Oscar and Marie purchased Wayne's homestead and the Joe Daniels place and cattle.

Wayne Daniels married Laura Mae (Freeda) Keehmer and raised a family of four sons and one daughter. Freeda and Wayne now reside at Ten Sleep, Wyoming.

Duane Daniels lives in Alaska. Billy Max and his wife, Barbra, live and ranch on Owl Creek near Thermopolis, Wyoming. Third son, Milton and his wife, Donna, operate a dairy farm at Riverton, Wyoming. Royce and his wife, Nancy Kay, lives in Douglas, Wyoming; and Alice Fay Daniels AuFrance and her husband, Donald, ranch west of Douglas, Wyoming.

Oscar and Marie? They are still living and ranching on Middle Creek.

Rita Russell

## Daniels, John B. and Sarah Family

John Daniels was born in Victoria, Illinois on June 26, 1868. He married Sarah Wagher on April 28, 1888. Their children were Maude, Grace, Goldie, Hazel and Ethel.

John was a professional brick layer having laid bricks for brick oil tanks at refineries in Illinois.

Their daughter, Grace, was born on August 27, 1890 at Killerton, Iowa.

Two of Grace's schoolmates were Burr and Roy Sheldon who later came to Wyoming.

In 1917, John came to Wyoming with his son-in-law, Ralph Olds Sr. and Ralph's father, C. W. Olds. John homesteaded on Sage Creek near the Olds. Later in the year his wife, Sarah, joined him.

In 1920 the Daniels moved back to Iowa, later moving to Rapid City, South Dakota.

John later built a house for his daughter, Grace and her husband Ralph, on the North Platte River ranch.

John died on December 31, 1949 at Rapid City and Sarah on January 27, 1950 at San Marcos, California.

G. Leone Olds

## David, Edward and Mary

Edward Taft David was born on July 3, 1858, the son of Glenn and Sarah Taft David. His mother was a cousin of President Taft. His father's family was a wealthy family from Lyon, New York.

In 1883 Edward and his brother, John, came to Cheyenne, Wyoming where their uncle, Edward C. David, was located. Edward C. was the first surveyor general of the Territory of Wyoming. Edward C.'s daughter, Louise "Lulu" was married to Joseph Carey who was later a U.S. Senator and Governor of Wyoming.

Joseph Carey financed the David brothers in a cattle ranch venture near Meeteetse, Wyoming. After the bad winter of 1886 they went broke and turned the ranch back to Carey.

The Union Pacific Railroad hired Edward T. in 1887 to appraise the value of their lands that laid along the railroad through Wyoming.

By 1888 Joseph Carey and his brother, David, had decided to go into the cattle business on the North Platte River. Edward T. was hired to acquire the lands. David lived at Fort Fetterman while he was taking care of the transactions.

Edward T. married Mary Beebe on December 19, 1888 at Mystic, Connecticut. Mary was born in 1864 in Brooklyn, N.Y., the daughter of a New York tea taster. They came west immediately after their marriage. Arriving in Wyoming, they discovered all their trunks with their wedding presents, silverware, dishes and clothes were lost. They never were found.

The newlyweds moved to Glenrock for their first year of marriage. Mary found living in the west was very different than living in the east. Glenrock was at that time a new town with miners and wild cowboys.

The Davids then moved to the small settlement of Inez, Wyoming where they lived in a small log building.

Mr. David became superintendent of all the Carey interests in central Wyoming. It included the S.O. Ranch on Boxelder Creek, which was purchased from John Hunton, the CY Ranch at Casper and C Lazy Y Ranch on Muddy Creek. It was said that you were on Carey property from the time you left Boxelder Creek until the time you reached Casper. Bob Devine was its long time manager.

In 1896 Mary convinced Joseph Carey that they needed a nice house to live in at the S.O. Ranch. Cut stone



was hauled from the quarry south of Glenrock to build the splendid house that still stands today on the Bixby Ranch.

Edward T. was instrumental in getting Converse County organized and was elected as one of the first County Commissioners in 1888. He also served in the 11th Legislative Territorial Assembly in 1890 and was a trustee of the University of Wyoming from 1891 to 1893.

On January 21, 1897 the Davids adopted a three year old boy, Robert, born in Chicago, Illinois on April 10, 1894.

In 1899 Mr. David moved his family to Wheatland where he, along with a partner, F. E. Davis, started the Wheatland Merchantile Company.

After a fire destroyed the company building in 1907, he moved his family back to Douglas where he purchased Frank Knittle's Florence Lumber Company on North Second Street. Among other things the lumber company built sheep wagons for \$350.

The Davids built in 1907 and 1908 a house on the top of a hill on East Center Street. After the hill was leveled off 38 loads of rich dirt were hauled in to enrich the old soil. The house is owned today by the Williams family. The road going up the hill to the house was known as the David Hill. Many of the old timers have many happy memories of sliding down the hill on their sleds. One memory that isn't very happy is when a death occurred when a youngster was killed when his sled hit a utility pole at the foot of the hill.

Bob David, in his memoirs, tells of the style of living that he and his family had when they were living in the house. "I was engaged in a job making brick at the brick yard of H. M. Peters at the east end of Center Street and as a result of my labors, would get rather dirty. When I came home in the evening I would go in the back door, undress to my skin, then I would walk into the kitchen naked, past the Japanese cook, Kwini Kinitawa, and up the servants stairway, take a bath and be seated at the dinner table in a tuxedo 15 minutes after entering the house."

Bob David also writes of the splendid horse, "Bucephalus", a single footer, that his father kept in Tates Livery Stable located on the corner of Second and Walnut Streets.

Mary David was appointed to the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees in 1913 and served until 1919. She was president of the Board in 1918-1919.

When the Valley House Hotel was moved in 1914 to make way for the Burlington Railroad to come through Douglas, Ed David was instrumental in getting the LaBonte Hotel built by Ed Revill. H. O. "Bert" and Lillian Emery from Thermopolis were engaged to run the hotel.

Mr. David retired in 1919. He and his wife retired to Denver where he died on April 6, 1949; Mary on November 24, 1950.

Bob David married Edna Smith, daughter of Edward "Mountain Home" and Henrietta Mohr Smith, on August 16, 1919 after a long courtship. The Smiths were people who were associated with the raising of sheep and as such were scorned by the David family. In fact the marriage was a secret one and attended only by the couple's best man, Henry Bolln, and maid of honor, Vera Saul Trumper. Henry, whom Bob hardly knew, was asked to do the honors only minutes before on the street. When the marriage ceremony was over the couple was whisked off

to the train where they departed to Edna's parents' home near Glenrock, where they spent their honeymoon.

Bob and Edna had two daughters. He was a prolific writer, keeping diaries and notes on anything and everything. One of his books, "Malcolm Campbell, Sheriff" is a story about the life of the early time law man.

Edna died on May 17, 1959; Bob in September 1968.

John R. Pexton

## Davies, William and Nora

William and Nora Davies obtained their homestead land, about eight miles from Lost Springs, in 1913. Her parents, Thomas and Tillie Haley, were already in the area; as was her brother, John Swickhamer. At this time Will was working as a printing pressman in Chicago, and had recently been advised by his doctor to change occupations.

Nora and young son, Buster, arrived in Lost Springs by train on February 6, 1914. During the trip Buster became ill and it was found that he had contracted diphtheria. Serum was located in Chadron, Nebraska. A relay of riders carried the medicine in an attempt to save the child, but it arrived too late, and he died just nine days after their arrival.

Leaving Nora, Will went East to again work in the print shop, sending his earnings for the purchase of seed, stock and equipment. He returned to plant in the spring and again to harvest in the fall.

The original house was a small wooden structure. Until a well could be dug, Nora carried water from the section house or from the creek. Getting groceries and the mail meant an eight mile walk. At times she would walk into town, remain overnight, and walk home the next day. The oldest children were born in this home; Marian, Willard (Bud) and Mildred (Sis).

Will left the city, and returned to his family as quickly as possible. He had always lived in a large city, so homesteading was a drastic change for him.

During the summer months, Sunday picnics drew a big attendance. Home dances were called "kitchen sweats". During the winter months these parties were especially welcomed. Children were bundled into buggies, and bedded down wherever room could be found upon arrival at the host home. Babies were placed on beds, in drawers, and even under tables. The older children danced or played as long as they were able to, then found themselves a place to sleep. During bad weather folks often stayed all night, and returned to their homes at daylight when traveling was easier.

In 1922 Will and Nora sold their livestock and machinery. The house was purchased by Bill Lane and skidded to his homestead on Shawnee Creek. The Davies then opened a grocery store in Shawnee. The building was shared with Ed Sinn's hardware store. Here, in living quarters over the store, the youngest Davies child, Owen, was born in June of 1923.

About a year later this store was sold, and the store at Lost Springs purchased. Lost Springs was a thriving com-

munity and the Saturday night dances at the Community Hall drew big crowds. Will fired up the pot-bellied heater early in the day to insure the building would be warm by evening. Lunch was served during the midnight intermission; coffee brewed in a wash-boiler.

In 1928 the Davies leased the Cram homestead and again acquired stock and farm machinery. In 1930 a little one-room log schoolhouse, no longer in use, was moved onto their home place; the stock transferred, and crops planted. Marian attended school in Douglas and taught school after finishing her studies. Bud and Sis attended school, and graduated, from Shawnee. Owen alternated between the schools at Shawnee and Lost Springs. Although Will and Nora spent what time they could out at the homestead, most of the responsibility fell to Bud, while they ran the store and post office at Lost Springs. Bud well remembers the cold winter mornings.

All stock and farm machinery was sold in the fall of 1935, and the grocery store soon after. Will and Nora then moved to Lyman, Nebraska where they again operated a grocery store.

Friendships formed in these early years were friendships that lasted throughout their lifetimes. Nora died in 1959; Will in 1979. Both are buried in Douglas. Wyoming.

Rita Ewing

## Davis, William H. and Amelia

William Davis was born in Belfast, Ireland. Amelia Protzman was born in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1849 and was married to William Davis at Fort Fetterman, Wyoming on June 21, 1883. William came from Ireland with his brother soon after the Civil War. He settled in Wyoming in 1870 and kept books for the United States Army at Fort Fetterman. He put up hay on the native meadows for the government. In 1886 he took squatters rights on Deer Creek in Converse County. Amelia Protzman and her sister came to Wyoming from Missouri and purchased the hotel at Fetterman in the late 1870's.

A son, Eric Davis was born February 17, 1888 on Deer Creek in Converse County, Wyoming. He married the former Susie Uriens, daughter of Fred and Rosie Brumbaugh Uriens, January 15, 1916 in Casper, Wyoming. She was born in Lander, Wyoming.

Eric and Susie became the parents of three children; Gertrude P., Viola R., and Robert.

Eric Davis was a rancher all his life. He homesteaded on Deer Creek in Converse County, one quarter of a mile from where he was born. Mrs. Davis served as cook on the VR Ranch, which was the old stage station and post office on the route between Fort Fetterman and Fort Caspar. Here, Major Wolcott started his first cow outfit.

William Davis died October 14, 1917. Amelia died March 13, 1932.

O. L. Nicholls



## Dawes, Maud

Maud Dawes was born in Linneville, Iowa, November 17, 1866. She was the oldest daughter of Sarah (Hammond) and Edward Dawes. Miss Dawes came to Wyoming in 1894 from Nebraska, where she had been teaching for twelve years. She graduated from high school in Linneville, Iowa, at the age of 16, and taught there until she went to Nebraska.

In 1894 when she came to Wyoming she taught in the rural schools until 1909, when she took the office of County Superintendent of Schools. During the time she was County Superintendent of Schools, the counties of Niobrara and Converse were one county. She visited each school at least once a year, which was quite an undertaking, as at times there were as many as 70 schools in this combined county. She traveled many ways during her terms, first by buggy and horse, with snowshoes and during the later years, by car, although she never learned to drive. Many of the men in the county and even a future county superintendent drove for her; a Whippet, a nine-passenger touring car and a Stanley Steamer. If she decided to visit a school, no matter how deep the mud or snow, she would always say, "Well, we will go as far as we can," and would chuckle, "then we can walk." And they did.

Her life was full of love and interest for all children and she gave very generously of her time, finances and understanding for them. Her diary is full of interesting days in the schoolroom with the teacher and pupils. The day always started early for her, and by early she meant five in the morning. She used to say, "If you aren't up when the sun begins to rise in the east, you have not started your day right. You must see the sun come up to appreciate God." Her life was full of beauty, dedicated to



Maud Dawes

her work, the supreme desire to help her fellow man, and to see progress in the rural schools.

During the nineteen years she supervised the county schools, she at sometimes had as many as 25 districts to visit. Some of these were mountain schools and their school was held during the months of April to November, sometimes school was held for only six months, and sometimes for only three or four months, depending on the weather. Her salary wasn't much to begin with, but for the time it was considered good wages. She was paid \$60 every three months when she began and her "livery" was paid by the county. Teachers at this time were getting \$25 a month, and out of this paid room and board.

Miss Dawes had a homestead in the mountains and when she wasn't busy with school work (they only worked during the school year) she spent her time there. She at one time had a traveler's hotel where the Cold Springs Ranger Station is now. This was about 1914-15-16, and many people came to visit there. She had a large collection of antiques, relics of all kinds, and books. All this was destroyed by fire. She moved after this, farther down the mountain on LaPrele Creek and with the help of her family, built another home. This was a log cabin with four rooms, surrounded by the mountains she loved.

This is a page from her diary, dated March 15, 1910: "I visited the Leman School Tuesday, went on to visit the Mary Cross School. Mr. Brenning came by and I went with him to the McReynolds' and there I stayed all night. We started early Wednesday and got along very nicely until we left the Oriole (an old mine) and then snow. Never in my life have I had such an experience. I waded snow for nearly a mile that was waist deep, sometimes I crawled on my hands and knees where I couldn't wade. It was awful, but God within me gave me strength. Today I'm hardly tired, only stiff and sore. My birds and squirrels were glad to see me and they were happy to receive their rations again".

Her diary is full of just such experiences, just as her life was full and overflowing. She always had time for teachers' and pupils' problems, patrons difficulties, and yet time for her many activities.

She was very active throughout the state in school enterprises, especially the audio-visual program. She made many trips to Cheyenne and other places to help start this program of teaching with visual-aids. Another activity was the publishing of "The Spectrum", a book of poems about nature, spiritual topics and joy of living.

Maud Dawes died Nov. 13, 1939, after a long illness, which caused the amputation of a limb. She was buried from the Congregational Church, in the evening as the sun was setting.

The balance of this story are incidents from the memory of Edith Leman Browning, whose middle name, Maud, was given her because their birthdays were on the same day and month. Miss Dawes was also her God-mother.

The Leman and Ashby families were close friends of Maud Dawes, who when traveling around the country and especially in trips from Douglas to Cold Springs, stopped around half-way in the Upper LaPrele country to rest and feed her horse and many times to spend the night at one or the other's home. At the Leman house this usually meant playing cards until the small hours of the morning.



Maud Dawes at Oriole Mine.

The Leman School mentioned in Maude Ryan's resume was the Beaver School and the Mary Cross School was likely the Sullivan School, some six miles to the south.

Maude Ryan writes of a "Traveler's Hotel" operated by Maude Dawes in the years 1914-16. She had more of a resort or camp operation and it must have started in about 1908. The patent to her first homestead in the area where the LaPrele Ranger Station is now located at Cold Springs, was dated June 23, 1914, recorded December 21, 1914, covering lands in T29N R75W. In taking up a homestead, one had to first make entry on the land, have the entry approved, and then spend some five years or so in improving the land, building a house, and doing other things to comply with homestead laws. After that a date was set for a hearing before a homestead commissioner and if the proof was OK, a final certificate was issued and then later the patent was issued. This process could easily take six or seven years and during that time one lived on the land and had possession of it.

At first her resort consisted of a fairly small house, with various sized tents set up around and through the pines at the back of the house. There was no running water and it had to be carried from the Cold Springs along LaPrele Creek. The first time I remember our family being there, we slept in a fairly large tent with a wooden floor, which was raised off the ground so rain water would not get in. We were all in the same tent and about the only furnishings was a stand with a pitcher and wash basin, maybe a mirror and someplace to hang a few clothes. We ate at the house, with Miss Dawes doing the cooking.

Later she had a large log building constructed, with a large kitchen, dining and living room, and a number of bedrooms, and also a number of cabins scattered under the pines where the tents had been. I remember going up there a couple of times with Charley George who carried the mail. He brought the mail to Crosses and left it there for that community and then went on up to Cold Springs and left mail there. I would go up with him one trip and wait for his next trip to return home. There were always a number of children there, 10 years old and older.

Everyone pitched in and helped with household chores, making beds, tidying up and with cooking and dishes but Miss Dawes did the most work and all the managing. I remember one day when a number of us girls went out with small pails and picked wild berries; raspberries on top of the "Old Indian" rock close to the camp, and strawberries and huckleberries under the pines up and down the mountains. We ate what we wanted and took home a pail full of berries. Miss Dawes made us up some of the most luscious pies I have ever tasted! It was all the berries combined together and topped with whipped cream.

Miss Dawes also gave us slices of bread and we went down to a small foot-bridge across LaPrele Creek and fed the fish. We would drop small pieces of bread and watch the fish come grabbing for them. What a wonderful place it was and what a wonderful person was the one who provided it!

Miss Dawes taught school in many of Converse County's school districts. She taught the Beaver School the year of 1904-05 and according to Mona Ashby's diary she must have slept at the schoolhouse during the weekdays. Mona mentions stopping at the schoolhouse to have tea, Miss Dawes entertaining their club at the schoolhouse, taking bedding to the schoolhouse and losing a pillow someplace. Frequent mentions are made of Miss Dawes staying at Ashbys or other places overnight. She was elected Converse County Superintendent and served from 1909 to 1919 and again from 1927 to 1937, serving 19¼ years altogether.

During the early years of being a county superintendent she made her rounds in a one-horse shay with a sorrel horse named "Sport". Once she and Bessie Leman made a trip to Douglas in the one-horse buggy and while there, Miss Dawes acquired (by purchase or gift) a large St. Bernard dog. She tied the dog on a leash in the back of the buggy and visiting along as they made their way homeward, one of them looked back and found that they no longer had the St. Bernard. Stopping to check they found the dog had jumped out and not being able to keep up with the pace of the horse, had fallen down and they were dragging him along behind the buggy. Luckily he survived and they managed to get him back in the buggy and home with him a little the worse for wear, but otherwise all right.

Another incident I remember well, was a Christmas Eve when Miss Dawes was staying with us, and we three older Leman kids would not go to bed. Finally Mother told us if Santa saw us up he would leave and some other kids would get our toys. Miss Dawes had quietly left the room and about this time we heard the jingle of sleigh bells close to the house and then suddenly, there was a bump on the porch like a sack of toys being set down soundly. In an instant three kids hit the sack! Miss Dawes knew how to get kids to do what she wanted without an argument.

On one 4th of July, Miss Dawes invited everyone to come for a picnic and dance at Cold Springs. She had a large dance floor constructed outside the buildings. Everyone came with their picnic lunches and kids. We picnicked and danced. The dance scheduled to be under the stars turned out to be a dance with gently falling snow. During most of the night we danced with our coats

on and during intervals we crowded around a campfire to get warm. Dawn was breaking through before the crowd broke up and started for home, with fond remembrances of dancing in the snow and of Miss Dawes, not dancing, but visiting and looking out for everyone and making it a real occasion.

Later on, some years after fire had destroyed her resort and she had sold her land and moved to Douglas, she was invited by Governor Robert Carey for a dinner at his ranch home on Lower LaPrele. The evening must have had something to do with education as the Wyoming State Superintendent and other state officials were there. At that time Maud Dawes was not financially too well off and didn't have any fancy clothes to wear but she put on the best she had and went. According to reports from others, her enthusiasm and friendliness made the event one to be remembered. As one person put it, she was the "Belle of the Ball". She was herself wherever she was, well educated, well read, enthusiastic, interesting, dedicated to education and the welfare of children. Her life was not an easy one, but she lived it to the fullest.

Edith Browning

## Dean, Henry and Kate Family

My father, Henry Haskell Dean, was born in 1845, in Kentucky, 50 miles below Cincinnati, on the Ohio River.

Mother, Kate Hammond Dean, was born in Kansas near the Missouri border when that was all virgin land, covered with native timber and buffalo grass.

Dad and Mother met, I believe, in Valley Falls, Kansas. He was clerking in a clothing store and she was working in a boarding house where he boarded. I'm rather hazy on their life from then until Wyoming, although I have heard them tell of some experiences in Leavenworth, Kansas and Kansas City, Kansas. There was a nationwide recession in those days and Dad more or less went "on the bum" looking for work and hit Leadville and Denver, Colorado, eventually winding up in Douglas. He got some sort of job here and sent for the family.

He filed on a homestead, out of Douglas, and they lived there for a time, mostly on the charity of the established neighbors. Then they wound up in Douglas, operating a restaurant, Mother doing the cooking right up to a couple of days before I, Vern, was born. In the meantime, during the homestead period, Hal, at around 14, had left home to take a job as a sheepherder and Grace, about 16, had married Joshua and moved to Montana.

At the restaurant our living quarters were at the rear and the side of the place of business. The bedroom, which was on the side of the restaurant, adjoined a saloon on the other side. Only a thin wall intervened and dad frequently had to get up and rap on the wall with a shoe when the celebrations got too noisy. For instance, one night when George Smith, the proprietor, was at the piano playing "Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater" to accompany a quartet that was singing "Will You Love Me When I'm Old?" the rest of the patrons had spread matches on the floor and were dancing a square dance. (Matches in those days scratched anywhere and lighted with a loud pop.)

At times our store was a straight-away butcher shop

and at others it was, I guess, more properly a delicatessen. Dad shipped in fresh fish, fresh fruit and vegetables. We carried luncheon meats and Mother made homemade bread and doughnuts and Dad and Mother killed and dressed poultry for sale.

Just watching in the blacksmith shop was a wonderfully satisfying experience. Seeing a horse shod or a tire shrunk onto a wheel, watching the sparks from the forge or from the red hot iron being hammered on the anvil and smelling the smoke from the horses hooves as the hot shoe was fitted to their feet, is a pleasant memory. The crowning experience, however, was being allowed to use the fly-minder, made from a horse's tail nailed to a wood handle and keeping off the flies while the blacksmith nailed on the shoes and rasped the hooves down to a nice fit. Another big thrill was to be allowed to pull the long handle that actuated the big bellows that blew the coals in the forge!

Many of the sidewalks in the business part of town were of natural flat sandstone blocks that were quarried a few miles from town. Many others, however, were of plank which were either laid with cracks between or developed them when the planks shrunk. It was a big event when any of the planks were taken up and all of the kids were on hand because quite a few coins got dropped and rolled down the cracks and we tried to salvage them.

The first phonograph in town was of the nickel-in-the-slot variety and you listened through ear tubes, like a

stethoscope. Later on, the jeweler put in a stock of Edison phonographs and the cylinder records that they played. He had a machine set up with a large brass horn. The horn was probably four feet long and around 30 inches in diameter at the large end. He used to give a free concert every Saturday night.

Our fire protection consisted of a couple of hose carts in a fire house in the downtown area. These were actually large hose reels suspended between two wheels, about six feet in diameter, and with a short tongue with which two men guided it. Ahead there was a long rope harness to accommodate ten or twelve men to pull it. In actual use, however, it was usually hitched behind a light two-horse delivery wagon to take it to the fire. There were fire plugs all over town. When the apparatus reached the fire plug nearest the fire, two men grabbed the hose end and began attaching it to the plug while the cart continued to the scene of the fire. When the fire was reached, if there was still hose on the reel, the nearest joint was uncoupled and a nozzle attached. By that time, the water had usually reached there and was directed onto the blaze.

Cooking and heating were done with coal and wood which created a considerable ash disposal problem. Each family had one or two large ash cans at the back gate, next to the alley. Once a week "City Smith" picked them up and disposed of ashes and trash. The garbage was usually fed to the chickens which almost every family maintained in the back yard. In the winter, "City" also



LaFayette Cafe 1917



cleared most of the sidewalks in the residential part of town of snow. He drove a single horse down the sidewalk, pulling a "V" shaped snow plow. Most homeowners would then give their walks an additional cleaning and then sprinkle ashes on the walks to prevent slipping.

The Dean family usually took their Sunday dinner at LaFayette Restaurant. We would be served the entree consisting usually of roast chicken, roast pork or roast beef with a choice. Around the plate would be assembled six or eight small oval dishes (you would call them bird baths) which contained various vegetables and sauces and often the dessert as well. The tables were covered with clean ironed table cloths and cloth napkins were supplied. In the center of the table there would be a silver-plated caster containing glass receptacles of salt, pepper, mustard, horseradish, etc. The price of the Sunday dinner was 50 cents. Other meals during the week were 35¢. "Frenchie" Olivereau was a typical cartoon Frenchman with white hair, moustache and goatee and a broken English way of speaking. Hal used to enjoy telling of a local citizen saying to Frenchie, "Mr. Olivereau, I'd like you to meet my son-in-law." Frenchie's reply was "Ya, I know, I've got one of dose dam' tings."

At about that time, Dad bought some property at the edge of town, built a house and barn and sold out the store. We moved to the "ranch," planted truck garden, got some cows and started selling milk, produce, and dressed chickens.

On my first day of school, that fall, one of the upper classmen remarked, "Wall, ef thar ain't old Squire Dean! How are all the cows and chickens, Squire?" From that time on I became "Squire" to almost all of the kids, although a few continued to call me "Bun", which had been my nickname previously. My cousin Maud Dawes was responsible for "Bun," which I suppose was some sort of baby talk for Vern.

We gradually increased our dairy herd to about 15, plus one Jersey bull, named Brigham. During those years, I learned quite a lot about the individual personalities of a bunch of old dairy cows. Believe me, they are individual!

In the winter I had to pump tubs of water for them (electrically) and then temper it a little with hot water from a teakettle, heated in the house. I'd lead each one up individually from the barn and then stand and shiver while she fooled around and decided whether the temperature was just right for her to take a drink! By the time I'd processed 14 or 15 cows, I was not only frozen, but also hot under the collar.

About that time Dad was ill and the doctor told him that he would have to get out of that climate and altitude, or he would not last out the winter. So he went out to Reedley, California where some folks lived that we knew.

Vern "Bun" Dean

Vern Dean was born in Douglas in 1897. He moved to California in 1914. He died in about 1979.

## De Haan, Henry

Henry was born in Kralingen, (now in the city of Rotterdam) Holland on November 15, 1885. He was born in a country house which had one big room with bed-stays in the wall with big double doors covering the opening. The floor was made out of bricks and the room was dark because they had only small windows with shutters.

When he was about four years old, they moved closer to the city. They had a small park in the center with twelve homes gathered around the square. Henry was the oldest of ten children and a real practical joker. He would let the neighbor's chickens out of their pen so that the neighbor would give him cookies to gather them up again. In those days everyone would leave their wooden shoes outside their doors when they entered their houses. Well, one evening Henry got the idea to gather up everyone's wooden shoes and put them in one pile in the middle of the square. The next morning when people started to leave for work they found their shoes missing from the doorstep and all hell broke loose. Henry had made one big mistake - he did not put his shoes in the pile so everyone figured out who did it. Needless to say, for a long while he was in big trouble. Some people never did get the right shoes back.

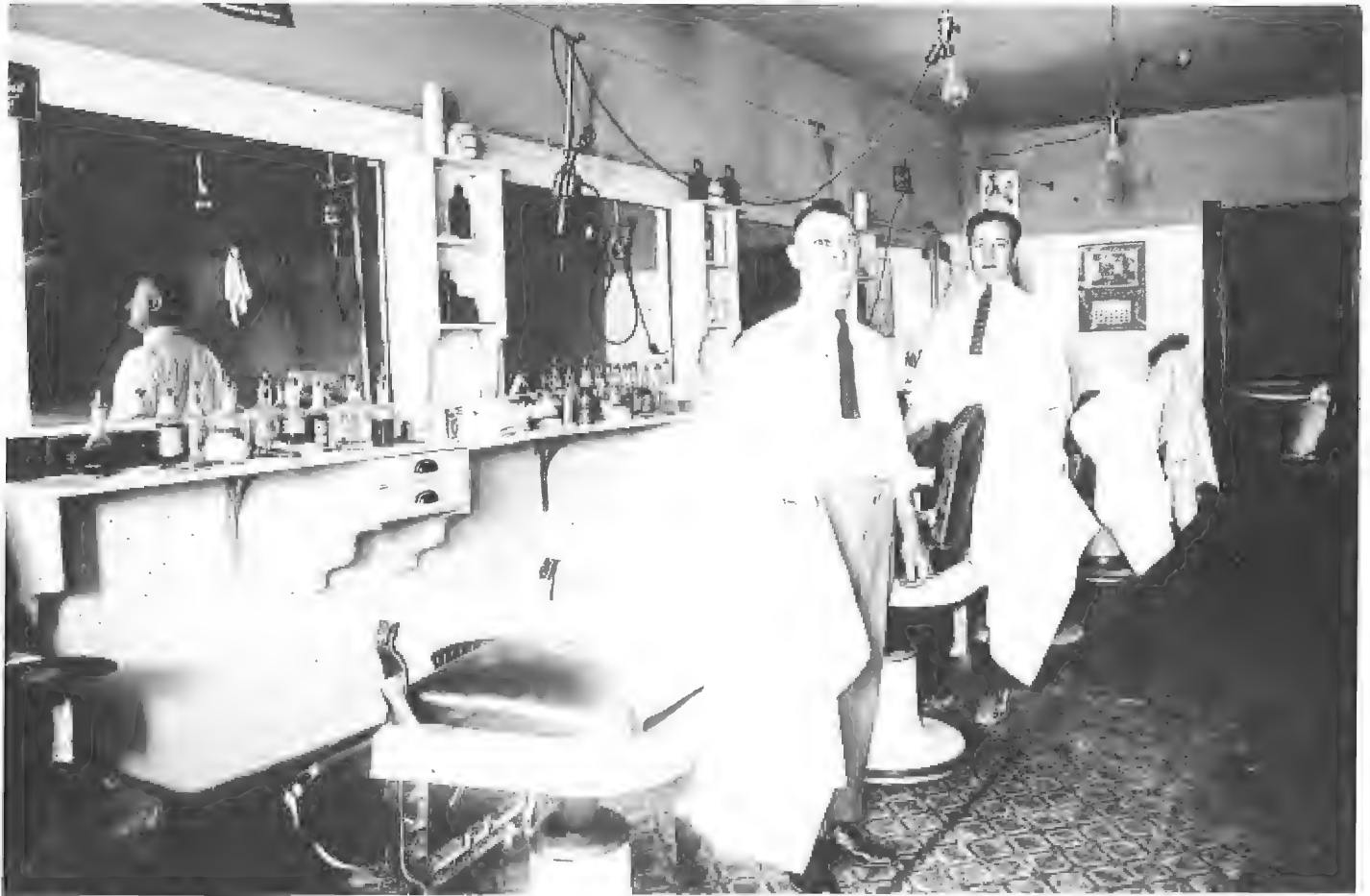
He was a good student and always did a lot of reading about America and dreamed that someday he would go there. When he was 13 years old he had to leave school and go to work.

His first job was working for a Wrecking & Building Co. where he was supposed to learn a trade, but much to his chagrin, he instead pulled nails and cleaned bricks ten hours a day six days a week. For this he made 1.50 guilder a week. He did this during the winter with no gloves because he could not afford them. His hands became so sore that he had to quit after a month.

Next, he got a job working for a baker, where he would deliver bread from 10 p.m. until 10 a.m. This job lasted for six months until he met a man selling magazines. After talking to him, Henry decided he would like to give this a try. Setting out every morning with his sack lunch he would travel by train and sometimes by boat, covering a radius of 25 miles and delivering the magazines for which he was paid 2¢ for each copy. For each new subscription he would earn 40¢. He covered places like the Hook of Holland and little towns such as Schiedam, Flaarding and Massluis. The people would welcome him because he brought news from Rotterdam. He did so well that he was earning more money than his father when the company went bankrupt.

After this, Henry did odd jobs until he was almost 15 years old, at which time he decided he wanted to go to sea. He was under age, (the age limit was 16) but he learned from an uncle who ran a bar that three sailors were too drunk to get back to their ship. This was his big chance! He went to the ship and lied about his age. That evening he sailed, with only the clothes on his back, to Indonesia. Half of his salary was sent home and the other half was given to him to spend in port. The trip on the sailing ship was to have taken six months, but it took almost 1½ years.

After he returned to Holland, he worked about six months as a longshoreman; however, he was not satisfied



Henry De Haan 1923 barbershop in Casper.

with staying in Holland. He signed on a steamship called the Statendam. He made one roundtrip to New Jersey. On the second trip he jumped ship in Hoboken, New Jersey. He stayed in a boarding house for about a week and then walked to Patterson, New Jersey. He stayed in another boarding house and worked at a cotton mill and helped in the house for room and board. He stayed there two months and had enough money saved for a train ticket to Chicago. Walking on States Street in 1903 he saw a sign in a window saying, "Men Wanted Out West to Work On The Railroad."

He signed up and went to Nebraska on a work train. They paid 10¢ an hour and he lived in a box car. There he learned English from reading catalogs. He worked about six months in the western part of Nebraska. The last place was Valentine, Nebraska. He became homesick and returned to Holland.

When he got back to Holland, the Dutch Army drafted him. He had to serve one year and was paid to serve four extra months for a farmer's son who wanted out of the army early. For this, Henry was paid 160.00 guilders.

After he had served his time in the army, he married Nies (Mary) and on May 5, 1907 they had a son, John.

Since his return to Holland, all he could think of was going back to the United States. He knew that the United States was truly the land of opportunity. He worked two and three shifts as a longshoreman so that he could save up enough for the passage for himself and for his wife. If he made enough before Johnny was a year old, Johnny

could go for free. He did save enough, and Johnny was nine months old when they sailed for America. It cost them \$25.00 apiece.

They came by ship in steerage class. The men slept separate from the women down in the hole in big rooms like dorms. People were sick all over the place, so with that and all the babies, the smell was awful. When they landed at Ellis Island and were checked out and found to be healthy, they took a train to Panama, Nebraska where Nies's uncle lived. He met them at the train station and was surprised to see them dressed so well. They stayed with them for a month and then moved to Firth, Nebraska.

In Firth they rented their first little house. Henry went down and bought an old stove at the junk yard. It had one leg missing, so he built it up with bricks. The only food they had was some buttermilk that a farmer had given them and a hogs head. They had orange crates for cabinets which Nies later made little curtains to hang in front. The very first thing they bought for their new home was a creamer and sugar holder. Nies was so proud of these. While living in Firth they made friends with the Bouwens family who were a big help to them and ended up lifelong friends.

Soon after they settled in Firth, they were joined by Henry's brother Pieter. They worked for farmers and would shovel coal cars on weekends to make extra money. One time, Henry made a bet that he could carry a 100 lb. sack of flour on his back and walk one block. He did

and won \$25.00.

On June 27, 1914, Henry and Nies received their citizenship papers. After receiving his papers, he drove a wagon with a team to Pipestone, South Dakota where he had a job working for the government working on the streets and roads. While he was working in Pipestone he heard about the government giving homesteads in Wyoming, so he applied, and was given his homestead of 640 acres in Orin Junction, Converse County. He built a home, a barn and a fence around his property. This homestead became final October 14, 1920. During this time another brother, Cor, joined them. After only one year, Cor got homesick and returned with Pieter to Holland.

In November of 1918, Henry moved to Casper and worked for the Standard Oil Co. for four years. For a while he was known as the king of Casper because he owned one city block and was so involved with the town. He bought a building that had a restaurant, barber shop and flop house. The restaurant was called the Boston Cafe. He also had a house on Railroad Avenue and he had a dance hall outside of town. Casper was a booming town and Henry was making lots of money. He bought everything for a low amount down and for a long time was able to make all the payments and had plenty of money to spend.

In 1923 he and Nies were divorced and for a while he stayed in Casper, but the boom was over and little by little he lost everything. His son, John, was 16 and had joined the navy, so Henry decided to move on. He went to Houston, Texas for a while and then to Oklahoma. In 1928, he took a trip to Holland to see his family and then came back and settled in Whiting, Indiana.

In Whiting he got a job for Standard Oil and later for Sinclair Refining Co. as a boilermaker. In 1931, he moved to California and worked in Bakersfield for one year, but the weather was too warm and he did not like it.

In 1932 he came to San Francisco to work on the Bay Bridge, but it was not ready, so he bought a gas station in Oakland. It lost money, so he walked out.

In 1933 Henry went to work for Ford Motor Company. How he got the job has always been one of the family's favorite anecdotes. When he arrived at the Ford plant, he saw a long line stretching for blocks and knew he would have no chance of getting a job if he waited with the other hundreds of applicants. So he decided on a plan to bypass the long lines. He found out the manager's name and returned home, where he put on his best suit and turned his old music case into a temporary briefcase. He then returned to the main office and asked to see the plant manager, Mr. Bullwinkle. When he told Mr. Bullwinkle why he was there, Mr. Bullwinkle became enraged and said that he had hiring foremen and should never have been bothered about this matter. Henry, however, persisted by pulling out his papers and showing Mr. Bullwinkle that he was well qualified for the job. Mr. Bullwinkle gave him the job, and he ended up working there for nine years. Occasionally, Mr. Bullwinkle would come down to the assembly line and say hello to Henry by name. Henry's co-workers were always surprised that he and Mr. Bullwinkle knew each other.

Henry remarried on September 24, 1938 to Dorothy Duignan, and on November 11, 1941 they had a daughter Suzanne Marie. During the 1940's they bought and sold

different pieces of real estate. Henry would work on the weekends and at night fixing up the places and then rent them or sell them. During the war he worked for Basalt Shipyard.

After the war, he decided to go into the construction business full time. In 1945 he moved to Lafayette, California and started to build homes. He was actively involved with this business until he died at the age of 91 on May 29, 1977.

His son, John, was living in San Francisco working for a steel company when he died August 19, 1957.

Henry's wife Dorothy and their daughter, Suzanne and his three grandsons, Michael Bekedam, Frank, Jr. and James Cox all live in Walnut Creek, California. Henry's son-in-law Frank Cox now operated the construction company which they formed just before Henry died.

Suzanne De Haan Cox

## Deuel, George and Ida

Ida Eheler Deuel moved on a homestead with her husband, George, as a bride when she was 22 years old.

Ida was born in Norfolk, Nebraska on Oct. 18, 1898. George Deuel was born in Norfolk, Nebraska on June 15, 1895, but they didn't get really well acquainted as children. George lived in the country, and his folks sold Ida's family cream. Sometimes George would come along to deliver the cream to them. He told Ida later, he wondered who the pretty little Dutch girl was (although she was really German).

When George was older, he enlisted in the army and served during World War I. Ida's cousin, Mabel Slaughter, brought George to see Ida when he was on furlough from Fort Dodge, Iowa. They began to correspond with each other and were married October 25, 1919 at Wayne, Nebraska after George was discharged from the army.

George acquired a homestead in Wyoming, northeast of Douglas, and moved his new bride out here to the wide open spaces. They established residence in a sheep wagon. It was pretty lonely for Ida out here at first. In fact, she says she lived in the Wyoming wilderness for two years before seeing another woman. Her nearest neighbor, Steve Copendale, was a bachelor who lived 2½ miles away. Another neighbor, Zeb Ward, was also a bachelor. They both sent for wives later, sort of on the order of mail order brides.

When they first moved out to the homestead and lived in the sheep wagon, the Deuels had no toilet facilities so had to use the bushes. Ida tells how when she'd go out in the bushes, her husband, George, always a big tease, would yell, "Now watch out for the snakes, Ida." Ida said she'd always look around fearfully for snakes even though she knew George was just trying to get her goat.

Finally they bought a house from an oil company and moved it with horses out to the homestead. They were much more comfortable after that. As more people came out, they began to socialize with neighbors and went to picnics and dances.

The Deuels raised seven children: George J., Evelyn, Ruth, Betty, Delores, Darrell, and Darlene.

When Delores was born, Ida said the midwife came with a flour sack filled with various things to deliver the baby. The older children were playing outdoors and saw her come to the house with the flour sack. After the baby, Delores, arrived, the children said, "Mrs. Jones brought us a new baby in a flour sack, didn't she, Mama?"

When Ida wanted to visit someone she would put her smallest baby in a sling on the saddlehorn and ride horseback. When she would have to open a gate, she would take the baby down, put it through the gate, then get back on the horse with the baby after she had ridden through.

Ida recalls the good times they had with their neighbors. They would help one another work and then have parties and dances together. They really appreciated their neighbors in those days, she said, and they would look forward to their get-togethers.

When her youngest daughter, Darlene, was born, Ida suffered a stroke and she has not been able to use her left arm and left leg since that time. This did not stop Ida from leading a very active life and taking care of herself and her house and children.

Ida joined a Baptist church when she was 16 years old and joined the First Baptist Church of Douglas in 1938 when Reverend Knight was pastor. She joined the North Platte Homemakers Club in 1954. She has been an active member of these groups since then. George Sr. died of a heart attack in 1941. Things were pretty hard after that, but she and her boys managed to keep the ranch running.

Finally, she moved into Douglas where she resided on South Sixth Street. I asked Ida if it was hard to leave her family in Nebraska and come out to the Wyoming wilderness with George. She said, "No, we were young then and in love. I thought it would be a real adventure."

For Ida Deuel, life had been an adventure as she raised seven children in the wilds of early Wyoming. She said there were the good times and the bad, but she tried to remember only the good. She remembered especially, the good times when she and the neighbors helped each other with work or met for picnics and dances.

"The Lord has been very good to me," Ida said, "and I'm glad He has allowed me to live out my days in Wonderful Wyoming among my many good friends." Summing it all up, Ida said, "It was hard, but it was fun!"

Ida Deuel died in 1985.

Ida Deuel  
as told to Faun D. Cole

## Dickau, Walter and Lillian Family

Walter "Walt" A. Dickau was born January 21, 1896 at Atkinson, Nebraska.

Walt came to Converse County in 1917. He filed on a 320 acre plot under the homestead act 18 miles north of Shawnee. Because he had enlisted in the U.S. Army previous to his coming to Wyoming, he didn't have to prove up on the homestead until the time of his discharge from the army.

He served his country in World War I in the United States and in Germany.



Lillian "Lillie" and Walt Dickau

He was discharged from the Army in 1920 and married Lillian "Lillie" Mae Hoffman March 18, 1920, at Atkinson, Nebraska. Lillie was also born and raised near Atkinson. Her birthday was December 17, 1894.

During the summer of 1920, they moved their belongings by train to Lost Springs, Wyoming, where they picked them up by wagon and team of horses and moved to their homestead. They built a tar paper covered shack before winter as their home.

Their nearest neighbors were Alfred and Gladys Edison. They came from near Atkinson, Nebraska, too. Gladys has a fantastic memory of the events and dates of that time. She recalls that Dr. Storey from Douglas, the nearest doctor, delivered Norma Jean, the oldest child, March 14, 1921.

When a second child, Ilamae, was expected, Walt needed supplies from Shawnee; so leaving Gladys with Lillie and taking Norma Jean with him, he set out for Shawnee with horses and a wagon. On the way home a big thunder storm came up and they stopped at the Sunday School, which was about five miles from home. He tied up the team and went inside. While watching out the window, lightning struck both horses, killing them. After the storm, he walked to the nearest neighbors with his small daughter, Norma Jean, and borrowed a team to pull his wagon home. These neighbors names were Ray and Tessie Valentine. Ilamae was born July 1, 1922.

Gladys Edison was always available when needed and when Ivan was born, her husband, Alfred, went to get Mrs. Parker, a neighbor who was an osteopath. They didn't get back in time and Walt delivered his first son. He didn't know how much string to use to tie the umbilical





Walt Dickau in his field of wheat.

cord, Gladys said, and he had used lots of it. When she bathed the baby later, she tied it correctly.

Three more children were born to Walt and Lillie; but as times got better and there were more conveniences, Gladys doesn't remember so many problems. Dwayne was born May 29, 1927; Betty, September 22, 1929; and Beverly, March 31, 1933. All the children were born at home.

During the depression and after, Walt and Lillie provided for their family by doing various things. Walt purchased a threshing machine and traveled around to the neighbors doing their threshing every summer.

We milked many cows and sold the cream. One of Walt's statements has been, "If it hadn't been for the cream during the depression, we would have been in trouble."

Walt and Lillie purchased additional land as it became possible and had quite a large farming and ranching operation.

Walt served on the school board of School District #10 and was elected Chairman of the Board for several years.

In October of 1947, Walt and Lillie purchased a lot at 600 South Sixth Street in Douglas. Roy Wampler built their home on this location, and they moved into it in time for Beverly to attend the eighth grade in Douglas.

Walt was elected County Commissioner in the fall of 1951 and served on this board until 1959. During this time, he was Chairman of the Board from 1957 to 1959.

Walt and Lillie joined the Airstream Travel Trailer Wally Byan Club and traveled extensively. Walt served as President of the Wyoming Chapter and arranged an antelope hunt during his term.

Lillie broke her hip while on one of the trips with the Wally Byan Club and spent several months recuperating.

Walt passed away July 29, 1970, with Lillie following him June 20, 1975.

They are both buried in the Douglas Cemetery.

Ilamae Edwards  
Betty Good

## Dickson, Clarence and Evalyn

In 1919, when Clarence C. Dickson returned from Germany after the First World War and Army Occupation, he found his wife, Evalyn A. Dickson, in poor health. To move to a higher, drier altitude he took up a homestead north of Douglas, Wyoming, on the Dry Fork

of the Cheyenne River. It was located four miles below the William Dorr ranch where there was an established school. Two children, Howard and Dorothy, were to finish their grade school education there.

Tent living was the established medical treatment. As the months and years passed, Evalyn held her own, but permanent damage to her heart limited her activity.

Evalyn enjoyed people and was well supported by her husband. Many happy times were spent with neighborhood parlor games, dancing, and sing alongs; Casey Jones with fiddle and accordion, the Kieny brothers furnished the music. Picnics were instigated at the Dad Hendershot location on Big Woody including Pellatz, Schick, Federer, Hansons, Dicksons, Pershouses, Henleys, and Welchs. Dull Center get-togethers were enjoyed as well as Mrs. Good's literaries.

In the twenties, Mrs. Dickson became well-known for her cupcakes, and many a homesick cowboy stopped to visit with the friendly household. "Ma Dick" was a listening person; Clarence, a pillar of sound theories.

As the years passed from barren land to fences, corals, and cattle grazing, the need to sell the milk cows' products for grocery money diminished. Their life widened with the inclusion of the political and business world. They became interested in the Community Hall at Dry Creek and took an active part.

Eldon "Unc" Alvord (Evalyn's brother) established a winning baseball team which included many of the young men of the area.

Howard went on to the university and became a highway patrolman. He died in Washington in 1973.

Dorothy studied nursing in Denver, then married Frank P. Scott. They moved to the Dickson place in 1941 and took over. They later moved to Montana after selling to Dennis Irwin.

Clarence Dickson died in Cheyenne December 4, 1941, at the Veterans Hospital.

Evalyn Dickson made her home with Dorothy, moving to Montana in 1949.

She passed away in 1970 in Miles City, Montana.

Dorothy Dickson Scott



Howard Dickson when he worked for Mortons.



## Dieleman, Wm. W. and Dillie

My father, William W. Dieleman, came to Wyoming from Prairie View, Kansas in 1908 and filed on a homestead about seven miles southeast of Lost Springs in the spring of 1909. He brought my mother, Dillie Dieleman, my twin brothers, Carl and Earl and myself out from Kansas to live and prove up on this homestead. It was 320 acres of land which he started out on. He had built a small house and as time went on, he built other buildings, drilled a well, fenced this land and broke up ten acres of sod.

He shipped his emigrant car out from Kansas with his household belongings, a few pieces of machinery, a wagon, a top buggy and a team of mules.

He said he just had \$7.50 after he payed for his emigrant car. So it was a hard life to get started in Wyoming. He worked out with his team of mules whenever he could to make a living for his family.

Then other people started coming to Wyoming to file on homesteads. It wasn't long until there was a family on nearly every half section. There were several families who came from Prairie View, Kansas; and the community where we lived was called the Prairie View Community.

In a few years the neighbors all went together and hauled lumber from a sawmill near Laramie Peak and built a church and this was called the Prairie View Church. A school house was built a short distance from the church and a cemetery was laid out a short distance from there.

In the fall of 1917, our family was stricken with diphtheria which claimed the lives of my two brothers Earl and Carl. They were ten and one half years old at this time. My mother contracted this disease and died a month later. They were all buried in the Prairie View Cemetery. I was eight years old at this time, my sister, Glenn Elaine, was three years old and Jack was a baby of six months.

My grandmother came out from Kansas and took us three children back to Kansas with her. My Dad was so broken up, he left the homestead and worked out for a couple of years. Then he came back to the homestead and started to build a new house which he completed in the spring of 1920. I came back from Kansas and lived with him while he worked on this house. I walked to school every day.

On April 4, 1920 my Dad married Mary Thompson. She was born on November 19, 1893, the daughter of Fred and Elizabeth Thompson. Shortly after that, Glenn came back to live with us. I called her "Mom". She was good to us kids. She became crippled with arthritis in later years. She had been in failing health for a number of years and passed away at the age of 56 in October 1950. She and my father had moved to Douglas in 1939. My father passed away September 9, 1959 at the age of 75.

I worked on the farm helping my dad. I went to high school for two years in Lost Springs. In the spring of 1929, I married Cora E. Bright. We lived about eight miles southeast of Lost Springs. In the spring of 1932 we moved to the ranch we lived on until moving to Douglas. It was the Bright ranch, about one half mile northwest of Lost Springs. I served on the school board for several years.

We have two fine daughters, Fern Ladwig and Betty Krivanec, their husbands and six grandchildren. I have carried mail from the Lost Springs Post Office for about twelve years. For many years I raised cattle and trucked. For the last four years we have leased our grazing land out, but we reserved our buildings and 150 acres.

Dan Dieleman

## Dilts, Fred W. and Elnora

The search for religious freedom and relief from economic strife were motivating factors of the Dilts family to immigrate to the U.S.A. from Europe during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. One of the direct ancestors of the New World Dilts family was a male person named Howland who worked in a laborers position on the Mayflower.

The Dunkelberger family evidently first set foot on America's shore in 1715. The name signifies the family origination in the "Dark Forest" or Black Forest region of Germany. The desire to eat and relief from Catholic persecution was the impetus to find a new environment, the latter probably being the prime motivation.

While most immigrants to the New World were engaged in agriculture, the Coryell family operated a ferry on the Delaware River. Boats from this ferry were used by General Washington in his celebrated crossing. The Coryells may be found in the Dilts geneological line.

Fred William Dilts, Sr. was born near Zanesville, Ohio on August 29, 1873. With his family, he moved to Kansas at the age of 12. The Dilts family farmed and grew livestock in central Kansas. Fred decided to ranch instead of farm and for a few years looked for the ideal environment for the ranch business. He investigated Oklahoma prior to the "sooner" activity and also Washington and Oregon. Climatcal, as well as economic features, guided him to Douglas where he got a job working for John Kern on LaBonte Creek in 1902. In 1906 he homesteaded on Bear Creek, north of Douglas and got into the sheep business. He built a 12 x 16 foot concrete



Fred Dilts, Sr., 1940.

house which ruins should endure much longer than a wood or sod shack. At this time, Fred had no mechanical means of transportation, and utilized freight wagons and saddle horses for business and social purposes. Mr. Dilts recanted an experience that happened at a dance which he attended, very similar to the one described so vividly by Owen Wister, about the mixing of the sleeping babies in his book, "The Virginian". It may have been the same function.

During those years supplementary feeding of livestock had not been utilized. Hay raising was not widespread and transportation was minimal and so hard winters took a great toll of ranchers resources. With a severe winter and a large loss of sheep in the winter of 1909 and 1910, Mr. Dilts liabilities exceeded his assets and he was broke. His personal relationships with "Ral" Collins of the Douglas National Bank allowed him to get a loan to replace his dead sheep. It was during this hard spring storm that the sheep were blown from the bedground and Mr. Dilts followed the band of sheep for three days and two nights so he wouldn't lose them — to no avail.

Mr. Dilts started purchasing adjoining parcels of land after he had established a base for a home. The homestead acts took place during this era and many people, becoming unhappy with rural life, sold their homesteads to folks like Mr. Dilts. At the time of Mr. Dilts death on February 3, 1944, he had accumulated roughly 50,000 acres.

Mr. Dilts wanted a family but in a traditional philosophy, he wouldn't accept the additional responsibility until he had at least \$10,000.00 in the bank. He was married on December 3, 1921 to Elnora Dunkelberger, who was born in Halstead, Kansas on June 29, 1882. Elnora died on the 29th day of August, 1967 and is buried beside Fred Sr. in the Douglas Cemetery. Two sons were born to this marriage, John C. on April 1, 1925 and Fred Jr. on April 13, 1923.

Note: Fred Jr. died December 7, 1984 in Douglas.

Fred Dilts, Jr.

## Dorothy, Roy and Carrie

Roy Dorothy was born October 16, 1887 in Blakesburg, Iowa to Sherman and Emma Dorothy. Carrie Dunivan was born in Colony, Kansas.

Roy Dorothy and Carrie Dunivan Dorothy were married in Yates Center, Kansas on March 27, 1913. Due to Roy's poor health, he was advised by his doctor to move to a dryer climate. His father, Sherman Dorothy, owned a farm south of Douglas in the Irvine community. In 1920 he moved with his wife and three children: Fern, Edward and Eva, to the farm in Wyoming. Carrie was very homesick for her family in Kansas, this being the first time she was ever more than 10 miles away from them. She thought Wyoming was the end of the world. She learned to love it and made it her home for 44 years.

The family lived on the farm until 1928, when they moved into Douglas. Two more children were born: Ruth in 1931, and Carl in 1934.

Fern died in 1947. Her daughter, Julia, is married to

Bob Dunn and lives on the Dunn Ranch south of Douglas. Eva and Edward live in Casper, Wyoming; Carl in Powell, Wyoming; and Ruth in Long Beach, California.

Roy died in 1959 and Carrie died in 1964. She enjoyed her work in the United Methodist Church of Douglas and was very active in all departments and functions of the church.

Eva Trenholm

## Doyle, George N. and Nellie Family

Nellie Peterson Doyle was born Pernilla Persson in Torup, Sweden in 1858. Her parents died when she was very young leaving her with an older sister. Nellie taught school in Sweden one year before borrowing money from her uncle to come to America.

In 1876, at the age of 18, Nellie arrived in Omaha, Nebraska where she resided for eight years working for



George Doyle

families as a cook and housekeeper while learning the English language. Spurred by the promise of a new railroad being built through Wyoming, Nellie took her savings and traveled by stage through territories still inhabited by warring Indian tribes.

So it was that in 1884 Nellie Peterson came to a spot surrounded by large cottonwood trees near old Fort Fetterman where the stage forded the Platte River. Here in a small settlement of tents which had been dubbed "Tent Town" Nellie decided to try her luck in the restaurant business. Soon, Nellie's Restaurant was thriving and for a time the town, which was officially to be named Douglas, was called "Nellie's City" by the residents and those who passed through. People came from far and near to taste Nellie's Swedish baked goods.

One who passed this way was George Newton Doyle, who was born in Sharon, Connecticut in 1860. George's father, J. J. Doyle, was born in England in 1825 and married Catherine who was born in Perth Amboy, New Jersey in 1815. They had three sons, Edward, James and George. J. J. Doyle died in 1868 when George was only eight years old. Catherine lived until 1902. The Doyle brothers ran the butcher shop after their father's untimely death and George learned the trade well at a very young age.

In 1878, at the age of 18, he left for Fargo, North Dakota where he was employed by Captain May who owned a large milling company. Then George worked for a rancher in western Nebraska near Harrison. But as the Northwestern Railroad pushed across Nebraska and Wyoming, the Richards and Brown Company hired him to provide meat for the railroad crews.

George followed the railroad construction until the line was completed to Glenrock, Wyoming. While there, a cold-blooded murder was committed outside his tent and, in 1886, he returned to "Nellie's City" and continued working for the Richards and Brown Company until 1887 when he opened the first butcher shop in the area. George's brother, James, joined him but soon moved on to Ethete, Wyoming where he ran an Indian trading post.

By this time, Nellie had moved from the tent into a more permanent structure and her restaurant was doing a thriving business. She had purchased a home and was well established in this new community. The July 31, 1889 issue of "Bill Barlow's Budget" reports that George and Nellie were "united in marriage this morning at the home of the bride, the Rev. Staunton officiating" and on August 28 they returned from their "bridal tour" reporting a "very enjoyable trip."

Four children were born to this union, Mary Jane (1890), Alice (1895), Georgia (1897), and Della (1900). Della died as an infant. Alice married Rev. Wallace Bristor of Huron, South Dakota, in 1922. She gave birth to three children in her lifetime. By 1894, the Doyles had sold their butcher shop to Carson Adams to build a home along the Platte River near the state fairgrounds. It was on this property that the first ice house was built to furnish the community with ice during the summer months. C. A. Slonaker and Sons leased this property around 1908 and operated the ice storage along with their coal and transfer business for many years. In the meantime, George Doyle had homesteaded land in 1897 and became a successful sheep rancher as owner of the

Doyle Sheep Company near Walker Creek. He successfully operated this business until 1918, when he leased it to his son-in-law, Paul LeBar and his wife.

The Doyle family moved from their home near the Platte River to one of the first two story homes in Douglas located at 217 North Third Street. They later owned a home on North Sixth Street and in 1909 constructed the three story house at 704 East Center Street. The home was completely prefabricated by the Sears and Roebuck Company and the materials were sent from Chicago to Douglas on a railroad flatcar. It was here that George and Nellie lived until death claimed them both in 1933.

In 1907, Bill Barlow wrote of George N. Doyle, "Success marked his efforts from the start, and he is today one of the leading flockmasters of the county-owning, also in addition to his town property, a large ranch adjoining the city. Mr. Doyle is a gentleman of wide education as well as a successful business man; has served as a member of the city council, and is always ready and willing to boost for anything tending to advance his adopted home."

Georgia Doyle married Paul LeBar in 1917. Paul, along with a younger brother Carl, and two older sisters had moved from Pennsylvania in 1908, to join two older brothers, John and Harry LeBar. Their first home was two miles west of Douglas. Paul was first employed by Ed A. Reavill, a construction contractor in Douglas. In 1919, he and his wife, Georgia, homesteaded on Walker Creek. Two children were born to this marriage, George and Winona, who married Ralph Brown in 1946, and made her home in Casper. The Paul LeBars eventually bought the original Doyle Ranch and ran stock for 30 years. This ranch has subsequently been leased and operated by their son, George LeBar.

The eldest daughter of George and Nellie Doyle, Mary Jane, enjoyed living along the Platte River. As a youngster, she would invite children to wade in a natural warm spring located on the Doyle property. Many of these social occasions were recorded in early editions of "Bill Barlow's Budget". As a young lady, she was graduated from Douglas High School. Mary and her classmates took many well chaperoned excursions to ranches for picnics and weekend outings.

In the fall of 1908, wearing a new frock designed by the local seamstress, her cousin Jenny Swanson, Mary set out for Ohio with her mother. Mary attended Oberlin College for two years, majoring in music. During that time, she took hundreds of photographs, leaving a pictorial volume recording all events of this era. On June 18, 1913, Mary Doyle married Max L. Russell.

Max Lester Russell was born in Halbur, Iowa, on March 7, 1891, the son of Otis Lester and Mary Lou Russell. At the age of 16, he came to Orin Junction and worked for the railroad. At 21 he was made an Agent for the C.B. & Q. and Northwestern. After serving as Agent for four years, he bought the General Merchandise Store at Orin from John Moran. A year later, Max and Mary moved to Douglas, where he was operator for the Northwestern for ten years. In March 1928, he became associated with the Converse County Bank.

In 1924, Max was elected to the town council to serve a four-year term, during which the water bond issue was resolved. Max was a member of the Masonic Order and

the Douglas Kiwanis Club and was elected to the State Legislature as a Representative in 1926. He served five regular terms and was appointed by Governor Miller to serve on a special tax committee. Max sponsored the bill which largely governs the present motor vehicle laws. The numbering system for motor vehicle licenses, based on population, is a portion of his bill. On March 13, 1937, one week after his 46th birthday, Max died as a result of a gangrenous appendectomy.

Mary and Max Russell had three children, Lillian B., (1914), Doyle L. (1916), and Mary Lucille (1919). Doyle attended the University of Wyoming and continued in the banking profession until volunteering for service in the Army Air Corps. In 1941, Doyle married Fayettea Roush and their daughter, Leslie Gay, was born in 1943. As a pilot in the Army Air Corps, Doyle flew B-17's in World War II and reached the rank of Major before his plane was shot down and he was killed in 1944. Mary and Max's daughter, Mary Lucille, married Clark F. McIntosh of Cheyenne in 1941 and had two daughters, Lynn Mary (1944) and Connie Jo (1946).

Lillian, the eldest Russell child, was graduated from Converse County High School in 1931. She was employed by the County Assessor's Office until her marriage to J. Emmett Carver in 1932. Emmett and Lillian had two daughters, Beverly Ann (1934) and Judith Maxine (1943). Lillian was actively involved in activities associated with the First Methodist Church. She was the first Honored Queen of the International Order of Job's Daughters in Wyoming to become Wyoming State Grand Guardian.

After serving as secretary to the Converse County Selective Service Board for a number of years, Lillian served as Superintendent of Livestock at the Wyoming State Fair for many years. In 1958, she once again returned to work in the Converse County Assessor's Office, this time serving as Deputy. Lillian held this position until retirement in 1969 when she and Emmett moved to Sun City, Arizona, where Lillian died on August 31, 1983.

J. Emmett Carver, born on July 12, 1903, in Crocker, Missouri, attended college in Highland, Kansas and later the University of Missouri and the University of Wyoming. Emmett came to Wyoming in 1929, where he was employed as a teacher at Dry Creek and in Douglas at the North and South Grade Schools. Preceding Emmett in Wyoming were his sisters Edna Carver Umphrey and Peg Carver Poulson. The Umphreys homesteaded in Niobrara County and the John Poulsons homesteaded near Walker Creek, where they both taught. Scott Carver arrived in 1930, taught at Dry Creek and then at Douglas, later becoming an administrator. He served as a Principal in the Douglas School System, retiring in 1970 after 40 years of service.

From 1936 to 1937, Emmett worked as a bookkeeper for Hern Chevrolet. In 1937, he purchased the Standard Service Station which he operated for five years before becoming a sales representative for Standard Oil Company. In December of 1945, Emmett and Lillian purchased the Kandy Koop and ran this thriving business until Emmett subsequently began work at the Douglas Post Office, a position which he held until retirement on November 8, 1968.

Dr. Beverly Carver

## Dugan, Harry S. and Wilma

Harry S. Dugan came to Wyoming in the summer of 1917 from Iowa. With his brother, Charles Dugan, Clifford Shields, and Charles Tompkins, they all homesteaded thirty-two miles northwest of Douglas, Sections 3-4-10, Township 36, Range 73 and Section 34, Township 37, Range 73.

In March 1918, Harry Dugan shipped an emigrant car of livestock, farm machinery and household goods to Douglas, Wyoming. He also, at this time, brought his wife, Wilma, and two sons, Russell and Raymond.

They only stayed a week as Mr. Dugan received a message from Iowa that his sick father was much worse. So he put his livestock back in the emigrant car and went back to Page Center, Iowa.

Harry Dugan again brought his wife and two sons to Douglas, Wyoming on May 2, 1920 to go to the homestead on Section 4, Township 36, Range 73.

Charles Dugan, Clifford Shields and Charles Tompkins came to Douglas and, with Harry Dugan, the four of them purchased a new Fordson Tractor and plow. Also a new Model T Ford. They took the body off the car, made a seat over the gas tank and a box on the back, like a pick-up today. They used this vehicle to haul gasoline, oil, plow shares, and groceries to the homestead where they were plowing forty acres on each of the four sections.

While one man was plowing, the other three were building a house or a homestead shack, as they were called then, on each section.

When they had completed the four houses and the plowing of forty acres on each section, they built a fence around the four sections, making it one big pasture. With the plowing finished, houses built and fence completed, they went out and plowed for other homesteaders that needed plowing done so they could prove up.

In 1921, Harry planted some corn, wheat, oats and five acres of alfalfa. He also built a second house sixteen by sixteen feet. It was ten feet to the rafters with a pitched roof. He put in an eight foot ceiling. This left enough



L. to r.: Raymond, Wilma and Clifford Dugan.





Front row, right to left: Roy Terrell, Eileen Domsalla, Christina Kurtz, Luella Fisher, George Fisher, Raymond Dugan, Clifford Dugan, Harvey Domsalla, Duke Parrish. Back row, right to left: Bell Terrell, Bertha Kurtz, Edith Terrell, Velma Fisher, Elsie Terrell, Raymond Terrell, school teacher, Allstott, Fred Domsalla, Ellis Storer.

room for the bedrooms upstairs.

In 1922 and 1923 we had 160 acres of crops and a garden of about five acres. In 1923 our mother canned over 100 quarts of peas. Also a lot of other vegetables.

We went to school in 1921-1922-1923 at Williams Flat with Fishers, Domsallas, Kurtzs, Numrichs, Terrells and Parrishs. They were all homesteaders' children. It was about five miles to school so we rode a horse through rain, snow, cold or good old sunshine. Sometimes it was a little rough.

Raymond bought twenty-five leghorn chickens in 1923 and joined a chicken club, a forerunner of the 4-H.

We bought a gilt pig with money they earned driving cows from Orpha to the homestead. We walked all the way. We showed both the chickens and the pig at the State Fair in Douglas.

In 1923 Dad planted about  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre of Wills Sugar Watermelons. We would take two melons a day to school in the nose bag on the horse we rode.

On May 2, 1924, the family left Wyoming and moved back to Iowa.

The four years we lived in Wyoming was a great and enjoyable experience. We have many fond memories of Wyoming.

Raymond Dugan now lives in Boulder, Colorado and Russell lives in Loveland, Colorado.

Clifford Russell Dugan  
Raymond F. Dugan

## Dull, Walter and Mary Family

My father, Walter B. Dull was born December 11, 1868. My mother, Mary L. Martin, was born October 5, 1871. They were married September 17, 1889, in Union County, Ohio. From this union fourteen children were born, eight boys and six girls:

Homer Dull	February 24, 1891
Fenton Dull	December 26, 1892
Ira Dull	March 13, 1894
Denver Dull	January 8, 1896
Kenova Dull	November 7, 1897
Verbel Dull	April 13, 1900
Thurston Dull	March 21, 1902
Lee Dull	October 3, 1903
Arizona Dull	June 25, 1905
Winona Dull	October 17, 1907
Lottie Dull	February, 1909 (died April, 1909 at age 2 months)
Vernon Dull	September 29, 1910
Berdna Dull	October 16, 1912
Walter Dull, Jr.	June 22, 1914

During these years Dad farmed at two locations, the last being what was then known as the Case Farm, about three miles from Broadway, Ohio.

In 1915, Dad sold his farm and invested in a hardware store in Broadway, Ohio.

In May of 1917, Dad took four of his sons, Thurston,





Walter and Mary Dull

Lee, Denver and me (Vernon), and our dog, Bounce and headed west from Ohio in a 1913 Model T touring car. My brother, Denver, then 22, had tuberculosis and the doctor said that a dry climate might help him. Mother and the rest of the family stayed in Broadway until Dad could find a location. I was six years old and I remember how we camped out along the way. It was late in May when we arrived in Douglas, Wyoming, and made camp near the Platte River which is now the City Park. Dad, Thurston and Lee soon found work at the Morton Ranch. I stayed at the camp with Denver.

During this time Dad was looking for a homestead location where there was timber. He found the place he wanted along the Cheyenne River below the Fiddleback Ranch, 60 miles northeast of Douglas. He filed on a homestead there.

When money was available, Dad sent for Mother, Verbel, Arizona, Winona, Berdena and Walter, Jr. The rest of the family were married and had homes of their own and they stayed in Ohio.

We lived on the campground in Douglas in tents most of the summer. Mother cooked on a sheet iron camp stove outside of the tents for the eleven of us.

The last week in August we moved to the homestead. On the first trip, Dad took Thurston and Lee and the dog. They had the old Ford loaded to the limit. Dad set up a tent and left Thurston and Lee and the dog and went back to Douglas for another load. The boys did all right. They were brave. After all, they had their dog with them and he was a good watch dog. Along toward evening, the coyotes started to howl. There were a lot of them there in those days and they were close to camp. The boys didn't get scared until the dog came into the tent with his tail between his legs and they realized that he was really scared. That was quite an experience for them.

It took several trips to town to get us all moved to our new location. One of the times when we had the old Model T really loaded, one of us kids handed Dad a piece of sandpaper and said, "Here, Dad, let's take this." Dad looked at it and said, "No, we just don't have room for it." For years afterward, when someone mentioned sandpaper, we would all laugh. We never let Dad forget that.

We lived in tents until a cabin could be built. Mother had to cook on an open campfire. She had a large dutch oven that she could bury in the hot coals. I remember how good the biscuits tasted that were baked in it.

Denver's health hadn't improved. He needed his own cabin. Ira came from Ohio to help in building the cabins. Denver's log cabin, a 10' by 12', was completed first.

The main cabin was a large one built out of logs with small poles placed on the roof. These were covered with cottonwood leaves. We put gumbo on top of the leaves. When this dried, it shed water and snow. The logs in the walls were chinked and plastered with mud. It had no floor except dirt which packed down to a hard surface. Our heating system was a stone fireplace which also served as a cook stove. Ira kept us kids on the job carrying water, rock, gumbo and leaves. He would say, "Hey, you kids, while you're resting, fetch some more mud, rock or leaves." Our family lived in this cabin for several years. The temperature in winter got as low as 42 degrees below zero.

Plans for a school were in progress with Verbel as the teacher. She would need to go to Douglas for the exams sometime in the winter. Otherwise, she could teach on a permit at \$50.00 a month, with the stipulation that she attend summer school at Laramie. One year would equip her for a four year accredited education. Even so, she must continue to attend school every summer for current qualifications.

School was started the first fall in a tent between the main cabin and Denver's cabin with Dull pupils.

Dad, Ira, Thurston and Lee did a lot of trapping and hunting that first winter. We lived off the land. We lived on rabbits, antelope, wild ducks and sage chickens.

Denver's health got worse in early January 1918 and then he died on the 28th of that month. Our nearest neighbors were the Patterson brothers who lived two miles down the river. Mrs. Patterson helped Mother bathe and dress Denver for burial and the two Mr. Pattersons took the body in their Model T touring car and started for Douglas the next morning. Dad, Mother, Verbal and Arizona followed them in our Model T. Winona, Berdena, Walter and I stayed with Mrs. Patterson. Thurston and Lee stayed in our cabin.

When Dad, Mother and the girls got about 20 miles from home, a blizzard struck. It was so cold that Dad's car stalled. They all got out and walked. They had to go about five miles to the Sewalt place where they had shelter through the night. They were almost frozen and Mother's varicose veins were bad so they were very grateful for the shelter.

The Pattersons had gone on and they got word to Vic DeMott at the Box Creek Ranch and he came the next day and took them to town. The funeral was the next day. That was one of the sad and hard things the pioneers had to face.

The Patterson brothers were hunters and trappers and they ran greyhounds. I remember seeing them come past our cabin in the evening with twelve to 14 greyhounds following the horses. That was quite a sight for us. I have had a love for greyhounds ever since. The following year the Pattersons left the country and we bought a team of horses from them. One was a bay and the other was white. We called them George and Grey. They were broke to work and ride. They were good horses and we used them for years, mostly for riding. My dad used to take Grey when he went hunting. He always said that when he got ready to shoot, Grey would hold his breath. I

know this is true because I have hunted off of him myself and he would always hold his breath when I was ready to shoot. I told that story to some people from California recently and they wouldn't believe it. They just had a good laugh over it and said it was quite a story, but it is the truth.

During the summer of 1918, a log school house was built near the main cabin.

The next couple of years brought many changes. For one thing, more of our family moved to Wyoming. My grandmother, Marietta Dull; my brother, Fenton, his wife, Erma, and daughter, Doris, came to the Cheyenne River and filed on homesteads. Ira also moved his wife, Ora, and sons, Charles and Roger, out to his homestead.

What a joy it was when other people took up homesteads around us. We had neighbors and what a blessing they were. The Bert Good family, the Nachtmans, the Blakes and the Rothleutners were some of the first. Neighbors meant so much to us in those days. In fact, they became our very dear friends. Even our school was a lot more fun. There were Good kids along with the Dull kids. When the county superintendent came to visit our school, she went back to Douglas and told the people that she had visited the Good-Dull School. Later on, a frame school house was built near Rattlesnake Creek near the Nachtmann Ranch. It was named the Bethany School. It became a community gathering place and a while later a Sunday school was started there by Rev. Noyce of Wheatland.

The Sadler family and the Schmidt brothers homesteaded in the area also. Louie Arnold homesteaded across the river from us. He is the one who gave me the nickname of Stubb. One day I rode by where he and a neighbor were building a fence. I was riding Old Grey and my legs were too short to reach the stirrups, so I put my feet in the straps above the stirrups. Louie looked up and said, "Hello, Stubby. Get down and rest a while." That has been my nickname ever since.

Louie Arnold was a talented musician. His music on the guitar or violin was something to hear, especially the violin. When he played the violin, people just couldn't sit still. He used to say to me, "Stubby, if you can whistle, you can play the violin." Guess I couldn't whistle well enough, anyhow, I never could play the violin. People loved to dance to his music.

The Dull Center, Wyoming Post Office was established in 1921 and my dad was the first postmaster. The post office was located in the old log school house. Later, we built a new frame house and the post office was moved to our house. My dad was postmaster until his death in 1932.

In the spring of 1932, both my dad and mother were stricken with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. They were taken to the hospital in Douglas. Mother was not expected to live, but dad seemed to be improving. Suddenly, dad got worse and died at the age of 63½ years in May 1932. Mother recovered and lived for many years. Through the years, we milked cows and sold cream while we built up a range herd. It was my job to take care of the stock, and I loved it. I filed on a section of land in 1931. During the years after dad's death, Mother homesteaded 640 acres of land (as a widow). She lived on her homestead with Berdena, Walter and me for the three years required to

prove the claim.

When the drought came in 1934 and the market was bad, many people had to sell their cattle. The market was closed and the government was buying cattle. That was the year we sold our cattle. Mother spent some time visiting in Ohio, and then she moved to Douglas and spent her declining years there. She died at the age of 79 years, 10½ months on August 21, 1951. Both dad and mother are buried in the cemetery at Douglas.

I have lived and worked in Colorado for 49 years and I have many good friends here. I have learned to love the mountains, but no place will ever take the place of Wyoming in my heart. There is something about the wide open spaces and getting on a good horse and riding through those draws looking for cattle that is like nothing else in the world to me. I will always have a deep love for Wyoming.

Vernon A. Dull

## Duncan, Hugh and Blanche

Hugh Duncan was born June 15, 1902 on the Island of Butte, Scotland, to Ninian and Alice Esplin Duncan. His mother and father were both born in Scotland. Hugh was educated in the schools of Scotland and Wyoming. He followed his parents to Wyoming in 1914. His father came to Wyoming in 1908 and worked for several of the old outfits; including Dave Kidd, and for a period of time he worked for the Richards-Cunningham Grocery. In 1917 he became a partner with the Nicholaysen family in the Cole Creek Sheep Company. In 1919 he homesteaded on an acreage in Converse County.

As a youth, Hugh herded milk cows in a combined herd for many of the Casper residents. He herded the cows, at will, in the hills around Casper, in the Hilltop area, and returned each cow to its respective owner each night. Hugh had been on his own since an early age. He purchased his present ranch in 1934. The ranch represents a number of old homesteads.

Hugh Duncan was married to Blanche Kassis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Abe Kassis, of Casper, Wyoming, On July 9, 1929. Mrs. Duncan's father and mother were born in Lebanon and came to the United States in the 1800s. Mr. Kassis homesteaded in North Dakota and after moving to Casper, he established a grocery store and later a dry goods store. The dry goods store developed into several branches, which are still in operation by the family. Mr. and Mrs. Duncan are the parents of three children; Mary M., now Mrs. Joseph Liseck, Hugh MacKay, a Casper attorney, and Bernard Joseph, a graduate of St. Regis College, Denver, Colorado. There are six grandchildren.

Hugh Duncan was interested in the economic development of Wyoming. He served tirelessly on many committees toward that objective. He was active in Soil Conservation District boards and on Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committees. He served as County Commissioner for Converse County from 1963-1980.

Hugh passed away in January 1980. O.L. Nicholls

## Dunn, Joe, Anna and Margaret

Joseph Dunn was born August 25, 1873, at Marshall, Colorado, the youngest son of Patrick and Margaret Dunn. In 1888, Joe helped move the rest of the Dunn cattle from Boulder, Colorado to Harrison, Nebraska after they settled near Harrison in 1886. Joe and his brother, John, came to Converse County about 1892. They worked for Jim Moran, herding cattle, and Joe was a round-up cook. John didn't stay very long, but Joe spent most the rest of his life here. He worked for Silas and Bill Guthrie on LaBonte. There was no bunkhouse, so the hired men slept in the haymow in the barn until they could make a bunkhouse. Joe first saw Bill Guthrie the day Bill got back from the Johnson County War. They were working sheep that day and Bill must have been very agitated; he was so rough with the sheep that he killed some of them. The Gunny-sack War was about that time, a war between the sheep and cattle men. Joe went on a hazardous mission to Montana to help recover livestock stolen by the rustlers.

Joe and John Dunn attended a big masquerade ball in Douglas in 1897. Joe went to Denver to work as an apprentice to learn the saddle and harness making trade, but the lure of the west called him and he returned to the LaBonte area, where in 1899, he was married to Anna Patterson, daughter of the Taylor Pattersons. They ranched several years and then moved to Douglas, where he and his brother-in-law, Luke Patterson, had a barber shop and pool hall and his wife, Anna, ran the Goodwin Rooming House.



L. to r.: Joe Dunn, Margaret Dunn, Ralph Dunn 1950

Joe was a lifelong Catholic, and helped build the Catholic Church in Douglas in 1912; he worked on the basement.

In 1919, they started ranching at the Sam Dewey place west of Douglas until 1925 when Anna died. Later, he ranched on Henry Bolln's place on the Platte River, where a big water wheel turned for irrigation.

In 1938, he was united in marriage to Margaret Hunter Carroll Oestreich, a lifelong school teacher, who was the daughter of pioneer Judge Hunter of Harrison, Nebraska. Joe had courted her as a youth. They ranched west of Douglas with her brother, Tom Hunter, and later on LaBonte with Margaret's son, Bill Carroll, and family, until ill health forced his retirement. They moved to Glenrock, Wyoming and bought a house, renting apartments in their home, later selling that to Albert Sewell. They went to Redding, California to be near the Bill Carrolls who were living there. They returned in 1961 to Harrison, where Joe died in 1963, and Margaret died in 1967.

In 1953, Joe Dunn and numerous members of the Dunn family went out to the old place near Harrison, Nebraska and located the unmarked grave of Johnny Connely, the scout, who died in 1887, and carried stones and laid in the form of a cross to mark the grave. Connely had no relatives that he knew of when he died, and lived up in the mountains from Marshall before going to Harrison, Nebraska with the Dunns in 1886.

Sibyl Bruner Prager

## Dunn, John and Pansy Family

John Dunn was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa on August 10, 1885. His parents were Stephen T. and Matilda Segrist Dunn of Lake Superior, Wisconsin. There were ten children in the family, John being the fifth child. At the age of twelve his mother passed away. Within the same year John accidentally shot his right arm off, at the shoulder, while crawling through a fence with a shotgun.

John struck out on his own in 1899 at the age of 14, catching a ride on the train as far as Chugwater, Wyoming where he was thrown off by the conductor. He spent the winter at Chugwater employed as a bellhop in a hotel. He herded sheep in the Big Horn Mountains and in the Downey Park area when he first came to Wyoming. He "cowboyed" on several ranches all over the state before he decided to homestead his own place. He filed on a homestead down by Lance Creek but the mountains were where his heart was. He took up a homestead south of Douglas on Reid Creek in 1916. While proving up on his own place he also worked for other ranchers in the area.

Even though there was a lot of work to do in the pioneering days, John still found time to court some of the young ladies, one of them being Miss Pansy Braae, a school "mom." On December 20, 1920, John Dunn and Pansy Braae made the journey to Douglas for the wedding of Pansy's sister, Grace Braae, to Vern Lockhart. John and Pansy went on to Lusk, Wyoming to visit John's sister, Ellen Mayfield; and they were united in marriage at Ellen's home on December 22, 1920.



**Pansy and John Dunn on their wedding day 1920.**



**Court Smith, homesteaded the Dunn ranch.**

Pansy Braae was the oldest of four children of Anthon and Minnie Lester Braae. She was born June 7, 1899 at Chugwater, Wyoming. Anthon Braae was employed by the railroad so the family lived in several locations in South Dakota, Nebraska and Wyoming. They moved to Douglas in 1916. Minnie Braae passed away in 1918, the same year that Pansy graduated from high school in Douglas. Pansy lived with her Aunt Hattie Braae and her family at Braae, Wyoming when she started teaching school in the mountains. Pansy continued to teach at the various country schools in the area after her marriage to John on December 22, 1920. They moved from the homestead house to the Charlie Saul Ranch on Reid Creek where they combined working for Charlie, John working his place and Pansy continued to teach. She also took some time off to go to the University of Colorado at Boulder for some summer school courses.

In 1926 there was a place for sale up on the next hill west of the Saul place. It had belonged to Frank Smith who was killed in the war. His family sold it to John and Pansy. There was not even a fencepost on it, so John and



**L. to r.: John Dunn, Mary Dunn Bruner, Court Smith, Lily Metcalf, Lisle Pexton and Sadie Newell 1918.**

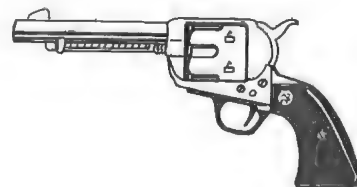
Pansy started building. Undaunted by handicaps and environment, John struggled to carve out of sagebrush a productive ranch. With the constant companionship and aid of his wife, he succeeded.

Mr. and Mrs. John Dunn have one son, Robert, and six grandchildren.

Activities of the Dunns included; John served on the Federal Land Bank Board. Pansy was a charter member of LaBonte Homemakers Club and served 30 years on the local school board.

John passed away December 20, 1976. Pansy died October 24, 1981.

**Julia Dunn**





## Dunn, Philip and Lenora Family

Philip Dennis Dunn was born near Ottumwa, Iowa, in 1864. He was the third child of Patrick and Margaret Dunn, both natives of Ireland. In 1866, the family moved in a covered wagon to the South Boulder Valley in Colorado. The Indians were very restless, and the scout saw them having a war dance but the wagons were not attacked. The Dunns bought some land from Mike Shanahan and built a home near Marshall, Colorado where they milked about 30 cows, set the milk in pans in the cellar, skimmed the cream with a skimmer, made butter and packed it in wooden barrels. They hauled the butter to a mining town in the mountains where butter brought \$1 a pound.

In 1885, Phil's brother, Richard Dunn, and Johnny Hogan came up to Wyoming to about where Glenrock is now, with a covered wagon and a saddle horse. They liked the country and decided to settle there. They returned to Boulder, planning on coming back the next year. However, when they came, bringing a plow, the mine had



Clarence Dunn

opened at Glenrock, so they went back to Colorado, then went to an area near Harrison, Nebraska to settle. So, in 1886, Phil, Rich, Pat and Tom Dunn (his brothers) and Johnny Connely (who had been a scout with Kit Carson) took some cattle to the place near Harrison. About this time Johnny Connely died. He had been a scout in the Laramie Peak area and often expressed a wish that they all go to the "high country". He was buried at the foot of a hill with a pine tree on it in sight of the "dug-out" where the Dunns lived, on land later owned by Phil Dunn before he sold out and came to Converse County in 1919.

Philip was married to Lenora Sherrill in 1894 in Harrison, Nebraska. They ranched north of Harrison, raising their six children; Mary, Elizabeth, Edith, Clarence, Ralph and Ruth in a small sod-roof house. In 1919, they sold out and bought the Ft. Fetterman Ranch which they operated until 1923, selling out and moving to Casper where Philip died in 1927.

Lenora Dunn was born at Leadville, Colorado in 1879 and her mother's family were descendants of French Huguenots. After Phil's death she lived with her daughter, Mary Bruner, in the LaBonte Community, and also with her other children. The Dunns were devout Catholics. Lenora died in Douglas in 1951. Mary, Elizabeth and Edith Dunn taught schools in Converse County a few years.

Elizabeth was married to John Holland at Douglas, Wyoming where he was a Western Union operator and later became a Chicago and Northwestern Railroad operator working at Lusk, Wyoming and at Parkerton, Wyoming which is abandoned now, but was west of Glenrock. They had five children; Ruth, Iris, Jack, Glenn and Ralph.

Iris Holland was killed in a tragic car accident between Glenrock and Parkerton in 1936. Four girls, two on each side, were riding on the running board of the McElhinney car when it was sideswiped by another car, killing the two on that side. Iris was 13 years of age and Leona McElhinney was 17, were killed. The other two sisters, Winifred McElhinney and Ruth Holland on the other side of the car were not hurt seriously.

The family moved in 1938 to Logan, Iowa. John Holland died in 1960 and Elizabeth in 1965.

Ruth Holland graduated from the Glenrock High School and married Bill Delph of Indianapolis. They had three children; Shirley, Linda and Larry.

Jack Holland died at the age of four days. Glenn married Bonnie Hughes and lives at Pomeroy, Iowa where he is a truck dispatcher. They have six children; Debbie, Scott, Michelle, Jack, Tony and Brad.

Ralph Holland married Beverly Peterson and lives in Indianapolis. They have seven children; Chad, Lori, Vana, Tawna, Teir, Shay and Lynk.

Edith Dunn was married to Roger Holden who worked at the Texas Refinery in Casper most of his life. They had four children; Kenneth, Gordon, Patricia and Betty. Kenneth married Gloria Carroll and is a geologist for Kerr-McGee, living at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. They have three children; Linda, John and Lisa.

Gordon Holden married Mary Runnion Kennedy and worked for the Texas Refinery in Casper for many years. They have two children, Wendy and Erik. Gordon was a star basketball player at the University of Wyoming partly due to his height, 6'7" tall.

Patricia Holden married Bob Moll and lives at San Jose, California. They have two children; Cynthia and Linda. Patricia was painfully injured one time when she was a girl and was spending some time at the Bruner Ranch. They were haying at the Willox Ranch and the team ran away, dragging her through the rocks and cactus.

Betty Holden married Harry Whitner of Denver, Colorado who was associated with Texas Pacific Coal and Oil Co. They have two children; Lee Ann and David.

Edith Holden lives in the Senior Citizen High Rise in Casper.

Clarence Dunn came to Ft. Fetterman ranch with his family and worked on various ranches, mostly in Converse County, all of his life. At an early age he started riding and breaking horses. He married Mamie Brow, and they both did well riding bucking horses at the Wyo-



ming State Fair and Cheyenne Frontier Days. They rode at the Calgary Stampede in 1927 and at San Antonio, Texas. Mamie took fourth place on brahma bulls. She also rode bareback horses and did a lot of exhibition rides for so much money a ride.

They had two children; Philip and Dona Lea. Philip married Ann and lives in Alaska and has two children, Lynn and Stacy. Dona Lea married Dewayne Dawes of Douglas at her grandparents ranch, the Pat Brows', and lives near Riverton, Wyoming where Dewayne is a "cat skinner" and they have three children, Susan, Jim and Pat. Clarence was married a second time in later years to Edna Gilbert. He died in Douglas in 1973.

Ralph Francis Dunn was born at Harrison, Nebraska in 1903 and came to Ft. Fetterman while his parents were there. He went to Business College in Casper and started working for Stanoline Oil Co. at Midwest in 1925, later transferred to Tulsa, Oklahoma where he worked for Standard Oil until retiring in 1962. He married Rita Anderson in 1932, who also worked for Standard Oil. They moved to Douglas in 1970 and Ralph died in 1976. Rita is living at their home on North Fifth Street in Douglas.

Ruth Dunn was born in 1906 near Harrison, Nebraska, and after her parents moved to Ft. Fetterman she went to Douglas schools some and graduated from Casper High School. She married John Reber and they had a cattle ranch near Dubois, Wyoming and operated a tie camp in that area. They moved to San Bernadino, California in 1943, where John died in 1969. Ruth lives at Yucaipa, California.

Lenora Dunn's brother, Ben Sherrill and wife, Myrtle, also came to Douglas, Wyoming with the Philip Dunns in the spring of 1919 and lived near Gallagher's place west of Douglas, working for Joe Dunn. Ben was "farmed out" when his mother died and the people who took him tied him in the barn next to a stallion and made him wear shoes that were too little which deformed his feet. He always had big feet, was tall, and said he could wear a size 11, but a 12 felt so much better that he always got a 13. He worked for his room and board for Ferris Bruner in about 1930, after his wife left him. Later he married Theresa Meehl who used to teach school near Pat Brow's ranch. She had a son, Marvin, who married Kathleen Washenfelder. Ben worked for the City of Douglas, had his own truck, and lived in the City Hall. Theresa died of tuberculosis, and he later went to Casper and worked in the Red and White Cafe. He died in Casper about 1969.

Lenora's cousin, Emma Porter, came to Douglas in 1930 and was housekeeper for Marcus Nelson until her death in 1951. Marcus had a little place out north of Douglas where the gas plant is now. Emma and her husband, Samuel Porter, lived in Lusk for a number of years, where she operated a dressmaking and millinery store.

Philip and Joe Dunn were brothers of Richard Dunn who is the father of the "Dunn Bros.", Vernon and Lester Dunn, of Harrison, Nebraska, registered Hereford breeders.

Sibyl Bruner Prager

## Dunn, Troy and Ellen

Troy Dunn was born February 4, 1895 in Curtis, Nebraska, the son of David and Arminda Dunn.

In 1920, Troy, along with his brothers, Harley and Ira, his sister, Lellie and her husband Bill Jewell, and their Uncle Reilly McMaines, came to Wyoming from Nebraska to homestead. Finding land approximately eight miles northeast of Orpha, all but Ira and Troy stak-



Troy Dunn's uncle Reilly McMaines homestead shack.

ed their claims on it. Ira filed on a piece of land on Walker Creek near Paul LeBar, while Troy settled on Soldier Creek.

Troy was disabled during his service in World War I and had limited activity throughout most of his life.

Ellen M. Rosser married Troy in March, 1928 in Chapel, Nebraska.

They all tried to farm but it was too dry. After proving up all but Troy and Ira sold their sections and moved



Troy Dunn and gang "making a start".

back to Nebraska. Troy and Ira came back later and disposed of their places.

Our three sons are: Troy L. of San Antonio, Texas; Donald, of Casper; and Kenneth M., who is in the Air Force at Anchorage, Alaska.

Troy died January 4, 1975 in Douglas.

Ellen Dunn Ireton

## Eastman, William and Vida Family

The first member of the family to come to Wyoming was William R. Eastman (b. May 23, 1887 in Waynesville, Illinois). He came in 1907 to seek his fortune in the west.

In 1911 and 1912, Bill worked and ran sheep on the Irvine Ranch at Irvine on the Platte River and cut logs in the mountains near Esterbrook and hauled them thru the winter on a bob sled to the Burlington railroad for the building of bridges and tressels near Orin.

Bill was a rodeo trick roper and rider from 1908 to 1917 at the age of 21 to age 30. At the age of 27 he won the Roman chariot race at the Wyoming State Fair. The story goes that he was driving 4 half-broken broncs. As a prank, someone had placed some 'itching-powder' in the horse collars to drive the horses crazy and break the stride of the race. Instead, the reaction hit the entire team at once and they broke into a run-a-way; resulting in winning the race and a record time, which stood for many years. Two complete revolutions of the track were made after the race before the exhausted team could be stopped. He and Lem Carmin were instrumental in introducing the chariot race at the State Fair and Frontier Days.

On October 12, 1910 he took out a homestead in the Douglas area.

In 1914, at age 27, he worked on the old Rice place under Sparks Butte on the North Platte River. This was located down river from the Warm Springs-the old Heaton swimming pool. It was known in the Eastman family as "The Old Ranch".

On May 29, 1917 he was married in Denver to Vida R. Leighton of Denver and continued to live on the Rice place for several years (William R. Eastman, Jr. was a baby there). That same year he registered for the draft, World War I, but the war ended before he was called.

Bill moved from the Old Ranch in 1920 to rent the Clark Bishop house in south Douglas. At this time he began developing the New Ranch (under the big hill three miles south of Douglas and just across the river bridge there). This became the 'home' ranch; the Eastman Ranch, which he ran until he finally sold it in October, 1960 to Clarence Nunn and moved to California. Here at the New Ranch he had 360 acres under irrigation and raised wheat, corn, oats, sugar beets and alfalfa.

At about this time the house at the New Ranch was completed and he moved from the Clark Bishop house to the ranch. He then had a house built nearby for his father and mother, Fred and Ellen Eastman, who had come to Converse County several years earlier, along with several daughters (Pauline Carmin). Fred helped him start the ranch and lived there into his early old-age; then visited various daughters until he and Ellen passed away in Oregon.

In January 1922 he moved from the ranch to town and lived in the Joe Alexander house on North Third Street on Antelope Creek until June when he moved into the Brenning house on North Fourth Street. During this period he ran the Eastman Dairy in the north addition of Douglas until the dairy burned and in 1924 he moved back to the ranch.

Bill's family made the final move from the ranch in October 1926 to 420 Cedar Street in Douglas and lived



L. to r. Mary Eastman (Fowler), Hattie Eastman (Call) and Pauline Eastman (Carmin).

here until they moved to California in 1960. He continued to operate the ranch from Douglas. Bill Tylee (now of Glendo) lived at the ranch as his foreman through the 1930s and early 1940s.

During his farming and ranching years at Douglas he owned 7½ sections of land along the east side of the Platte River, beginning with the Scoggins homestead and including all of Spark's Butte and several of his sisters homesteads. It was known to us as "The Big Pasture", and included the Warm Springs Flat across from Heaton's swimming pool. For many years the only way onto the "flat" was via horseback, down a hazardous trail off the summit of Spark's Butte, or by boat or canoe across the river. Much later, a road was blasted and bulldozed down off the butte and in the 1950s he installed a big pump in the river and farmed the Warm Springs Flat under irrigation to corn and alfalfa. Into the 1940s, this flat contained one of the largest prairie dog towns in the Douglas area. Because of its isolation, his son, Bill Jr., was all for preserving it; so much so, that when he decided to poison the 'town' the story circulated around Douglas that Bill put out the poison and his son, Billy, followed behind him throwing out the antidote. In addition to the Big Pasture, he also owned and leased land on Bedtick Creek, adjacent to the main ranch and across the river from the Big Pasture. He ran sheep and cattle on both of these areas and raised crops on the irrigated ranch. He usually wintered his sheep there and summered them up on Bar-M Mountain and out onto the Laramie Plains around the post office location called Marshall.

In 1934, he leased the 4W Ranch from the Sherwin family of Sterling, Colorado. This ranch was located on the north fork of the Cheyenne River, partly in the northeast corner of Converse County. Here, he primarily ran sheep until about 1940 when Jim and Gus Sherwin took over the property. Bill then leased the AU7 Ranch further down the river and ran both sheep and cattle there during the war years. In 1943, he gave up the lease because Jiggs

Thompson had purchased the AU7. Bill returned to Douglas to continue his ranching operations.

Bill sold out in 1960 and moved first to Los Gatos, California and later to Vacaville. In the later 60s, he and his wife moved to Honolulu, but he shortly became ill and his son, Richard, had to bring him back to Denver, where he passed away in April, 1969. His wife, Vida, still lives in Vacaville.

William R. Eastman, Jr. was born May 29, 1918 in Denver, Colorado and lived in Douglas thru high school. After graduation, he spent a year working on the 4W Ranch with his father. In the fall of 1936, he enrolled at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. His interest was natural history and museum techniques.

Bill, Jr. was married on December 28, 1941 to Maxine E. Peebles, who was born in Douglas in 1919. In 1942, after graduating from SUI, returned to ranching at Douglas and at the AU7. He returned to college at Fort Hays Kansas State in 1945 and received a Masters degree in botany-zoology. He taught there from 1945 to 1954.

Bill became one of the early faculty members in the founding of Central Oregon Community College in Bend, Oregon, in 1954. He taught and built visual teaching aids at the University of New England in Armidale, New South Wales, Australia in 1960 - 1962. Bill authored and illustrated the first field guide to Australian parrots.

While he attended the University of Wyoming in Laramie from 1962 to 1970 he was Agricultural Visual Specialist. From there he accepted a position as Curator of Natural History at the Denver Museum of Natural History from 1970 - 1972 and became Curator of Natural History and Director of Operations at the Kansas City Museum from 1972 to 1982, retiring in April of 1982.

Another son, Richard Leighton Eastman was born in Douglas, Wyoming on April 7, 1921.

He married Betty Jo Mitchell on July 22, 1944 at Brownsville, Texas. They were divorced in July 1964 at Denver, Colorado.

Betty Jo Mitchell was born in Muskogee, Oklahoma on April 16, 1923. She died in Jackson, Louisiana on December 23, 1980.

Richard and Betty had two daughters: Mary Margaret Eastman and Rebecca Kay Eastman.

Mary Margaret Eastman was born in Riverton, Wyoming on September 30, 1945. She was married to Marshall Ellenstein on August 22, 1970, at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Marshall Ellenstein was born in Chicago, Illinois on May 28, 1941. Mary Margaret and Marshall are living in Chicago, Illinois and are both teaching. They have no children.

Rebecca Kay Eastman was born in Riverton, Wyoming, on January 26, 1947. She was married to Thomas Monroe Quinney, Jr., on February 28, 1965, at Gallion, Alabama. Thomas was born in Alabama in 1943. He was killed in the United States Air Force on March 13, 1966, at Sacramento, California.

Rebecca Kay Quinney married Roger Dale Crowson on December 30, 1968, at Jackson, Mississippi. Roger was born on November 27, 1949.

Rebecca and Roger have three children: Ashley Kyre, Chase Brantley and Jeremy Cade. Ashley Kyre Crowson was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on February 19, 1971. Chase Brantley Crowson was born in Jackson,

Mississippi on September 1, 1972 and Jeremy Cade Crowson was born in Vicksburg, Mississippi on October 8, 1975.

Rebecca, Roger and children are living in Frankfurt, Germany. Roger is employed by the United States Army Corp of Engineers. He is an earthquake specialist.

Richard Leighton Eastman married Carole Ann Summitt at Denver, Colorado, on August 29, 1965. Carole Ann was born at Muscatine, Iowa on January 13, 1934.

Richard was a radio and aircraft technician in Texas during World War II. After the war he moved to Riverton, Wyoming, where his two daughters were born. In 1950 he moved to Denver, Colorado, where he worked as an electrician.

In 1967, he and Carole founded Eastman Electric Company, an electrical contracting corporation, which they operated until 1982. In December of 1982 they moved to Phoenix, Arizona. Carole is presently enrolled at Arizona State University, working on her master's degree in Counseling. Richard is semi-retired, and enrolled at Glendale Community College, where he is working on his Associate Degree in Electronic/Computer Engineering.

Bill Eastman, Jr.

## Eaton, Arthur and Florence

My husband, Arthur Eaton, and I, Florence, rode all night on the Chicago Northwestern train from Nebraska and arrived in Lost Springs, Wyoming, the latter part of March 1912. He wanted to go immediately to his homestead, which was about eight miles west of Lost Springs. . .there was no town of Shawnee at that time. He asked the section foreman if we could ride out on the hand car with him. The homestead was about one-fourth of a mile north of the tracks. The house was a dugout in a hill. The only furnishing was a bunk and a stove. It had a door but no windows.

We stayed there that night but when morning came, we couldn't get out of the house. A blizzard had come during the night and the doorway was covered with a large snowdrift. The door opened to the outside. After a while, we could hear the railroad hand car coming down the track, so my husband poked his gun through the roof and shot two or three times. The men heard the shots and came and dug us out.

We stayed there two or three days and then we went to a cattle ranch to work. We stayed at the ranch two or three months and then we went to a coal mine to work. I was the cook for the miners. We had a kitchen and a long room for the dining room. At first, there weren't many workers at the mine until the manager brought in about twenty-five men from Omaha. They were of several nationalities and none could speak English.

The manager cut down on our food allowance, but not too much at first. When those twenty-five men came in to eat they all came at once and they were hungry. The manager had only allowed a certain amount of bacon for their breakfast. I would cook it and serve it on one platter. The first eight or ten men would take so much of it that there wasn't any for the rest of the crew. The manager asked me to put two strips on each man's plate.

That was rather difficult to do when they all sat down to eat at one time. Well I quit!

We then moved to another coal mine which was much smaller and nearer our homestead. It had a small dining room where I did the cooking. Our bed was also in that room. The building was very cold in the winter as the inside had never been finished.

The owners' father-in-law worked at the mine. He was a Civil War Veteran and every month when he received his government check, it went for liquor. He would get so drunk. He would stand on the floor and give jumps and "holler every time he jumped." I guess he saw snakes. One time, he hid his bottle in the stove in their bunk house. I found it and I hid it. He never saw me get it, but he knew that I was the one who took it.

Once during the winter, it was very cold and we had very little food at the mine. The owner had gone somewhere. He was broke so we figured that he was trying to get some business for the mine. A young fellow, about twenty years old, was working there. He told me that he was going out and bring in some meat so that we would all have something to eat. When he returned, he brought in some fresh meat. I was scared when I saw it. I was afraid that the sheriff might be along. That meat was sure good, but was I glad when it was gone.

We were at this mine for over a year. Vicki, our daughter, was born while we were there, however, I did go to the hospital in Douglas, Wyoming for this event.

By this time, my husband had built one room on the homestead. It had a dirt roof and the walls were what I believe is now called "rammed earth." It had windows and two doors. There was a sort of sod shanty on the side for wood and coal. The inside of our room was lined with twelve-inch unfinished boards. Even the floor boards were unfinished. The lumber was green so it shrank and warped a lot and there were rattlesnakes around. The lumber for the room was purchased from a small, local sawmill.

I went to town and bought some white or light gray building paper and my good friend and neighbor, Mrs. Haley, who lived on a homestead a half mile away, helped me put it on the ceiling and walls. We used tin brads about the size of a half dollar with tacks to drive into the middle of each brad. I had a clean looking room. My stove was kept shining. I had no dresser so I sawed three or four boards and nailed them to the walls to store my flat pieces. I hung a curtain over the front. We had another long board in one corner where we hung our clothes with a curtain over that.

A family, the Harrison Eastons who lived a quarter of a mile away, had a well where I would walk to get my drinking and cooking water. They also lived in a "dug-out." It was a large room dug into a bank. Later on, they added a frame room. Mr. Easton was a carpenter and was gone most of the time working for others. They had two or three girls and the mother was expecting again. The baby came in the night. The oldest girl was six years old and she brought things for her mother to care for the new one. When morning came and it was light, the little girl walked to the railroad section house, which was a half mile along the railroad, to get the Section Foreman's wife to come and help her mother. When this little girl was about 12 years old, she went to the field with a team

of horses and a disc. The horses ran away and the girl was killed.

Water for cleaning and washing was hauled to us in a fifty-gallon barrel by a neighbor who had a team and wagon. When I went to get drinking water at the hand-dug well, I had to let a bucket, tied to a rope, down to the water. When I heard a splash, I would pull on the rope, which was on a pulley, and I would draw the bucket of water up. I would take Vicki on one arm and a bucket of water on the other hand and walk home that quarter of a mile.

One day a cowboy stopped to tell me that my neighbor, Nora Davies, would like for me to come visit her. She lived a mile away. I had started to bake bread so I put the dough in a flour sack and tied it around my neck, took Vicki in my arms and away I went.

Homesteading was a hard, lonesome life and it was fun to go and spend a day or two with another homestead wife. It was necessary that we live on the homestead for part of the year in order to prove up on it. Most of the men worked away from their homesteads, some being gone several weeks or months at a time, so most of the neighbors were women. Later, when Nora got a horse and buggy, we would go to Lost Springs to shop and to Sunday School and to church on Sundays. Often Nora's mother, Mrs. Tillie Haley, would go with us. A round trip was about seventeen miles.

It was all open range with no fences anywhere. There were lots of range cattle and, of course, I was afraid of them. One night, I heard the door knob rattling. I had a small hand gun and I tried to shoot toward the door. The gun wouldn't go off. If it had, I would have had a beef as it was rubbing its nose on the door knob. Of course, I would have had to spend some time in the state penitentiary, as killing someone else's beef was a serious crime.

Another baby was on its way and our son, Gerald, was born in Douglas in November.

In January of 1914, I was almost out of food, as was my neighbor, Mrs. Haley, who had an eight-year-old nephew, Lee Swickhamer, living with her. It was cold and the snow on the level ground was up to my knees. She took care of my two babies, Vicki who was one year and seven months old and Gerald, who was two months old, while Lee and I walked three miles and flagged down a slow train at a box car siding. We rode the other five miles into town, bought groceries and took the train back to the siding. We had the groceries in a flour sack. We then walked the three miles home. I had no overshoes, just high top shoes, and in those days there were no slacks. I didn't even catch a cold.

I left Wyoming that January. A neighbor with his team of horses and only a flat box on its wagon, came by. There were no side boards. I asked for a ride to town. I sat up there with my two babies. Cold! Of course, it was! I had a small trunk with clothes in it. I caught the train at Lost Springs and rode all night back to Nebraska. It was morning when I got off the train. There was a mail truck, a two-seated car, that carried the mail to an inland town, about 30 miles away. It was the first car in that part of the country. I had to keep Vicki's head covered up or she would scream. I went to the home of an uncle and aunt who lived five miles farther up.

As a teenager in Nebraska, I remember picking up

buffalo chips to burn in our cook stove. I can also remember burning hay to keep warm. It didn't give off much warmth, but it kept you from freezing and it cooked our meals. The hay burner was a large metal container, twice as tall as a wash boiler. You filled it with hay, packing it in tightly. Then you removed the front lids on the stove, turned the boiler upside down and put a match to it. You cooked on the two back lids of the stove. Talk about odor . . . you carried it in your clothes to school, to town, and everywhere. No amount of cologne would have killed it. But then, where we were, we had never heard of cologne in those days.

On September 12, 1982 Florence Davies celebrated her 90th birthday at her home in Coquille, Oregon. A reception for her friends and relatives was held with her daughter, Vicki, and her son, John, planning and hosting.

Florence passed away in May of 1983.

My maternal grandparents, Nora and William Davies, were married a few months more than 50 years when my grandmother passed away. Florence and my grandmother had remained friends since homesteading days, although they lived in different parts of the country. Several years later, my grandfather married Florence and they made their home in Coquille, Oregon.

Florence's daughter, Vicki, has asked me to submit this story which Florence had written for me.

Rita Mae Ewing



Tom Eberspecher

## Eberspecher Family

The Eberspecher brothers were born and raised near Harrison, Nebraska. Their parents, John and Frances Eberspecher, had come to Nebraska in a covered wagon and settled on a homestead in the Hat Creek Valley, north of Harrison, where they resided all of their lives. John and Frances had 13 children. The boys learned farming and ranching at an early age; and when the opportunity came they took out homestead claims in Converse County, Wyoming.

In 1923 Henry was granted a patent and in 1935 his brothers, Tom and Ted, also took homestead sections northwest of Glenrock. They built a house on Tom and Ted's lands. Henry, being the only bachelor, lived with his brothers and their families.

Henry worked at various jobs to supplement his brothers' incomes. He was always helping his brothers and neighbors at various tasks such as breaking horses, shearing, branding, lambing, etc. He worked for many of the large ranches in the area. He spent a lot of time with his nieces and nephews telling them stories. He loved children more than anything and they loved him.

When times were tough for the others and all he had was himself, he'd go to town and buy fruit and candy for the children. They all thought he was Santa Claus. The children often nagged him to get married and have children of his own. He made the hard times seem a lot better with his laughter and kind consideration for others. Henry helped his brothers build their homes and helped them with their land. They all helped each other.

Henry worked hard and thought only of the others and tried to help them get through their hardships. He later married Edith Lutcavish Shaw in Cheyenne on July 28, 1951 and had one son of his own, Richard "Dick", born August 20, 1952. Dick lives in Roswell, New Mexico. Henry died May 16, 1978 in Casper and Edith on July 14, 1983.

Tom Eberspecher married Helen Robinson, daughter of Thomas and Nettie McCormick Robinson, on February 26, 1926 in Torrington, Wyoming. Four of their children were born prior to moving to the homestead in 1935 northwest of Glenrock. They were: Thomas R., William R., Jean M., (Hayman), and Helen Lee (Dean Young). The last three: Catherine R. (Pace), Merelene Jo and Richard M. "Mike" were born later.

They built a ten foot by ten foot house on the homestead. They raised sheep and a few cattle and chickens. The winters were extremely hard. The roads were more like trails. There were many hardships in the winter.

The children were driven to Red Butte School by a team and wagon. The teacher's name at the time was Joy Ash. They went to school there for four years. After the old school was closed down, Helen and the children moved to Glenrock in the winters to go to school, going home on the weekends.

For entertainment the children rode horses, hunted Indian artifacts, and played in the hills. They went with their father herding sheep, hunting firewood, and in the evenings their father sang to them. His favorite songs were Strawberry Roan, Battle Hymn of the Republic, and The Old Rugged Cross.

Helen made all of the children's clothes on a treadle





**Ted Eberspecher**

sewing machine. They visited the neighboring homesteaders: Todd Garriotts, Mayme Krebardis, Henry Eberspecher and Ted Eberspecher. They helped each other in order to survive, such as helping each other build their houses. Tom was the only one who had a windmill, as the other people lived near springs.

Once when Tom and Helen went to town to buy groceries, a cloudburst caused a flash flood. The children swam the river on horseback carrying sheep back one by one. The children were raised to take care of any emergency or problem that arose.

Tom often made a breakfast of hot biscuits, fried potatoes, and homemade apple or plum butter. Every year Tom's mother sent each family a winter supply of apple and plum butter. They had the homestead for ten years and then sold out and moved to Idaho where their youngest child, Mike, was born.

Tom died April 7, 1976 and Helen in the summer of 1982.

Ted married Rachel Duncan, daughter of Edward and Anna Duncan, on September 20, 1934. Rachel was born on January 21, 1917 in Harrison, Nebraska. Ted was born on April 24, 1908.

Ted and Rachel Eberspecher moved to their homestead in 1935. They had built their house in the spring and then moved out with their baby daughter, Merdith.

Their house was 12' by 24'. One side had four windows in it. The house is still standing at the Nicolaysen Ranch. (Ted worked for the Nicolaysens at varying times. He wrangled cows and herded sheep for them.)

On their homestead, Ted and Rachel raised a garden, horses, cattle, sheep and chickens. Times were tough and

Ted took various jobs to support his family. He rode broncs in rodeos, broke horses, and wrangled cattle or herded sheep. Ted had a great love for horses and spent a lot of time caring for them.

Rachel took pride in her children, garden and chickens. After they lived there a while they had another daughter, Teddie Lou. When Teddie Lou was about two years old she almost died of pneumonia. Rachel stayed with her in the hospital day and night. It took almost all of their money for the hospital and doctors but she pulled through. However, it wasn't long before they were back in good shape again, as Ted always worked to supplement the family's needs.

He adored children and by the time his daughter, Merdith, was two months old he was taking her with him on horseback to wrangle cows. All of the water had to be hauled for a couple of miles, also wood for heat. Some of his horses had strange personalities. Merdith recalled how one horse named Mollie was the most stubborn horse in the world. Ted was hauling wood and this horse was part of a team pulling the wagon. Something made her mad. She laid down and would not get up. Ted finally stuck a big wad of chewing tobacco in her mouth. She got up all right but she kicked the heck out of the wagon. This same horse kicked a friend of Ted's in the head. No one seemed too excited. He was lying in the corner of the corral out like a light.

They laughed and joked about their hardships but also had good times. They went to visit their neighbors, had picnics, went to rodeos, visited relatives, but most of



**Henry Eberspecher**

all enjoyed watching their daughters learn and grow. In the winter when there was lots of snow, Ted and Rachel took their two small children sledding. They also had a goat that they hooked up to a wagon and gave the children rides.

One year the snow was so deep that the only way to travel was by horse and sled. Ted's parents, John and Frances Eberspecher sent a hog on a sled for Christmas. Rachel's parents, Ed and Anna Duncan came to visit. They brought the children bedroom slippers. Teddie Lou had never had them before and thought they were to wear to bed. Everyone thought that was pretty funny.

Since the school had closed down they sold out and moved to Glenrock in order to send the girls to school. A few years later they had two more daughters, Lynna Faye and Gail.

Ted worked at the Continental Oil Refinery in Glenrock until it closed then moved to Lusk where he operated a gasoline station until his death on September 22, 1982. Rachel died on May 27, 1980.

Edith Eberspecher, Helen Young  
Lynna Faye Engebretsen

## Eddy, Leo and Ella

Leo Wilcox Eddy, married to Ella Winifred Fuller, was a salesman in Marshall Fields Department Store in Chicago. He had been married a year when he contracted tuberculosis. His physician gave him two choices, go west or die! He had a friend in Lusk, Wyoming so he left his wife in Michigan, and went west (1909).

He worked as a roustabout on the Mills Ranch and filed on a homestead north of Node, Wyoming. His wife joined him and there were rough years ahead homesteading, drought, prairie fire and little money. He taught the country school and farmed. A son, Robert Joseph, was born in 1914 and a daughter in 1916, Virginia Kathleen. A little daughter, Bernice Fuller was born in 1919 but died at 2½ years of age.

Leo raised Morgan draft horses before and during World War II and the "bottom dropped out" when the war ended leaving him with 32 matched unsaleable teams.

In 1920 he gave up homesteading, sold his holdings and got a job with the Chicago Northwestern Railroad as Section Foreman at Irvine, near Douglas; later in 1932 he was transferred to Orin Junction. In 1939 he was made Roadmaster of the C&NW RR between Chadron, Nebraska and Lander, Wyoming. He and his wife moved to Casper, Wyoming. In 1945 both were killed in an auto accident.

Robert, their son, raised and educated in Converse County joined the Navy, lived in California, then later in Rhode Island where he was a building superintendent until his death in 1980.

Virginia, their daughter, raised in Converse County, graduated from high school there, went to college and nurses training in Michigan, lived there for seven years and then returned to Casper, Wyoming. Of her five children, two lived in Wyoming, Meredith in Cheyenne, James in Laramie. The other three live in California.

Robert has a son, Stephen, in California and three daughters, Karen and Pamela in Delaware, Lucia in Rhode Island. Their children live with them.

Virginia Eddy Dunlap

## Edison, Alfred and Gladys Family

Gladys Baker Edison was born in Amelia, Nebraska on March 20, 1898. She was the eldest of four children born to Olin and Adanella Baker. Her dad worked at various jobs including running a restaurant and a livery stable. Then her family, the Bakers, took a homestead under the Kincaid Act in the sand hills of Nebraska. There, Gladys met Alfred E. Edison who lived on a homestead with his grandparents, as his parents had both died. He was 16 and Gladys was 13 when they attended the same school in the sandhills.

Alfred Edison and Gladys Baker were married on March 30, 1918. Alfred had taken a homestead in Wyoming in 1917 which was located 27 miles northeast of Douglas, three miles from Twenty Mile Creek. Here he brought his new bride in a covered wagon to live. They met two other wagons at New Port, Nebraska and left there with them on April 7, 1918.

On the way, they stayed at the Desmond ranch at Node, Wyoming, during a blizzard. The horses were tied at a straw shed and they ate most of this shed during that blizzard. Mrs. Desmond and Mrs. Edison had quite a good visit during their stay there. Mrs. Desmond told Gladys how to plant tomatoes and gave her other household and gardening hints. Gladys confided to Mrs. Desmond that she would be glad to get to the homestead to do her wash as she was down to her last dish towel. The next day, when the blizzard had broken and they went to leave, Mrs. Desmond gave her some biscuits wrapped in a flour sack and told her to use the new sack for a dish towel. Gladys really appreciated this kindness.

They arrived at the homestead May 1, 1918. They lived in a tent and the covered wagon that first summer. Alfred bought a barn from a homesteader who was leaving and they made their home out of this lumber.

Alfred was one of the lucky homesteaders because he had horses and got jobs at four dollars an acre plowing other homesteader's ground. In order to prove up on a homestead, they had to plow forty acres and cultivate it. However, they didn't have to do this all in one year. Alfred was busy with plowing ground and they weren't able to move into their new homestead home until September 20, 1918. That first summer the living was pretty skimpy and they lived on dry beans and potatoes that their folks had given them when they left Nebraska. They killed some sage chickens and rabbits to add a little meat to their diet sometimes. They got a leave of absence from the homestead to go to Plainview, Nebraska to pick corn and they stayed there about five months.

World War I was on when they settled on the homestead and everything was rationed. When they went to Lost Springs for their first groceries they only had about nine dollars cash. Under the rationing program, they were allowed to get two pounds of sugar a month. They could only get 48 pounds of flour, so they had to get 48 pounds of cornmeal, oatmeal and rice etc. to make it stretch. A sack of flour cost seven dollars so they only had two dollars left to get the rest of their groceries. They got what they could and then Alfred went to the bank to see if he could borrow 25 dollars if they had to have it for their next groceries. Later, Alfred was able to put 90 dollars in the bank from their plowing so they didn't have to borrow it after all.

Alfred found his horses came in handy not only for breaking up ground for other homesteaders, but he also got a job digging with a slip using his horses in making the grain elevator at Lost Springs. They moved the covered wagon to Lost Springs to live in while Alfred worked on the grain elevator.

Alfred and Gladys realized that he had received that job because he had the horses to do it and they valued the horses a great deal. One time, the horses were lost on the open range and Alfred rode three days to find them. Everyone said they had probably gone back to Nebraska and he was getting pretty discouraged. He went out one more time, however, and finally found them along the creek.

When they were at Lost Springs, the Edisons went back to the homestead almost every weekend to see the garden and to tend to it. Alfred dug a potato and root cellar the first summer. They put carrots, squash,



Alfred and Gladys Edison on their wedding day.

potatoes and corn in the cellar from their garden. They didn't have jars to can with. They had to dry some of the food, they salted some food down and kept some vegetables in sand. They had a big slab of bacon that her folks

had given her in Nebraska.

There wasn't any water on their homestead. The water was too deep and they didn't have good tools to dig with, so they had to haul water in a barrel from a spring



Trap Shooting Club in Glenrock 1920s.

about six miles away. The neighbors later got a water well and they let them haul water from there. The Edisons were on the homestead 30 years before they finally could afford to get Frank Kirn to drill a well for them. They put a windmill in then, and that was the sweetest music to Gladys's ears - the sound of the windmill pumping water.

The Edisons had shipped a cook stove out on the train to Lost Springs. It was an ordinary woodburning stove and they had lots of wood to burn because of the cedars and pines on their place. This stove was one of the luxuries on the homestead and turned out many good meals. The next year they bought an organ at Atkinson, Nebraska when they went back to pick corn. It was a second hand organ, but played very well and still plays today. Gladys played the organ and the piano for Sunday school and church for many years.

An epidemic of the Spanish influenza broke out the second year on the homestead and the Edisons and their neighbors, the Reeds, got it. Other neighbors came in and cared for them. They kept the house warm and cooked for them or they would have died. There was an awfully deep snow in April when they were having the flu. Dr. Keller came out from Douglas and got stuck on the hillside on their place. The ruts are still there today. One neighbor rode clear to Lost Springs, 17 miles away in the deep snow, to get medicine for them. Fortunately, no one in their neighborhood died, but they were awfully sick there and in Lost Springs.

Alfred cut cedar posts around the Rosin Coal Mine near the homestead. This mine, when it opened, attracted many people there to work. The coal didn't prove the right quality, so it was closed. Alfred had the posts, though and would sell them at 20 cents apiece. One time, when they were expecting their first baby Arlene, they had no money for baby clothes and things for a new baby. There was a fellow who came out from Douglas, Mr. Henry, and he wanted to buy 60 dollars worth of posts. They sold those and Gladys made out an order to Wards catalog to get clothes for the baby. It was in April when they sold the posts and baby Arlene arrived June 5, 1920. Dr. Storey came clear out from Douglas to deliver the baby.

Arlene was the only child of the Edisons for 17 years. They had given up having any more children when a son, Fay, was born September 30, 1937. They were so happy to have another child after so many years. Fay and his family live on the homestead place today.

The first summer, when the Edisons lived in a tent, they just had a dirt floor, no windows, orange crates and apple boxes for chairs, tables, and cupboards. When they were able to move into the homestead house, it seemed like a castle to Gladys. They bought a solid oak table with four chairs and a six place setting of china dishes. She got two aluminum bread pans at the store in Lost Springs besides a tea kettle, dish pan and an iron skillet. It was like heaven living in a house after living in a tent and covered wagon all summer. She still had to make her own soap and do her wash on the washboard though.

It wasn't all work. They went to dances, pie socials, and school programs in the school house. Arlene was only four years old when she spoke a piece at the Christmas program. She stood on a chair so everyone could see her

and she was really cute.

It seemed to the Edisons that it took all their strength just to live. It was several years before they got their place fenced. They had two little heifer calves that were picked up with some other cattle in one of the round-ups on the open range and were driven off with them. The Edisons felt awfully bad about this, but there was no way to get them back because they weren't branded and they had no way of proving they were theirs.

Mr. Edison passed away on March 15, 1970 at the Douglas hospital. They were still on the homestead then. Gladys moved to Douglas in November, 1970, where she still resides. Her son, Fay and wife, Sue and children bought the homestead ranch and run cattle, horses etc. there at present. Daughter Arlene and her husband Larry Eddy and family live at Keeline on a ranch.

I asked Gladys if she would do it all over again in spite of all the hardships. She said, "Yes, somehow with God's help, we survived the Spanish influenza, tick fever, rabbit fever, measles and all kinds of hardships on the homestead. We were poor, but everyone else was too, so we didn't notice. There were bad times, but there were many good times too. There seemed to always be lots of love to go around and people had time to help one another. We had lots of faith and we were happy, which are the most important things, after all."

Faun D. Cole  
as told by Gladys Edison

## Edwards, Arthur and Margaret

Samuel J. Edwards came from Liverpool, England. On May 20, 1862, he received a homestead grant of 160 acres near Aberdeen, Dakota Territory. This was signed by President Benjamin Harrison. He married Arvilla Boyd of Dover, Minnesota. Their four children, Arthur, Clarence, Pearl and Roy were born at Groton, South Dakota.

Among the early settlers to arrive in Douglas, Wyoming in 1917 from Omaha, Nebraska were Arthur and Margaret Edwards, small son, Arthur Jr., Margaret's mother, Margaret Z. Carpenter, and Roy Edwards. They acquired adjoining homesteads about 35 miles north of Douglas at Dry Creek, now Bill, Wyoming. Here three more children were born to Arthur and Margaret: Warren in 1917, David in 1931 and Margaret in 1932.

It was a rugged life. A trip to Douglas by wagon was at least a two day journey to pick up mail and supplies. Flour and other products were bought by the barrel. Much was ordered from catalogs and arrived in Douglas by train then freighted on to the ranch. Coal was hauled by wagon from the Burning Coal Mine approximately 30 miles away.

Antelope, deer, coyotes and rabbits were plentiful and other animals were trapped for their furs. Thanks to the Wyoming wind, a good well and much hard work they were able to raise large gardens that are still remembered. They raised the first peanut crop in the 1920s.

Arthur burned spines off the cactus with a burner fired by distillate for the animals to eat.

Roy enlisted July 1918 in the U.S. Army at Douglas. He left the United States for overseas assignment in August 1918 and returned in October 1919. He returned to Douglas but later went to California. In the mid 1930s he returned to Groton, South Dakota and farmed the original homestead. He married and remained there the rest of his life.

Margaret Z. Carpenter lived on her homestead where she died in 1930 and is buried in the Douglas cemetery.

In 1941 Arthur and Margaret sold to a neighboring rancher and moved to the vicinity of Centralia, Washington. They are both buried there.

Warren married Erma Bower in 1939. They moved to Washington in the 1940s.

Warren Edwards

## Edwards, Con and Blanch

Con Edwards, son of William and Lucy Dickinson Edwards, was born in Galax, Virginia on June 20, 1880. He came to Nebraska in 1902 and on January 7, 1914, married Blanch Jones, daughter of Barney and Bertha Jones in Garrison, Butler County, Nebraska. Barney and Bertha were both born in Norway and Bertha crossed the ocean by ship nine times during her lifetime. When Blanch was ten years old she accompanied her mother to

Norway where they spent a year. The main reason for Bertha taking her daughter, was for her to write home to the family, as Bertha only wrote Norwegian. Blanch wrote very legibly, and while in Norway she wrote a story of her trip and experiences there, which family members still have.

Four daughters were born to Con and Blanch in Nebraska: namely, May Rose in 1915, Ella in 1916, Marie in 1919 and Pauline in 1921. May Rose died the month before her third birthday from complications of having pneumonia and measles at the same time.

With their three daughters, Con and Blanch moved to Converse County, Wyoming in 1923 and homesteaded 12 miles northeast of Douglas. Con purchased a team of horses and hauled lumber in a wagon from Douglas to build the house on the homestead, while his family resided in Douglas until the house was completed. While Con was hauling the second load of lumber from Douglas, someone stole the first load that had been unloaded at the homestead site.

In 1924, a son Raymond was born to the Edwards family, then in 1927, another girl, Darlene, joined the family and the youngest son, Clyde, was born in 1930.

The lumber wagon was used in those early days to haul wood from the timber which was fourteen miles away. About once a month, the wagon and team would be used to travel to Douglas to bring back their needed supplies and groceries. Times were hard and money was scarce and it was said by Mrs. Edwards one time that there was not enough money to purchase postage stamps,



1929 L. to r. top row: unknown, Anna Lynch, Mrs. Fred Hendricks, Fred Hendricks. Middle row: Helen Hylton, unknown, Wilma Hylton, Warren Edwards, Margaret Hendricks, Earl Reed, Ellis Reed, Bottom row: Wesley Reed, Murray Reed, Hendricks, Richard Reed, Hendricks.



but the Edwards children never went hungry. By milking their own cows and using the cream and milk, food was provided. Blanch sold eggs, and would churn the cream into butter in a large wooden churn, press the butter into rectangular wooden molds, wrap it in butter parchment papers and butter boxes and take it to Douglas to deliver it to many various regular customers almost every week. She sold this butter for 30 to 35 cents per pound.

The family always raised a large garden also, and there was much canning done every year. Of course, the Edwardses always did their own butchering, which was mostly pork, but this kept the family in meat and Mrs. Edwards always rendered the lard for their use, not only for cooking, but also for making laundry soap with lard and lye.

Con planted corn and it was picked by hand and dumped into long piles. The rabbits would come out at night to feed on the corn and Con would shoot them. On a moonlight night he would have an unusually good kill of rabbits.

Con believed in teaching his children how to work also, and they would chop sagebrush and pick up corncobs to be used for fuel to heat the house in the winter, along with the wood he hauled from the timber. One year in June, Con was sick in bed with tick fever, which meant it was up to Blanch (with the help of their children) to milk the cows and do the chores. This particular June gave forth with a Wyoming snowstorm that covered the west windows of the homestead with drifts so high that Con could not see out of the west bedroom where he was confined to his bed. Wyoming winters were severe more than once, and the Edwards girls can remember walking a mile to the Happy Hollow School during winters when the snow was deep enough that they were walking on top of the fence posts.

Seems as though people were tougher back in those days and could take things easier than they do now. For example, at the time of the birth of the youngest son, Clyde, Dr. Schaffer was called to the Edwards' homestead. After several hours of labor, the doctor was unable to deliver the baby, so it was necessary for Mrs. Edwards to get in their car (a 1928 Model A) and ride to Douglas to the hospital, where the baby was born, lifeless for a few minutes, but with medical help life returned to the child and he was able to go home with his mother in about ten days or so.

They had been able to purchase the brand new Model A Ford at the price of \$700.00 and Con was so proud of this car, and wanted it to last a long time, that he would jack it up on cement blocks during the week, thinking that this extra effort would help lengthen the life of the tires.

In 1930 the Edwards family took a trip in the Model A to Nebraska, where Ella remained with relatives and the rest of the family continued on to North Carolina and Virginia to visit Con's sisters. We think our mother must have had the patience of Job to travel that distance with seven people in the car. Dad had built a small platform on the back of the car and that was where the luggage was carried.

They also purchased a new "Home Comfort" range for their use costing about \$150.00, along with a new Maytag washing machine. These appliances had the very best of care and proof of that is that Marie, one of the

daughters, still has the Maytag washer which is still in good working condition, and has the original wringer on it.

It was an extra special treat for the Edwards children to get to go to Douglas on Saturdays, to help deliver the saleable goods and purchase groceries, and buy material for Blanch to sew the children's clothes. The older members can remember their parents telling that Pauline (at about age seven), on the weekly trip to Douglas, when the car would get to the curve just outside of town, would start to sing, "I smell candy, I smell gum, I smell peanuts, YUM, YUM, YUM."

Darlene can remember one particular time when she was with her mother at the home of one of their butter customers, who had given Blanch a remnant a short time before. There Darlene (about age 4) stood holding her coat open wide until the "new dress" she was wearing was noticed by the lady of the house—from the gift remnant. There was amusement from both Blanch and the donor of the material but nevertheless, Darlene remembers how proud she was of that dress.

The Edwards family resided on the homestead place until 1935, at which time they moved to Douglas. They also moved the family cat with them, which had been the



Con Edwards family 1924: l. to r. Con Blanch holding Ray, (niece) Alice Edwards. Bottom row: Ella, Marie and Pauline.

kids' pet for several years. She was a 3-legged cat who had the misfortune of losing one leg in a rabbit trap and freezing it off. After a day or two in town, Muncie (the cat's name) was missing and in less than a week's time the report was that Muncie had arrived back at the homestead, using her three good legs to get there. This happened two more times, and since she showed this much desire to stay at the homestead site, she was permitted to remain there for the remainder of her life.

The family only lived in Douglas for a few months and with the exception of Ella, all the rest of the family moved back to Butler County, Nebraska where Mr. Edwards took up farming on the Jones' homestead near Ulysses, Nebraska. In 1943, the family purchased a home in David City, Nebraska and moved there upon Mr. Edwards' retirement. Mr. Edwards died in May 1955 in David City. Ella remained in Douglas with her husband Tom Robinson, Jr. and baby daughter, Dorothy. Ella and Tom now own the land that was the Edwards' homestead.

The rest of the children did accompany their parents to Nebraska. However, Marie returned to Douglas in 1937 and worked at the seed house for a few years. She married Carl Hageman in 1940. Carl and Marie resided on the original Hageman homestead where Carl built a log cabin for their first home, and later added on to it as the family grew. They had two sons, Robert and Ron, who both lived in Converse County. In fact Ron and his wife (the former Kathy Campbell), and son, T.J., still live on the original homestead site. Robert married Judy Sims and they live just north of Douglas. They have two daughters, Tracy and Tiffany.

Carl Hageman died in May 1978. Marie married Bob Straw of Wheatland, Wyoming in February 1980, and they divide their time between Douglas and Wheatland during the summer and spend their winters in Arizona.

Pauline married Eugene Parke of Ulysses, Nebraska. To this union were born two children, Melvin and Patricia. They live in Lincoln, Nebraska at this writing.

Raymond worked for a dairy in David City after serving in the U.S. Army and then married Lorna Yocom of Lincoln, Nebraska. They moved first to Casper, Wyoming and then settled later near Lusk, Wyoming. They have three children, Monte, Russell and Denise. Lorna is presently the Niobrara County Assessor.

Darlene is married to Bob Shrader of Surprise, Nebraska and they have three children, Roberta, Rodney and Cindy, who all live in Nebraska.

Clyde served in the U.S. Army in San Antonio, Texas where he married Faye Johnson. They had three daughters, Carole, Jackie and Jerry and one son William. Faye died in June of 1976. Clyde later remarried and they still reside in San Antonio, Texas.

Mrs. Blanch Edwards continued to live in David City after Con passed away, and remained living alone, staying active in church and community work until 1970. The last year of her life was a bout with cancer, and during the last month she lived in the home of her daughter, Darlene and Bob Shrader in David City. She died on December 7, 1970.

Those of us now living in 1984 sometimes think that money is scarce and we have a rough time, but wouldn't it be great if we could get by on what our parents and

grandparents made a good living with? By thinking about these by-gone years, it should certainly make most of us more appreciative and thankful for what we have to work with and the many advantages we have today that were unheard of back then.

Darlene Shrader  
Marie Straw

## Edwards, James "Nigger Jim"

James Edwards, "Nigger Jim," was a soldier in the Spanish American War. In 1900 he came to Wyoming and worked for the Willson Brother's Running Water Ranch. He homesteaded on Harney Creek. Several of his Negro friends homesteaded land near him. Eventually, Jim bought their land; and in 1950, he sold his ranch of 18 sections to Otto Bible, Wayne Bible, Roy Pennington and Beryl Fullerton.

Jim married Lethel Dawson in 1914 in Denver, Colorado. Lethel's mother and father cooked on a river boat on the Mississippi River. When Mr. Dawson contracted tuberculosis, they came to Colorado for his health, but in a short time he died. Lethel and her sister were educated in Denver. Lethel was a fine musician. Mrs. Dawson made her home with the Edwardses after proving up on a homestead that bordered on the landmark known as Rocky Top north of Lost Springs.

Lethel died in 1945 from leukemia. Mrs. Dawson died at her younger daughter's home in Salt Lake City.

From the Scottsbluff paper:

"James Edwards died from suffocation January 6, 1951, after water boiled away in a pot in which chicken was being cooked, filled a basement room with smoke. A companion in the room, Tillie Trimble, age 33, wife of Columbus "Monk" Trimble, also overcome by smoke was reported recovering at the Scottsbluff Hospital.

"Firemen were called to the house at 11:05 p.m. by Carmen Hernandez, age 13, niece of Steve Hernandez, who rents the upstairs rooms in the home. Carmen and her brother Rudy, age 8, reported seeing smoke pouring up through the bathroom floor and called firemen.

"Edwards and Tillie Trimble were found unconscious on a bed in the basement, and were immediately carried outside where manual respiration aid was given until a resuscitator was brought. Edwards was pronounced dead at 11:50 p.m. by Dr. John Heinke.

Catherine Nuttall

## Edwards, William and Sallie

My parents were William W. (Will or Bill) Edwards and Sallie Ann Brian (Aunt Sallie) Edwards. They homesteaded six miles south of Douglas, near the North Platte River, in 1907. I was about three years old at that time and my first memory of the homestead is before our own cabin was built. We visited the site through the courtesy of some folks that lived about a mile and a half from Douglas, by the name of Broffels. They took us in a buggy to see it and the thing that enables me to remember it was the log building that was already on the place. The door to it had one of those peculiar sliding small log latches that

was very intriguing to me. That latch has enabled me to remember the entire event. The way it worked was so fascinating to me. Also, there were many places on the inside logs where people had smoothed out a place to write their names. Early trappers or explorers had probably erected this log building. There was one particular log, the largest cottonwood I have ever seen, that was hollow and large enough that my sister and I could crawl inside of it. We used it as a playhouse as we were growing up. As was the custom then, my father had put small branches from the willow trees and dirt over the log roof to keep it from leaking. Later on, after we had built our own cabin to live in on the homestead, some travelers accidentally set that building on fire and it was destroyed. That did not happen, however, until we had used it for a barn and chicken house for a few years.

I, Bryan, was born in Whiteside Cove, near Highlands, North Carolina, in 1905. In 1907, my mother brought me with her to Douglas to join my father, who had come to Wyoming earlier that year to herd sheep and establish a homestead. My first memory of the town of Douglas is of the time I crawled under the passenger train at the depot. Mother was there to meet some relatives just arriving, was tired of holding me in her arms, and put me down on the brick sidewalk. I ran along the sidewalk to the front end of the train and got down under the locomotive. A man with a long-spout oil can, the brakeman, retrieved me from under that engine. The more he coaxed me to come out, the more cautious and afraid of him I became. Finally, he did get me out and he scolded me for being in that dangerous place. Mother saw him and came running to rescue me, and she was also scolded for not watching me more closely. In those days, the passenger depot of the railroad station in Douglas was the place to meet your friends and relatives. The train was the main daily attraction and just about everyone would gather there to socialize. Malcolm Campbell, the Town Marshal for several years, was nearly always there, greeting and offering assistance to everyone, coming and going.

In my early years, my father had to be away from home to earn money and was usually herding sheep further up into the mountains, near Laramie Peak. The man to whom he was supposed to deed his homestead tried to discourage Mother from living on the homestead one time by sending a herder with a band of sheep to camp very close to our cabin. He knocked down our fence and destroyed our garden, but because we had no irrigation at that time, the garden was small. One day, he appeared in the doorway and when Mother saw who it was, she refused to let him inside. She was sitting at the table peeling potatoes. He stood at the door and didn't seem to want to leave. Mother could not understand what he was saying to her because he spoke in Mexican language only. Mother wasn't sure what to do, but she came back to the kitchen of what was by then, a two-room cabin, and lifted me and my sister Pauline out the wide window and told us to jump to the ground and run hide in the willow bushes and trees down by the river and wait there until she came to get us. We were frightened, but did exactly as she told us. She picked up the knife she had been peeling potatoes with and went back toward the door where he was still standing and told him to leave. Evidently he was afraid of her because he left in a hurry and that sheepherder

was never seen again around Douglas. When Mother came after my sister and me, we started walking toward the road to Douglas. There wasn't much traffic on the roads in those days, but we felt we were very lucky in that a Mr. Wiederanders, from a long way south, just happened to come along and took us to town in his wagon. Mother sent word to my father, and in a few days he came and took us back to the homestead. The sheep and the sheep wagon were gone by them and the sheepherder never returned. We were told that the sheep had wandered around out there by themselves for several days before the camp tender discovered their plight. That was the last time that anyone brought a sheep wagon to camp, close to our homestead.

Mother always tried to manage for us to live in Douglas at least three months out of the year, usually in



William and Sallie Edwards, Bryan Edwards on lower right.

the winter, which made me very happy as it was lonesome on the homestead for children, even with their chores to keep them busy. Sometimes, many weeks went by without seeing anyone but the immediate family and very few trips were made to town for groceries or supplies.

As time went by, my folks acquired a saddle horse. One day, the horse got away from us by breaking the lead rope from its halter and forded the river to the other side. There was no bridge over the North Platte River at that time, and there was no way that my mother could get the horse back. One day, while visiting with her friend, Mrs. Broffels, they saw a man across the river riding horseback and chasing some horses. There were three or four of them and one was our saddle horse and still had the halter on. The man yelled across the river and asked Mother if the horse with the halter on was our horse and she told him it was. He said he would bring it across the river to us and roped it and started across, riding his own horse and leading ours. About the middle of the river, it looked like he just got off of his horse and started swimming but then, he disappeared from sight. My mother and Mrs. Broffels ran along the river bank for a long ways, following it very carefully and calling out to him, but to no avail. His horse swam to the other side of the river and his hat floated down the river. His name was George Vernon Castle. There was no sign of him until about three days later when his body surfaced and was recovered a mile or so, further down the river. My parents acquired his brand and all the cattle and horses my parents ever owned were branded with the "VC" brand.

As I look back and recall my growing up years on the homestead, I realize how valuable they were to me, even though at the time they seemed pretty rough. In early years I enjoyed selling newspapers on the streets of Douglas and meeting the train to sell papers to passengers, arriving and departing. By doing so, I earned money to buy candy for myself and my sister. In 1915, when I was ten years old, I was an agent for the Blade & Ledger and in this connection I also was instrumental in starting the first Lone Scout Troop which later became known as the Boy Scouts of America. I started the first troop or tribe of scouts west of Kansas City, which was called the Washakie Tribe of Lone Scouts of America. This was under the auspices of an Englishman named William D. Boyce. There is a building in Chicago at the present time that still bears the plaque that was dedicated in honor of him years ago, known as the Boyce Building.

My sister and I walked the twelve miles each day to attend grade school in Douglas. I started in the second grade and my sister, being two years younger than I was, walked to school with me. I never could understand how she could keep up with me, walking the six miles each day to and from school. In my junior year of high school, I drove the first school bus in Converse County. Also, while growing up on the homestead, I sold vegetables door-to-door from what my family knew as "Bryan's Garden". One reason it was successful was the fact that I could irrigate it. My father dug a mile of irrigation ditch by hand with a shovel from Bedtick Creek down to where my garden spot was. At that time he was working on what

was called the LaPrele Dam Project and from the experience of building that large ditch, he was able to get water rights and subsequently planted crops of potatoes, oats, alfalfa, wheat and corn which flourished under his irrigation system.

In 1921, I joined the Wyoming National Guard. At the time of the Cole Creek Train wreck, when a flash flood washed a passenger train, track and all into the North Platte River, I joined 20 other volunteers to patrol 23 miles of the river, looking for victims. About 30 lives were lost and the engine was buried. This was a major tragedy in our area.

Also, in the beginning we had to carry water to our house from the river for domestic use, but as soon as it was possible, my father and a man who came to help him, dug a well to the back of the original homestead house on the south side of Bedtick Creek and this well had a windlass. Much later, this well was supplanted with a well and a pump about a half mile west of the first well. The third well we had was on a hill and it had a windmill and a cement holding tank to store water for use when the wind didn't blow. This well was west of our house and eventually we had modern plumbing and water piped into our house from that well.

Water certainly was a big part of homesteading and because we were located near Bedtick Creek, which was a big, wide, sand draw, we were always wary of the flash floods that came roaring down it, especially in the summertime, sometimes without warning. Several terrifying and tragic events resulted from those flash floods in those horse-and-buggy days. Yet, on the open prairie, water was almost held sacred because wells were few and far between. A shepherd told us a story about trailing a herd of sheep across the southwestern Wyoming prairie when he came to an old pump by the side of the trail he was following. There was a rusty tin can wired to the handle, and inside the can he found a piece of paper which had been a brown paper bag. It had a message written on it with a stub pencil. The message said: "This is your only chance for water along this trail. The pump is all right as of June 1932. I put a new washer in it and it ought to last five years, but the washer dries out and the pump has to be 'primed'. Under the white rock I buried a bottle of water out of the sun and the cork end is up. There is enough water in it to prime the pump, but not if you drink some first. Pour in about one-fourth and let her 'soak' to wet the leather washer. Then pour in the rest and pump like crazy. You will get water. The well never has gone dry. Have faith. When you get watered up, fill the bottle and put it back like you found it for the next fellow. Remember, no matter how thirsty you are when you get here, don't go drinking up the water first. Prime the pump with it and you will get all the water you can hold. Life is like this pump, it has to be primed first. There have been times when I have given my last dime or spoonful of beans to a stranger and it never failed to get me an answer and sometimes you have to give before you can be given to." The shepherd still had the note and it was signed "Desert Pete".

These early experiences and business acumen proved very helpful to me in later years in establishing my career in Douglas. I went to business school in Grand Island, NE, went to school in Los Angeles, CA, and

traveled to Canada as a salesman, but I returned to Douglas to make my living and raise my family. My various endeavors include being a real estate broker, gunsmith, as well as an appliance and electrical radio and music store proprietor. I am the oldest of six children and while I was the only one born in North Carolina, my brother Glen and sisters, Pauline, Grace, Vera and Lillian were all born and raised in Douglas. As of this date, we all are still living; however, our parents, those brave and hardy pioneers who preserved our heritage, both passed away at the age of 87. My father moved back to North Carolina in 1930 but my mother stayed on the "homestead" as long as her health permitted and she had to sell it. She had the spirit and perseverance of a true pioneer. She passed away at the Michael Manor Nursing Home in Douglas in the spring of 1971.

Bryan E. Edwards

## Elbourne, Charles and Blanche

My parents, Charles and Blanche Elbourne, a brother and I, Grace, moved to Wyoming from Florence, Nebraska at the beginning of World War I. Dad had made a trip here earlier, filed on a homestead some fifty miles northwest of Douglas and at the same time, made arrangements with Jack Morton for work and a place for our family to live. A boxcar was rented from the railroad and all of our worldly possessions including one bay mare, furniture and around four hundred quarts of all kinds of fruit and vegetables Mother had canned were loaded aboard. Our first home was a log house just south and east of where E.B. Combs and family lived. Through the years the house and out-buildings have disappeared. Dad hired Slonakers to move our things from the railroad and in the process the team ran away and a great many of our things, including much of the precious canned goods, were destroyed. Dad and my brother had come in the boxcar and Mother and I came later. How well I remember my grandmother crying as we boarded the train, because she was sure we would never have enough to eat in Wyoming or that we would be scalped by Indians.

After several years with Mortons, we moved to a big cement block house owned by E. B. Combs. This house had been built by Merris Barrow who was editor of the original Douglas Budget. It was about a mile closer to Douglas and has been destroyed by fire in recent years. Dad went to work for the highway department and we took care of 300 head of sheep on shares for Mr. Combs. At that time, the highway from Douglas west toward Casper, was just a heavily graveled road and Dad was to maintain a stretch from the Platte River to the Natural Bridge turn off. Several times a week he went over this with a horse drawn grader, keeping the gravel smoothed out.

I attended what was known as the West Douglas School. Rain or shine, a small pony was my transportation. I am sure there must have been others, but the teacher who stands out in my memory was Pansy Braae (Dunn). She was 19 at the time and it was her first school. All eight grades were filled with children from Pexton, Amspoker, Harris, Mitchell and other families

whose names elude me. Esther Johnson (Bruegman) was one of my classmates. No cars, so everyone, including the teacher, walked if close enough or came by wagon or horseback.

While we were still living in the Barrow house, a school was established at the entrance to the Morton Ranch and was known as the Morton School. The teacher and her name, Amber Carmen Feezer, will forever remain in my memory. A typical old maid who, I am sure, came to Wyoming with dreams of capturing a wild and handsome cowboy. My parents provided her with room and board and she and I rode horseback to school each day. Some of the Morton ranch hands gave the poor woman a bad time. Tex Conner and Frank Batton in particular loved to gallop their horses around the school house and disrupt the kids. Needless to say, Miss Feezer failed to capture her cowboy. During the summer months, Mother and I moved to the homestead in order to comply with the "proving up" regulations.

I was in the eighth grade by this time and it was necessary then for the eighth grade students to go to Douglas for their final exams. We were all very unhappy to discover that Miss Feezer had failed to instruct us in Social Studies, and we were therefore forced to another year in the same grade.

Dates I am unable to recall, but our next move was to a place closer to Douglas where Dad was able to do a little farming, put up some hay and run a few dairy cows. He still worked for the highway department. By this time, I was a freshman. I rode horseback to school each day and kept my horse in the barn back of the old Barrow house where United Savings and Loan now stands. My freshman year was spent in the old Douglas High School - all that remains of it is the Youth Center. Those were the days of uniforms - middy blouses and yes, skirts. I possessed one divided skirt (because I rode horseback). Now the same thing goes by the fancy name of "culottes." On weekends, my skirt was cleaned and made ready for Monday. No hot lunches in those days for anyone unless it was brought from home. The bridge across the Platte River was under construction and many times it was a scary place for my horse. Dad was transferred to Shoshoni, Wyoming, where I spent my sophomore year. Shoshoni was a very small town at that time so all grades including high school were in one building. A new system was being tried out. All lessons were assigned ahead for each quarter and everyone completed their assignments at their own speed and if grades were high enough, no exams were required. A very unusual method and I'm sure I would never have gotten through the hated subject of geometry by any other method.

My parents had been having marital difficulties for some years and by the end of my sophomore year were divorced. Mother and I moved to Oregon where I attended school at Klamath Falls during my junior year. The following year we returned to Douglas for my senior year. I signed for the Normal Training course as I planned to become a teacher. Virginia Ailor (Mrs. Scott Layton) was my instructor. We were still in the old high school and at that time, if the individual's scholastic standing was high enough upon graduation, a Teachers Certificate was available which was good for two years without further training. I was given the two year



certificate and put in my application for what was known as the Spracklen School, some 50 miles north of Douglas.

Mother had filed on a homestead in that area and I was to help her in proving up on this. My future husband, Mick Hardy, lived a short way from us. I kept my horse at his barn and rode ten miles each day to school. Needless to say, I had no weight problems in those days. My salary the first year was 90 dollars each month and there were one or two pupils in most of the eight grades. During the colder days, I prepared something hot for the children on the big coal and wood heater. Sometimes we baked potatoes in the ash pan; and yes, I was there in the mornings early enough to build a fire and have the building warm when the children arrived. Sometimes, I carried milk in a covered bucket from home to make hot chocolate. Other times, ingredients for a stew. I felt really rich when my salary was increased to 95 dollars a month for the second year.

One year, the ninth of May, brought a five day blizzard. Monday I made it to school and home but the remainder of the week I stayed at the Spracklen home. By Saturday I was determined to get home at any cost. I left Spracklens about nine on a bright sunny morning, and by following trails made by range horses, I managed to get within a mile of the home barn about four o'clock.

Unable to get my horse across Bear Creek, I unsaddled and turned her loose and started walking. My husband-to-be saw me coming and rode to meet me on his horse. Thanks to the Good Lord, I had dark glasses on but had never been warned of snow burn. The next day my face was one huge blister. I missed one week of school and still bare a scar on one lip. Just one of the experiences never to be forgotten.

Dad worked as sexton for the Douglas Park Cemetery for many years.

Blanche Elbourne died in 1966.

Grace Elbourne Hardy

## Elder, Albert "Bert"

Among the early settlers on Lower LaPrele Creek were "Bert" Elder and his brother Daniel. The Elders could trace their ancestry back to the Revolutionary War period, the families being of Dutch and Welch lineage.

Bert Elder was born in Bedford County, Pennsylvania on August 27, 1856, a grandson of Robert Elder and the son of J.S. and Sarah Rhodes Elder. After living with parents in Pennsylvania and Harrisonville, Missouri, he joined the stampede of goldseekers to Leadville, Colorado in 1879, and engaged in mining in that state until 1882, then to Carbonette, near Colorado Springs. In the same year, he made his home at Tie Siding, Wyoming where he was engaged for three years in lumbering operations; and in May 1886, he located on Lower LaPrele on what later was known as the Jacob Jenne Farm and later as the Albert Sewell place.

He married Florence Sherwin on December 23, 1885. She was the daughter of Marshal and Mary B. Sherwin, natives of Illinois and later residents of Wyoming in the early eighties.

On June 4, 1895, a tragic accident happened. "While crossing the swollen LaPrele Creek near the Elder home, the horses became unmanageable and swung down the stream, the wagon was partially overturned, throwing Mesdames Powell and Elder and their babies (Alice Sherwin Powell, Baby Powell, Florence Sherwin Elder and Mary Elder), Mr. Elder and his little boy into the water. Mr. Elder made almost superhuman efforts to save them, and succeeded in getting his boy to the shore, but the two women with their little ones were swept away and seen no more. Others in the wagon were Mrs. Sherwin, mother of Alice Powell and Florence Elder, Sarah Elder, daughter of Bert and Florence and two children of Alice Powell. Later the four bodies were found 100 feet downstream."

In February, 1896, Bert married Zenana Miller, his childhood sweetheart, in Missouri. She died within the year.

Alma Peterson, half sister of Bill Nuttall, married Bert on January 4, 1905. They had two children, Albert, born in 1906, and Lawrence, born in 1910. Mr. Elder died June 25, 1917 from a stroke and was buried in Douglas.

<sup>1</sup>Douglas Budget June 5, 1895.

Catherine Nuttall

## Elgin, Charles Lee

Charles Lee Elgin, came from Shelby County, Missouri in 1908 with his younger children, after the death of his wife Lucy Ann. Mr. Elgin settled on a homestead, about a mile south of Shawnee, Wyoming where he lived until about 1924 when he moved to Shawnee and lived with his son-in-law and daughter, Clyde and Blanche Ivester, who managed the Shawnee hotel.

In 1929, he moved to Douglas with the Ivester family, where he remained until the death of his daughter, Blanche, then he returned to Shawnee, where he lived until the time of his death on January 28, 1937.

Four of Mr. Elgin's daughters, settled in the Shawnee and Douglas area and raised their families. They were Elizabeth (Henry) York, Myrtle (Tom) York, Evaline (John) Swickhamer and Blanche (Clyde) Ivester.

Eva M. Ivester Quinn

## Enbody, Elmer and Mable Family

Elmer and Mable Gilman Enbody of Amelia, Nebraska purchased the Dwight Cole ranch on LaBonte Creek at the confluence of Mill and LaBonte Creeks, from Thomas Bruner on August 1, 1929.

Operating the ranch until 1936, they returned to Nebraska and lived on a farm that Mable had inherited.

At the time of Mable's death on October 16, 1981, she was survived by two sons, Warren and James, and five daughters: Mabel (Eggleston), Frances (Ballagh), Betty (Winings), Hellen (Bilstein) and Estelle (Blomgren). Elmer, her husband, and two sons and two daughters had preceded her in death.

Warren and James operated a sawmill in the area at

one time before leaving for the west coast.

Mabel married Jack Eggleston, the son of Harvey and Alice M. Eggleston, in 1934. Jack came to Wyoming in 1919, working for Jim Shaw from 1919 to 1929.

Three children, Shirley (Brown), Warren Thomas and Jerry, were born to the Egglestons.

Jack and Mabel assumed the loan on the Cole place after her parents returned to Nebraska and continued to operate the ranch. The Whitaker family now own the land.

Jack accepted employment with the U.S. Forest Service and manned the Fletcher Park Lookout tower in the Laramie Park area for 14 years. Mabel also worked as an employee for the Forest Service for many years. She was a fire lookout on Black Mountain. She also drove a school bus for School District #19 to and from the White School for many years.

Jack died on July 22, 1971.

John R. Pexton

## Emery, Dick and Lulu

Dick Emery married Lulu Ferguson, cousin of O.D. Ferguson, in 1913. Lulu was teaching school on LaBonte Creek at the time. They lived at Careys' CY Ranch where Dick was employed as its manager after their marriage. In 1920 they left Careys and homesteaded on Upper Boxelder near the Robbins. They remained on the homestead until 1927 when they returned to the CY to work until 1941 when the ranch was sold to Bixbys. The Emerys then moved to South Dakota close to where Mr. Emery had been raised as a child. One son, William, was born to them. He married Merna Huddleston.

John R. Pexton



L. to R. Jack Nelms, unknown, Dick Emery, Careyhurst, 1918.

## Engdahl, Carl and Esther

Carl Gunnard Engdahl was born in Orebo, Sweden in 1896. He came to Wyoming via Canada and Nebraska. He came to Douglas, Converse County, with his new wife, Esther Johanna Nordstrom Engdahl from Waverly, Nebraska in 1908.

He worked as a masonry man and carpenter in Douglas for five years before he purchased his home place five miles west of Douglas.

They lived in a tent for two years before they could afford to build a house to live in. In 1916 they built a one-room house (12' x 20'). He continued to work in town and walk back and forth each day, carrying home any salvage lumber or cement that they had left over from his job.

Esther packed water from the Hansen place, ½ mile away, in five-gallon buckets each day, until they dug a shallow well about 1920.

Carl helped build the LaPrele Dam. They used horses and mules to pull the slips to build the fill.

Carl and Esther were never fortunate enough to have any children.

Carl died in January of 1972 of a fall off his chicken house, and Esther died in April of 1973 of complications from a broken hip.

Howard Huxtable

## Engelking Family

The Engelking family moved from Chicago to a homestead in Kansas in 1890 when Gus, John, and Louise were young. Gus (August) was born July 9, 1878, John was born in 1875, and Louise was born December 5, 1885. Their dad didn't think the city was a good place to raise them. After poor crops and bad luck and the death of her husband in 1894, Mrs. Engleking and Louise moved to Nebraska where they had relatives.

John and Gus had been to Wyoming on a Texas Trail drive in 1894 and liked the country so decided to move to Wyoming. This was in 1895 and getting late in the fall. John was 20 and Gus was 17 when they came out in a team and wagon. They had bad weather and delays, so ran out of food and hay. When they got to a Dad Whitticar's place, a friend of theirs, they were mighty hungry and the horses barely made it. Dad Whitticar's place was on Muddy Mountain. Gus always said that beans never tasted so good as they did when they got to Dad Whitticar's that day.

Gus and John went to work on the Webel ranch on Muddy Creek and stayed there for a number of years until they were able to get a ranch of their own. The one they bought around 1904 or 1905 was northwest of Glenrock on the north side of the North Platte River. Their brand was the quarter circle AE. Another brother Otto joined them in the ranching business.

John and Otto were married by this time. John married Celia Stanley of Casper and had one son, Robert (deceased); and Otto married Bertha Stanley, a sister of Celia. They had two daughters, Ruth and Dora (deceased). After the death of Celia, John married Jessie Kelly.

Since Gus was single he went out on the roundups. He

often said when he was on the roundup he never slept in a bed for 3 months at a time. The roundup lasted most of the summer, as all the ranchers turned their cattle out north to graze, and then they had to be rounded up so they could be separated and returned to their home ranches before the winter set in. The cattle would range far out north and it was a big job to get them all rounded up and ready to ship them to market. Most all of the ranchers shipped their cattle to Omaha, Nebraska on the train. Gus spent quite a few years working the roundup.

Gus homesteaded on land west of the ranch and adjacent to it. He built his log cabin there and stayed there when he wasn't on the roundup.

In 1912 he wrote his sister, Louise Matthies, who was a widow now after the death of her husband in 1911. She was living in Ohio, Nebraska, and had three children, Esther, Leo, and Ivan. She came to the ranch and brought all her belongings in an emigrant car.

Each of the three families had their own home on the ranch. They raised a garden and chickens and put up hay on the meadows, as they had a water right out of the river.

Gus said that where the North Platte River runs through their ranch it was the farthest north that the river runs in all of its course.

The CB&Q (Burlington Northern) Railroad went right through the middle of their ranch. Louise told the story about the summer her niece was visiting her from Milwaukee, and there were many men working on the railroad. The two women were by themselves and could see the men working. They were convicts from down south, mostly blacks. They came to the house for drinking water, and it really scared the two women as they didn't know what they might do. It so happened that Gus had a chance to come home for a day from the roundup. When he saw what was going on he thought of a plan to protect them. He set up a target out in the yard and had the women practice shooting a gun. This put a stop to the pestering for water and such.

A story was told about their pet pig whose name was Ferguson. Louise was making grape wine and when she was through with the mash she threw it out in our yard. Old Ferguson found it and really tanked up. He got so drunk he couldn't stand up. Everytime he tried to get up he fell over. Ferguson had a hangover for two days. They all got the biggest bang out of telling the story about Ferguson.

Gus and John went into the oil business in 1917 with some other investors. They hired a drilling rig and drilled several wells on their ranch. They didn't hit oil but oil was later discovered on Gus' homestead. It was probably a deeper sand than the original wells were drilled into. Louise cooked for the drilling crew. She was an accomplished cook and cooked many wonderful meals for family, friends and strangers.

The children of Louise: Esther, Leo and Ivan grew up on the ranch and went to school in Glenrock.

In 1924 Louise and family went back to Nebraska to live. Leo didn't like it back there so he came back to Wyoming in 1925, and made his home with his uncle Gus. Leo worked on different ranches in the summer, the VR and CY ranches, and stayed on the Engelking ranch in the winter.

The Engelking brothers split up. Gus and John

stayed on the ranch and Otto moved to town and bought a small place. Gus and John had good years and bad ones on the ranch. One real bad winter they lost almost all of their cattle, and they had a hard time of it for awhile. They bought some land on the east side of them known as the Wood's place. Their ranch was never very big so they didn't run too many cattle. Louise had homesteaded west of Gus' homestead so they had 160 acres more to graze on. Gus moved into the house Otto had lived in, and his homestead house sat empty for a number of years.

Louise Matthies came back to Glenrock in 1937 after she sold her Nebraska farm and again kept house for Gus.

John Engelking was a Converse County Commissioner in the 1930s; and in the 1940s Gus Engelking ran unsuccessfully for Governor of Wyoming. He got quite a few votes but not enough to win.

In 1943 Louise married Arthur Bruns and left the ranch. Gus and John ran the ranch till John died. Gus and John's widow, Jessie, ran the place until Gus died. The ranch has changed hands several times since his death in 1959.

Louise and Arthur Bruns lived in Casper for three years after their marriage. Mr. Bruns worked for Schulte Hardware and was their head bookkeeper. In 1946 they bought the Kennaugh place on the southeast edge of Glenrock. Arthur had a heart attack in 1949 and as a result had to retire from his job.

Arthur and Louise continued living in Glenrock. Arthur died November, 12, 1969 and Louise died on October 30, 1980.

John Engelking died around 1948 and Gus F. Engelking died January 17, 1959.

Louise's daughter, Esther Marie, born March 25, 1906, married Fred H. Pohler on November 22, 1928, in Ohio, Nebraska. In later years Fred and Esther lived in Glenrock and raised their family. They had three children, Lorraine James living near Casper, Wyoming, Roland Pohler living in Houston, Texas, and Kay Williams living in Rawlins, Wyoming. Esther died on August 8, 1879 and Fred died on February 21, 1984.

A son, Ivan Lou, born March 29, 1911, married Mildred Thomas in June 1934 in Ohio, Nebraska. They lived in Denver, Colorado for many years. They had one daughter, Luann Faye, who is a teacher in Vermillion, South Dakota. Ivan died on August 4, 1966, and Mildred died in March 1968.

Another son, Leo Adam, born August 4, 1909, married Mildred Rainey on September 15, 1935 in Casper, Wyoming. They had three daughters, Linda Cole, living near Wheatland, Wyoming; Merna Blackburn living in Douglas; and Jinny Foland living near Torrington, Wyoming. Leo and Mildred lived many years in and around Glenrock. Leo died December 14, 1978 and his widow, Mildred, is living in Glenrock.

Mildred Rainey Matthies  
Linda Matthies Cole

## England, Fred and Opal

Fred was born at Brevard, North Carolina December 10, 1907. He grew up on a small farm just outside of town. He received his twelve years of schooling at Brevard and went two years to college at Weaver, North Carolina.

In June of 1930, he, along with three other boys, came to Wyoming looking for work. Fred went to work for Archie Picklesimer of LaBonte Creek, on a ranch known as the "Old Dunn Ranch," now owned by Pextons. Fred worked on the ranch helping put up hay and irrigating. In the winter he worked there feeding stock and out north on Cow Creek tending sheep camps. In the spring he worked at the sheep camps doing the cooking for the lambing and shearing crews.

In the spring of 1935 he went to Montana and worked on a ranch south of Big Timber on the Boulder River. He returned to Douglas in late fall. He worked on Cow Creek for Archie Alexander during the fall and winter of 1935 and 1936 tending sheep camps and hauling feed. He returned to Montana in March of 1936.

On July 5, 1936, Fred married me, Opal Bridges, daughter of Sydney and Edith Kemps Bridges after a four month courtship. I was born in 1915 in Absarokee, Montana. I met Fred when I was working as a cook and housekeeper on the same ranch in Montana as he was. We moved back to Wyoming in August of 1936 to Fred's homestead on Cow Creek. He had filed in 1933.

Fred herded bucks on the Cheyenne River for Fred Dilts in the fall of 1936. The rest of the winter was spent improving up on the homestead. He also trapped coyotes that year.

We had two daughters, Sydney and Lucille. Sydney was born in 1937, she married Gene Dixon. Lucille was born in 1939. She married Larry Cramer.

After selling the homestead to Archie Alexander in 1938 we leased several ranches, among them were the Archie Picklesimer place on LaBonte (Forgeys now live here), Mrs. Sallie Edwards' place on Bedtick (Buzz Philbrick lives here) and the Leet Place at Irvine.

In 1947 we bought the old Brown place from Dick Strock. We lived there until 1975 when we sold it to Larry Crummer and moved to town.

Fred worked for the LaPrele Water Users for four summers. He died on October 20, 1979.

Opal England

## Engstrom, Carl and Augusta

Carl John Engstrom was born in the Parish of Ryda Province, Skaraborg Vaster Gotland, Sweden on Nov. 22, 1857. Augusta Berg Skodve was born in Vaster Gotland, Sweden on April 17, 1861. Their sons, Karl Joshua and Ernst Fridolf, were both born in Gotland, Helas Province of Vester, Sweden. Karl on January 8, 1893 and Ernst on July 18, 1894.

In the 1800s, Sweden had a compulsory two-year military duty for all young men. It was the custom to allow a man to legally change his surname when the records became ungainly with common names. At this time Karl Johan Jonsson changed his name to Carl John

Engstrom (meaning: a meadow stream).

Carl John, Augusta and their two young sons, Ernst Fridolf and Karl Joshua, immigrated to this country in 1903, partly to avoid this compulsory military training, and they settled on Omaha for a permanent home. Carl John came to Wyoming in 1909 to establish a homestead, Augusta remained in Omaha to provide a home and opportunity for their sons' education. The boys graduated from Omaha High School. Augusta was a very successful businesswoman and contributed strong financial aid to the homestead. Following the boys graduation, Carl John had developed the property to the extent that he needed help, so Fridolf and Karl responded, more with a sense of duty than by choice. The following account was taken from Karl's diaries and quotation marks indicate direct quotes.

The combined Engstrom 620 acres are located 11 miles west of Douglas, T.33, R.72 and 73, defined as Lower LaPrele in Brenning Basin, school district #20 and intersected by the Oregon Trail, registered brand CJE. This location was chosen for good range land and crop development and promising oil and coal potential. Karl Joshua, age 20, traveled by train. "And so I arrived into a desert of sand and thorns. Found Douglas to be a town of daylight robbery. It lacks cash, credit and cooperation. A full-fledged tiller of the soil? No! A slave of the soil, whipped and lashed by mental anguish and only to be put on the rack of melancholy."

Encouraged by his father and his brother, Fridolf, who had established his homestead the previous year, Karl immediately started proving up. The first step being the construction of the "shack," a small but substantial one-room house.

The immediate neighborhood consisted largely of young single men, most of Swedish ancestry. Improvement of all the properties followed the same pattern; first the shack, then barns, water wells, fences and clearing the land of sage and rocks for cultivation. These tasks were accomplished only by long hours and arduous man and horse power. Poles for fences and lumber were taken from Pine Ridge and transported by horse and wagon. Water wells were often witched, hand dug and rock cased; plowing, disking, harrowing, fertilizing, seeding and ditching were done by horse power. The basic ranchers needs were furnished by Gene Payne in Douglas.

The Engstrom property developed quite rapidly from 1912-1915 due to the combined efforts of Carl John, Karl and Fridolf. They built a house, granary and garage, three barns, shop, fenced range land and cultivated fields. As other homesteads developed, it became increasingly difficult to handle some chores. These formulative first years, this unique community had become extremely close knit and they solved the labor problem by joining forces to help each other with major tasks moving from place to place until completed.

In the summer months, the cattle were put on summer range, freeing the men to cultivate crops so important to winter survival, as well as surplus for cash flow. Water rights were purchased and irrigation was carefully planned as water was as big an issue then, as now. Severe winters brought added work and hardship; cattle to be fed and watered, coal hauled from Inez, grain shipped and hay sold or traded. Survival and success depend-

ed on self-sufficiency; they ground grain for flour, baked bread, canned and learned to cook such things as green tomato pie, stews, chili, marble cake and the eternal Swedish coffee.

These pioneers were hard working and ambitious, also fun-loving with extremely social lives. The "Lonely, Local Bachelor Group" included Bob Anderson, the Olin Brothers; Henning, Reinhold and Levene Larson; Enoch and Eric Carlson; Johnny Peterson; Karl and Fridolf. Barn dances were a favorite form of entertainment and people traveled long distances to these all-night affairs. "Attended a party honoring Dave Johnson. With much fun and laughter the merry crowd took themselves to the grainery where under the strains of the violin (probably played by Carl John) they in frenzy beat the floor, while out in the moonlight in nearby gulches the coyotes mourned in distant howls."

Card parties, often referred to as wakes, were popular with the men. "As we departed for Carlsons a dense fog made it difficult to keep our bearing. The bottle was passed and voices in unison rang out in quaint tune. All went well but after passing Alkali Creek the road became faint and soon lost. Robert took lead and after vainly trying to restrike it, led us in circles and finally in the gulches. Our rambling stranded us at the reservoir but knew not which side from the other. Reinhold's bronc took the lead and led us to his place. Morning dawned as we reached his shack. Abashed, we promised to keep the matter strictly confidential."

All holidays and birthdays were celebrated. "Departed for Olins. On Pine Ridge everything seemed high and wild. The pines and bold crags in somber silhouette stood in the crimson and silvered sky. It was severe and pensive. The evening spent in merriment. Najma (Olin) a master of coquetry and Ruth (Blomquist) distinctive allurement. If Eric Olin did not have Najma to manage his love affairs he would simply be out of luck."

Harsh living conditions did not diminish their sense of humor. "Over at Erics in aft. and found no one home. Reset the alarm for 4:00 a.m. in the bunk wagons. Had supper at Johnsons." Levene owned an errant bull and seldom concerned himself with the bulls whereabouts. "Reinhold, with Walt's help, roped that bull. Thereupon we wired in-between his horns a car license, with a red ribbon on his tail, drove him into the Larson lane. Disguised by the dark we saw Larson switch car lights into the fighting herd. Oh such yelling and cursing! Fine! He had it comin.'"

Fall of 1915 yielded the first real income for the Engstroms, with 1330 Bu. of oats and butchered hogs selling at \$6.05 a piece. Spring of 1916 brought many changes. Fridolf moved to Chicago to pursue flying and a career in business. Carl John was diagnosed by Dr. Cantril as having severe heart trouble. He returned to Omaha and died on June 16, leaving Karl alone on the property. Drilling for oil began due west of Engstrom property, resulting in strong shows and creating general excitement in the community. "Land locators are active. Such terms as forage crop and what not won't make the range bloom." Drilling at that time was a slow process with many break downs and greatly hampered by inclement weather. The Douglas, Wyoming Oil Company converted into a stock

company causing "Properties put upon a bargain counter and wrapped in red tape." In 1918, they reorganized as Salt Creek Consolidated.

Spring of 1917 there was plenty of moisture, adequate irrigation water and the crops were good. Oats sold for 3¢ a pound and hay \$20 a ton.

By 1919, Karl's cattle herd had increased to over the 100 mark. Crops had been excellent and Karl purchased a "Lovely Buick," delivered from Chicago by Fridolf. However, the 1919-20 winter greatly diminished the herd, starting with a nervous disorder known as the staggers. Entry March 1, 1920: "Weather of past months has been very cold, raw and unsettled. I have suffered heavy loss in spite of heavy feeding, care and housing. In all it has been a nightmare and the future is full of apprehension and misgivings." Entry April 20, 1920: "Still snowing and still shoveling. The more I curse, work and pray, the more they die, then the more I curse, work and pray. The north pole fell down on Wyoming and covered a bunch of innocent birds." Entry May 1, 1920: "I have suffered a 50% loss! But today one could not wish for a more loveable spring morn. A most welcome relief. When the next storm strikes the range — Goodbye!"

April 1921 Entry: "Summer of 1919 was an unprecedented range drought, winter 1919-20 unprecedented in length and severity; Spring 1920 a virtual depressed panic and fall 1920 an enforced liquidation. But the mild winter of 1920-21 turned the tide which otherwise would have wiped out the livestock industry out west."

Conditions did improve and the years 1920 to 1927 were generally good times and most of the LaPrele properties became successful farming and ranching operations. Karl expanded his herds, his irrigated crops, added to and improved buildings, built a large cement water tank and purchased machinery. "Walter (Johnson) staged a wild runaway with the horses on the mower, Dolly and Duke. Nothing left but words." Dec. 1922 Entry: "A rider from Boot Ranch looking for cattle, runs across the charred remains of Old Cal (Nearts?) down in Alkali Gulch where he camped trapping muskrats. Upon investigation found he had been murdered and thrown in the fire to cover up. Sheriff and undertaker removed the body. Now—who done it? An old enemy of the past?" Oil activities continued strong, along with the Sinclair pipeline going through the place in 1923. There were rumors of a new railroad to go through Douglas and talk of making Douglas the state capitol. During those years, Karl used his spare time to complete a correspondence course in law, develop his talents in wood carving and ornamental wrought iron works.

Doris Lucille Enyeart, newly graduated from normal school in Nebraska, was hired to teach the Hagaman Country School, northwest of Douglas in 1924. At Christmas she was chosen to fill the 4th grade vacancy in Douglas, where she taught for the next three years. During these years, she boarded and roomed with Mr. and Mrs. Tom C. Rowley, who had opened their hearts and beautiful big home to a few carefully selected young women in Douglas. Many life-long friendships were established and they were happy years.

Karl and Doris were married August 27, 1927 and for a few months lived in the old homestead shack. One of their wedding gifts was a radio, the only one in the



neighborhood. The large speaker, covered with a beautiful tapestry sea-scape was mounted on the wall. For a few hours every evening they were able to enjoy the news and limited programming. The first major change was to relocate the pet bull snake who had been sharing the shack to keep the mouse population down. The community welcomed Doris with open arms into their active social life. She and Karl shared an interest in politics and campaigned for Francis E. Warren. Karl served as Secretary-Treasurer for Converse Oil and Gas Company.

August 11, 1929, Kathryn Doris was born.

The year 1930 was the beginning of very difficult economic times for the entire country. "Times are bad. Millions filter to Wall Street but not a dollar for diligent farming. The only rest we farmers will ever have is 6' beneath the sod." Karl served his first of many years as judge for primary and general elections. "Rowley, Dawson, Meinzer and Cross easy winners." Karl and Doris managed to cope with the early 30s quite well, as did most of the surrounding ranchers, although there were some foreclosures. They raised most of their own food, sold or bartered produce to pay for such necessities as coal, seed and mortgage payments. Fridolf also provided some financial aid, and they received some income from an oil and gas lease. Both continued active in community and political affairs. Election of 1932: Prohibition - Wet 77, Dry 15. "Prohibition does work - in Church! The Democrats won for a change."

March 4, 1933 Entry: "Bank holiday declared on radio flash. To late to withdraw our account out of Converse County Bank. We have \$20 and Kathryn's 25 pennies in cash."

On February 7, 1936, the area was surprised with the worst blizzard since 1919, with temperatures 20°-40° below for 10 days. "The teats of the cows are frozen. Ben Wheelock claimed to have frozen his ears in bed!" Entry March 8, 1936: "Mrs. James Pexton passed away yesterday. She and James, partners inseparable, have slaved and pioneered. What price life?" The blizzard was followed by a hot spring and summer, drought, terrible dust storms, grasshoppers, tumbleweeds and poor crops. Grazing land could no longer support cattle herds, so Karl resorted to a small band of sheep and turkeys, as did many of the adjoining ranchers. A huge hog wire pen was built containing feeders and roosts. The young turkeys were trained to roost by Karl himself perching on the stands. Turkey rustlers made many an attempt and were sometimes successful in spite of flood lights, an alarm system and guarding. The price for turkeys in Douglas and Casper ranged from 20¢-30¢ per pound, and 70¢ for smoked turkey.

January 18, 1937 Entry: "Ex-Senator 'Bob' Carey is dead. We, the commoners, held him at high regards. No doubt, the last of the old line western stockmen has passed away."

Entries from 1938: "Purchased clothes for my hired man. Overalls and shirt \$2.40, BVDs 50¢, shoes \$3.00. Bought 100 foot rope for \$4.50. Shipped 75 pounds wool to Baron Woolen Mills, the freight exorbitant at \$2.86. Kathryn received her first perm. I provoked at the \$5.00 splurge and she delighted! Auto license and tax \$9.90."

Recovery from the disastrous 30s would no doubt have been more rapid had it not been for the war. Fuel

and rubber were in short supply, causing curtailed farming procedures and hired help difficult to obtain. The entire community was saddened by the news of Joe Larson, only son of Carrie and Henning Larson, killed in action.

Due to a life-long heart condition, Karl's health began to fail and he died January 19, 1943. Doris leased the property and she and Kathryn moved to Sheridan where Doris resumed her teaching career. In 1962 she retired to Estes Park, Colo. Fridolf retired from his career in Chicago in 1969 and moved to Casper. The property was sold to Ed Boland in 1971 but Doris and Fridolf retained a large portion of the mineral rights. Kathryn, husband Warren and two sons, Randy and Kevin, reside in Casper.

Kathryn Engstrom Fisher

## Epperly, Arthur and Cecil

Arthur Epperly and Cecil Guthrie were united in marriage at Leon, Iowa on September 15, 1915. Both being born in 1893, they were a young ambitious farm oriented couple. A daughter, Dorothy was born July 10, 1916, the starting of their brood.

Hearing about the homestead opportunity in Wyoming and being desirous of having some land of their own, they made the decision to go west to obtain some of that sagebrush covered terrain. On a bitter cold Iowa afternoon in February 1917, Art, his wife and small daughter, along with their few personal belongings, furniture, a few head of livestock and horse drawn farm implements, boarded a freight train and headed for wild and woolly Wyoming.

They arrived in Douglas and filed a homestead claim on Box Creek, 25 miles north of Douglas.

Times were tough and Mr. Epperly ran a freight-string for Fiddleback Co. several years to keep the home fires burning. He freighted with eight horses pulling two wagons. His longest run was from the Cheyenne River Fiddleback Ranch to the vicinity of the Whitaker Ranch south of Douglas. As he related to me, winters were rough and cold and he walked alongside the head wagon to keep from freezing at times.

A son, Gerald, came along in 1919 and another daughter, Evelyn in 1921. A set of boy and girl twins, Verl "Curly" and Vera, were born at the homestead in 1928.



Art Epperly, 1920 — frt. wagon in front of homestead shack.

Art stated that when they started coming two at a time, they had better quit!

Through hard work and toil, Mr. and Mrs. Epperly increased their acreage, dry farmed and raised grade Hereford cattle. Their five children received their earlier schooling at Dry Creek Elementary School or Bill University as Curly called it! All of them graduated from Converse County High School.

Dorothy married Ernie Holtorf and they lived at Wahoo, Nebraska. Their family included a boy, Gary, and a daughter, Pam. Dorothy passed away in 1955 from cancer.

Gerald married Helen Burden, making their home in Glenrock. Helping to keep the Epperly name in existence, they were blessed with three sons, Gerald "Shorty", Larry and Dennis. Gerald perished in a car accident near Douglas in 1954. His widow and two married sons reside in Glenrock.

Arthur and Cecil's three remaining children are married and live in Douglas. Evelyn married Les Spracklen and they have a son, Bob, of Douglas. Vera married Jim Bartshe and they have two daughters, Debbie and Becky, both residing in Douglas. Curly married Sue Waters and they have no children.

Epperlys sold the ranch to Jake Johnson in 1947 and moved to Douglas where they dealt in rental properties and retired.

Art, who enjoyed joking, brings to mind when his dog barked at a visiting neighbor he would call out "Come here you \$500 dog." When quizzed about the high price of the Heinz variety K-9, he would reply that he traded two \$250 cats for it!

Mrs. Epperly maintained that if she wanted to hide something of importance from the children, such as legal documents, pictures, etc., she would put them in the family Bible because the children would never look in there!

Arthur was called from his busy life July 3, 1975 and Cecil expired February 24, 1982, ending the era of another Dry Creek Community homesteading couple.

Verl "Curly" Epperly

## Erwin, B. J. and Marie

B. J. Erwin was known in the vicinity of Douglas as the "Cowboy Minister." He packed the local Congregational Church with stockmen and ranchers who came from miles around to hear him preach. Mr. Erwin enjoyed a wide acquaintance throughout central and southern Wyoming. He had a reputation as an eloquent speaker as well as being a witty conversationalist.

Mr. Erwin was born in 1872 in Missouri. He moved to Nebraska where he taught school in Kearney and Cozad. In 1900, he came to Douglas as the resident pastor of the Congregational Church.

After three years, he left the church to identify himself with the mineral resources of this area, believing that he could accomplish something toward mineral development.

B. J. was one of the promoters of the LaPrele Irriga-

tion Project, which served 36,000 acres of land lying west of Douglas. He was also a member of the first board of directors of the original ditch company.

Mr. Erwin acquired a great deal of property under the ditch, and at one time, was a successful livestock producer. He also owned the large ranch property opposite the town across the Platte River.

B. J. was married in 1912 to Marie H. Homer of New York City and to them one child was born. This girl was named Elizabeth Jane. By a previous marriage, Mr. Erwin was the father of three children, Arthur, Hally and Richard, who died in 1931 at the age of 21.

In 1911, B. J. was elected mayor of Douglas and served until 1914. He held the position of Register of the United States Land Office which was located in Douglas from 1924 until 1928. He was also an active member of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association and served as a member of the school board for a number of years.

Mr. Erwin died in 1937 at the age of 65.

Ruth Grant

## Esau, John C. and Elma Family

Both Jacob and Anna Dalke Esau were born and raised in Germany. They were wed there but shortly afterward, they migrated to the United States. Jacob took up a homestead in Nebraska where he engaged in farming.

In 1891, a son, John C. Esau, was born to Jacob and Anna in a sod house located in Hampton, Hamilton County, Nebraska. John's father died in 1894 when John was three years old. Seven years later, John lost his mother, leaving him an orphan at the age of ten. For the next five years of his life, John was cared for by relatives and foster parents.

At the age of 15, John Esau was making his own way, learning the fundamentals of ranching and the rough work of a cowboy on the open range. His teenage years were a series of hardships, but he was a determined young man who worked diligently to build a life for himself.

In 1914, John C. Esau married Elma Thomas in Petersburg, Nebraska. Elma was born in Petersburg in 1894 and educated there. Elma's father was a native of England, her mother a native of Illinois. They had come to Nebraska to farm.

In 1915, the Esaus came to Wyoming, where for a time, John was employed at the A L ranch on LaPrele Creek as a cowhand. In 1917, John took a homestead at Dull Center. When the opportunity presented itself, he sold his homestead and purchased property from Newt Scott, located thirty miles north and six miles east of Douglas. During the years that followed, John was able to enlarge his holdings to eight thousand acres. Part of his land originally belonged to W. C. Irvine. John confined his operation to raising commercial Hereford cattle.

Six children were born to the Esaus — Ivan, Don, Dick, Harold and Helen (the twins), and Irene, all of whom received their education in Converse County. The Esaus raised their family, worked at the ranching business, and made the ranch their home until the time of their deaths.

It was just before Thanksgiving in 1973. Elma and John were preparing for the arrival of their daughter, Helen Esau Bess, her husband Dr. Howard Bess, and their five children. It was necessary for the Esaus to go into Douglas for supplies, and the "extras" for the special occasion. The weather was very cold, with snow covering the ground that morning. John had recently purchased a new pickup, since he did not want to face the coming winter with the old vehicle. He and Elma were getting on in years and John's health was poor; he suffered from emphysema.

The trip to town was uneventful. The couple completed their shopping and left to return home. A short distance from their home, the pickup stalled. John and Elma decided that they would walk home and return next morning with some gas, for John thought that the gauge was faulty, and the tank was empty. So the two elderly people began to walk. Not far from the pickup, John collapsed from lack of oxygen and the intense cold. Mrs. Esau did not leave her husband, and she, too, died from cold and exposure. Their bodies were found together.

Dr. and Mrs. Bess had arrived at the Esau ranch about one a.m. on Thanksgiving Day. They had passed the vehicle stranded on the road, but thought little about it, since they were not aware that John had bought a new pickup. Upon their arrival at the ranch, they noticed that the Esaus' old pickup was parked in the yard in its customary place. The Bess family did not wish to disturb the Esaus, so they went to bed. Thus, it was morning before they discovered that the house was empty.

Frantically, they began to search, and shortly discovered the bodies of Mrs. Bess' parents lying together beside the road. The coroner was summoned. He estimated that the deaths had occurred sometime on Wednesday.

A double funeral service was held for the Esaus before they were interred in the Douglas cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Esau had been active in their community and county. They were members of the Congregational Church, the Farm Bureau, the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, and the Old Cowboy's Association.

John and Elma Esau lived together for 59 years. Just as they had lived together, they died together in the snow.

The ranch which John started so long ago remains in the family. However their son, Harold, lives on the property and operates a cattle business. The eldest of the Esau children, Ivan, is now deceased. The rest of the children married and reared children of their own. There are sixteen grandchildren by these marriages.

Ruth Grant

## Eskew, Wheeler

Wheeler Eskew was born near Forsythe, Missouri on December 29, 1876, the son of Willis James and Rhoda Ann Elizabeth (Warren) Eskew. He had two brothers and two sisters. They grew up in Polk and Taney Counties of southwestern Missouri.

In the late 1890's he went to Livingston, Montana, where he worked for two or three summers guiding tourists from Livingston, Montana to the Yellowstone National Park entrance at Gardiner, Montana. He

worked at various other jobs the rest of the time.

In January 1901, he came to Wyoming and worked that first winter at the Double Box Ranch on Sand Creek or Stinking Water, about 50 miles north of Glenrock, which in later years became part of the Slaughter and Patzold Sheep Co. Wheeler also worked as an engineer at the coal mine at Glenrock, prior to becoming a partner in the Slaughter and Patzold Sheep Co. with Mr. O. A. Patzold.

In 1907, a couple of uncles of his, Len C. and Thomas Marion Eskew, homesteaded on the Cheyenne River a couple miles below where the North and South Forks came together, about 30 miles north of Glenrock. These homesteads became the nucleus of the Slaughter and Patzold Sheep Co. Around 1912, or there abouts, the uncles left Wyoming and Wheeler took over as a partner in the company, being it's president and general manager.

On January 27, 1914, he was married to Olga Ione Hendrickson of Bern, Kansas. They were the first couple to use the bridal suite of the newly opened LaBonte Hotel. To this union, three children were born, Edna, who died in infancy, Mable (Mrs J. Douglas) Fowler, and Pauline (Mrs. Fred A.) Fitch. Mrs. Eskew passed away November 12, 1933; and on May 12, 1938 Wheeler was married to Mae (Morris) Fisher.

He joined the Glenrock Oddfellow Lodge on March 10, 1905 and later affiliated with the Douglas Lodge. He was also a member of the Converse Encampment of the lodge. He was a prominent Republican leader and worker. He would see that every man on the ranch and any neighbor that didn't have a car got to vote. He would take a relief man and go to every sheep camp and get the herder and take him to vote. The precinct was Theresa (Teresa) at the old 88 ranch house at Brown Springs.

He passed away in his sleep January 6, 1940 of a heart attack, at the age of 63, at his ranch 40 miles northwest of Douglas, Wyoming

Although the ranch name was Slaughter and Patzold Sheep Co., it was better known as the "fifty five" after the main brand that was used.

Mable E. Fowler

## Esmay, Edgar, Laura and Julia

Ed Esmay was born January 28, 1880 and died November 20, 1936. He was a resident of Douglas since 1897. Ed was born in Subula, Iowa. He came to Douglas in 1897 with his father and brother Charles. They had homesteads about five miles east of Douglas. They went to work for Pete Esmay, who was in the contracting business, as subcontractors for painting, plastering and general finishing work. Ed sort of "rode herd" on the crews. He was one of the most energetic fellows that Howard Esmay ever knew. Howard said, "he never heard Ed speak an unkind word and his crew always had their work done on time". All of them usually rode horseback to and from their work as autos were slow in getting around due to the poor roads.

Ed married Miss Laura Dean on September 24, 1908. They had one son, Harold Dean, born 1909 in Douglas. Mrs. Esmay died in California in 1912.

Ed volunteered as a musician with the Wyoming Infantry in World War I on August 13, 1918 at Cheyenne. He went overseas with the 163rd Infantry Band on April 27, 1919. On May 10th, he transferred to the 103rd Infantry and served his country in France, Belgium and Germany. Ed returned to the United States in June 1920.

He returned to Douglas where he met and married Miss Julia McCleda Mulligan on July 3, 1921. Ed was an efficient member of the Douglas Fire Department for 15 years, part of which he was Fire Chief. Ed and his wife lived in an apartment above the fire hall. A daughter, Betty Jean, was born October 22, 1923.

Ed and his wife, Julia (Bobbie), were janitors for 16 or 17 years at the Converse County High School. Then due to Ed's health, they were transferred to the South Grade School. A son, Martin James, was born January 5, 1934.

Ed lived a quiet and unassuming life, was efficient at his tasks and always had a ready smile for everyone. But he suffered much during his last years, never indicating his pain to his friends. He passed away at the Veterans Hospital in Cheyenne at the age of 56.

Summertime was always busy for Ed and Bobbie, as that was the time for repairs, varnishing the floors, polishing the desks, painting the restrooms and checking the playground equipment for the start of another school year. Both the high school and grade school had an apartment for them to live in.

Ed loved to fish, so the family spent vacations with him camping up at Cold Springs. Their close friends, the Earl Cashners, also spent many weekends on fishing trips to the mountains with them.

At one time, they had a small one room cabin built on the hillside above Sam Carothers' ranch on Wagonhound which they were homesteading. Betty remembers her mom and dad having to shoot rattlesnakes before they could get out of the car to get to the cabin.

One summer, when they were still at the high school, Bobbie ordered a couple pair of coverall slacks with wide legs. Guess they were such an oddity that Ed modeled a pair of them. They made quite a picture together.

One year, when Ed was still janitor at the high school, the senior class had a picture of Ed with a poem dedicated to him in their annual.

When Ed and Bobbie moved to the South Grade School, they bought some lots on South Sixth on which they had planned to build a home. They had already built a small garage on one lot.

Ed's mother, sister Addie and her husband, Martin Peterson, lived in Spokane, Washington. One summer, Ed took his wife and daughter through Yellowstone Park to visit them. Betty remembers them stopping along the highway to feed some lemon drops to a mother bear who got very aggressive when Bobbie didn't feed them to her fast enough. Bobbie had to roll the window up to keep the bear from reaching into the car after them.

Ed belonged to the American Legion and Bobbie belonged to the Royal Neighbors which was very active at that time.

I married Lewis George, son of Harry and Mabel George.

Betty Jean Esmay George

## Esmay, Pete and Eva Family

The Esmay (Ismay) family originally came from England. Religion, Anglican.

The description of the Esmay Coat of Arms from England is as follows: Arms—or, a fesse sable, in chief a demi-lion rampant gules. Crest—a savage, wreathed about the head and middle with leaves, in the dexter hand a club, the top resting on the ground, all proper.

John Henry (Pete) Esmay was the tenth child of Francis F. Esmay and Nancy Seeber of Jackson County, Courtland, New York. They arrived in Sabula, Iowa in 1850. Pete was born on January 28, 1871.

John (Pete) married Eva Louise Beesley, who was born in Lyons, Clinton County, Iowa on August 30, 1871. Her parents were Alice and Benjamin Beesley of Sabula, but were born in Birmingham, England. She and Pete were married in Sabula, Iowa on November 3, 1891. They



Howard Esmay

moved to Douglas from Sabula in 1900.

Pete was a building contractor, building many of the present-day buildings in Douglas. He built the old Carnegie Library and the building that housed the Judevine Creamery for many years. Music was very much a part of his life. He played in and was director of the Douglas Bands and Casper Bands as well as the Wyoming Shrine Band.

The Esmays homesteaded where the Jackalope Plunge is now, later building a spacious two-story house two miles northeast of there on the banks of the Platte River.

Eva died on January 29, 1932 and Pete on June 23, 1957 in Douglas.

They were the parents of four sons: Howard, Wayne, Rhodolph and Benjamin.



Howard — born June 1, 1893, Sabula, Iowa. Married Frances White in Douglas, April 8, 1917. She died in La Jolla, California in 1954. No children. Howard was a banker in Douglas, Wyoming, La Jolla, California and Gillette, Wyoming. He married Helen Elliot of La Jolla, a widow with a daughter, Marsha, whom Howard adopted. Howard died November 1, 1985 in San Diego, California.

Wayne — born February 14, 1895 in Sabula, Iowa. He was in the oil business. He married Willa Hamilton, a widow with a son, Jack. He served in World War I, and in World War II, was a prisoner of war on Kyushu Island, Japan, and died of starvation in the prison camp.

Rhodolph Leslie — born May 15, 1898 at Sabula, Iowa. Served in the Mexican Border War, World War I, twice wounded hero of the Argonne and St. Mihiel where he led an Infantry Line Company in terrible battles. Received many medals including Purple Heart. Served as the Adjutant General and Director of Selective Service for the State of Wyoming. His military record covered 47 years. He married Florence Neis in 1929. He died November 15, 1965 with a military rank of 3-Star General. They had two sons:

John Charles Esmay, — born May 17, 1932. Married Chrisola Polous July 31, 1955. Divorced. One daughter, Niki Elana Esmay, born April 21, 1962, who is a senior at the University of Wyoming (1984). John is a dentist, graduated from the Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, and practicing dentistry in Cheyenne, Wyoming. He married Donna Wright Schultz, June 16, 1981. Served two years of military active duty and at present is a Lt. Colonel in the Wyoming Air National Guard.

Rhodolph Lesley Esmay, Jr. — born October 23, 1945. Graduate of Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona. Military record - 2 years in Germany after university. Married Sandra Lee Swedlund in Tempe, Arizona May 27, 1973. One son, John Rhodolph Esmay, born December 25, 1980. At present, Rhodolph is with General Motors and the District Manager for the Pontiac Division in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Fourth son, Benjamin Beesley Esmay, of Pete Esmay — born in Douglas, Wyoming, in May, 1903. Died in Seattle, Washington, January 21, 1941.

Florence Esmay Howar, widow of Lt. General Rhodolph L. Esmay married Dr. Bruce F. Howar of Webster City, Iowa February 1, 1976. Dr. Howar is Chief of Internal Medicine and Clinical Neurology at the VA Hospital Medical Center, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Florence Esmay Howar

## Etchemendy, Pierre and Anna Family

In 1920, Pierre Etchemendy, along with his sister, Catherine Harriet, immigrated to the United States from the Basque Country in the Pyrennes Mountains of southern France. They came to Buffalo, Wyoming, where Pierre worked for John Iberlin herding sheep. He returned to France in 1927. In 1929, he was married to Anna Inchauspe and they came to America. On the way, they met some people who were going to Colorado to work for sheepmen, so Pierre and Anna decided to go on to Montrose, Colorado instead of returning to Buffalo.



Pierre and Anna Etchemendy and 6 grandchildren.

When they arrived in America, they had no knowledge of the English language, but after working for other people, were soon speaking enough English to get by. After working for other people, he started his own sheep outfit in 1934. He sold out in the fall of 1948 in Colorado because of the inaccessibility of land.

In 1950, Pierre bought the ranch north of Lost Springs, Wyoming from Roy Condray, and that spring he, along with his wife and two sons, George and Prosper, moved to Wyoming, leaving behind a daughter, Grace, who was married and a younger daughter, Eveleen who was still attending high school. She finished her education in Colorado and spent her summers in Wyoming.

When Pierre arrived in Lost Springs, he bought a band of sheep from Grover Gallagher and lambd them at Spring Canyon at Natural Bridge because he couldn't take possession of the ranch until June 1st. It snowed and rained every day. George left high school early that year to come up and help his father with the lambing and Prosper was still in college. In spite of the adverse conditions in the weather, they still had a 120% lamb crop. In 1955, they purchased the George McCormick place that adjoined the Condray land. From 1953 to 1955, Pierre (also known as Pete) managed the ranch by himself while George and Prosper were in the armed services in the Korean conflict. From 1955 to 1965, the boys helped with the ranch, at which time Pierre sold the sheep to them and they leased the land. In 1968, the boys dissolved their partnership and George took over the sheep and land.

In 1981, Pierre sold the ranch to his son, George and wife, Bobetta. Pierre and Anna still continued to spend their summers in Wyoming and winters in Colorado, where the climate was much more agreeable.

Although they did learn to read and speak the English



language, they continued to speak the Basque language, which was the predominant language spoken at home.

Anna passed away at Montrose, Colorado in 1980 at the age of 77 and Pierre passed away, also in Montrose, in 1981 at the age of 85, being preceded in death by their daughter Eveleen and two granddaughters. They are survived by their two sons, one daughter and ten grandchildren.

George Etchemendy

## Fackler, Dan and Augusta Family

My father was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on February 29, 1868. He was the son of Ira Bloom and Margaret Silverthorn Fackler. He had four brothers, Sam, Bill, Tom and Jim as well as two sisters, Anna and Lily. Because he was born on Leap Year, he and I, Margaret Fackler Carlson, always celebrated our birthdays together, mine being on the 25th of February.

Because of a disagreement with his father, my dad left his family home at the age of 14, arriving in Cheyenne in 1882. What his experiences were on the way to Wyoming, neither my brother or I can recall hearing about. The exception was that he was barefooted when he left and he met up with a wagon train where a lady member of the train took pity on him and saw to it that he was fed.

After arriving in Cheyenne, he hired out to Harry Hines working in his livery stable and barn. How long this lasted, we don't know with the exception that they were close friends for years. We know he was also employed by the Charles Carey outfit and the 2 Bar or Swan Livestock Company at Chugwater.

Following this, he served as Deputy U.S. Marshal Cheyenne for two years. He was 19 years old at the time and was getting well acquainted with the Wyoming Territory. He had followed a freighter across the Laramie Plains to Fort Fetterman, landing in Douglas for the first time. He was especially fond of the Downey Park area and later, when his brother Tom came to Wyoming, they bought some cattle together and Tom took up homesteads there in 1900. For a while it was called Fackler Brothers. Later, in 1914, Tom sold part of his claim to Dan. The

other part went to Roy Combs. In 1889, he came to Douglas and made his home there. During this time, he worked as a sheep foreman for John T. Williams. While working for Williams he had a close encounter with Tom Horn. It was late evening and dark when my dad made into camp. After lighting a lantern and starting a fire, he went out to take care of his horse. When he started back to the cabin, he spotted a man peering into the cabin window. He instinctively stepped back into the shadows and waited until he had gone. Later, he learned Tom Horn had ridden through the area and he would have been shot if he had made his presence known.

He also worked as round-up foreman at the CY for Joseph Carey. This was important then because this ranch covered a large span of territory. Starting at the Old Goose Egg Ranch, southwest of Casper, it extended north almost to Sheridan, east and south to the railroad and into western Nebraska. He also punched cattle for the Ogalalla and VR ranches.

In 1904, he served as Deputy Sheriff under Sheriff Charles Messenger. During this time he was riding through the Toltec area on the Laramie Plains when he met the woman he was later to marry, Augusta Wallin. She had come to that area from Hildreth, Nebraska, to teach a summer session of school. In those days, the ranch children were unable to get to school in the winter because of heavy snows, so they made up for it during the summer. Mother told me the school children came running into the school house shouting "Dan Fackler is coming!" Later, he told her as soon as he met her he knew she was the woman he was going to marry. They married on May 10, 1905 at her family home near Hildreth, Nebraska. They then moved into the home he had built for her in Douglas at 338 South Fifth Street. Two sons were born while he was in the sheriff's office. Decie James (1906) and Thomas Wallin (1908).

He had a special horse he called "Old Blue" and he told about the time he rode to Rock River from Douglas -90 miles one way - then back to Douglas the next day. When dad was freighting supplies out to the sheep camps, "Old Blue" always tagged along. When they reached the river bridge he refused to cross but would always swim across instead.

In 1908, Dad ran for sheriff but lost to Sheriff Messenger. My mother told us the reason he lost was the Wilsons at the Platte Valley Ranch wanted him to run their ranch, so they gathered up all their ranch hands, sheepherders, etc. to vote against him. He lost, and sure enough, Dad moved his family to the Platte Valley and ran the Wilson operation. Another son, Paul Newton, was born in 1910 in Douglas while they were there.

The Richards and Comstock Cattle Company at Manville called him then and wanted him to take over their ranch holdings ten miles north of Manville. My dad and mother were delighted because the owners had told him if everything went well at the ranch, it would eventually be his because they had no heirs and consequently there would be no one else to turn it over to.

After twelve years of success and contentment and two more children, Richard Comstock (1913), and Margaret Christine (1916), born in Manville, disaster hit. When Theodore Roosevelt was elected president, one of the first things he did after being installed was start an



Back row: Tom and Bill Fackler, Bottom row: Dan and Jim Fackler.

investigation into the ranch holdings in Wyoming because he wanted to obtain some of Wyoming's ranch lands for himself. As it turned out, many of the ranchers of that era were in the habit of fencing in range land that was owned by the government. Richards and Comstock were among them and they were chosen to be made an example of for the wrongdoing, Mr. Richards was put into prison and later died there a broken and disgraced man. The ranch was sold to Ad Spaugh, and my dad moved his family back to the Douglas area where he purchased the Tom Rudd homestead five miles west of Douglas in 1923. He purchased a band of sheep, intending to use the Downey Park homesteads for summer pasture. This lasted only a short time, until 1925, when the Taylor Livestock Company called and asked if he would take over management of their ranch holdings west of Casper. Since he missed the wide open ranges he had been used to, he again moved his family to the Effie and UC ranches where we lived during the summer months, moving into Casper in the fall for the school term.

On May 9, 1928, in Casper, Wyoming, Dan passed away at the Natrona County Memorial Hospital at the age of 59 from lung cancer. Funeral services were held at the Methodist Church in Douglas. Burial was in Douglas Park Cemetery.

My mother then brought the three youngest children, Newton, Richard and Margaret back to Douglas so that we might finish our education. Decie and Tommy stayed, going to work on the Grieves and Ben Roberts' outfits.

My mother, Augusta Teckla Wallin was born in Ishpeming, Michigan, January 5, 1879. Her parents, Edward and Christine Jacobson Wallin, had migrated to the U.S. from Sweden around 1868. After several moves, they decided to homestead in southern Nebraska near Hildreth. She grew up there, finishing her schooling in Minden and Grand Island. She taught school in that area for several years before coming to the Laramie Plains area in 1903 where she met my dad. She passed away after a lengthy illness in April, 1965 at Converse County Hospital. Burial was in Douglas Park Cemetery.

Margaret Fackler Carlson  
Newton Fackler  
Richard Fackler

## Fackler, Jim and Ivy

The youngest Fackler brother to homestead in the Douglas area was James Luther Fackler. He was born near Hebron, Iowa, on June 30, 1874. He married Ivy Graham in North Platte, Nebraska on October 22, 1893. His father, Ira B. Fackler, officiated at their marriage. Uncle Jim and Auntie, as they were called by their many nieces, nephews and friends, did not have any children of their own. They lived in a number of places; Illinois, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and Texas. He had a job in Kansas City as a street car conductor and he was a police chief in Iowa. In Clear Lake, Iowa, they had a home on a lake where he rented fishing boats.

In 1925, they homesteaded in Downey Park in Albany County. They continued to spend the winters in Clear Lake, Iowa until 1929, when they sold that home and



Jim Fackler with bear.



Ivy Fackler helping dip sheep.

moved to a small place on Bedtick Creek, eight miles south of Douglas. Auntie raised turkeys at the homestead each summer while Uncle Jim put up hay at the Bedtick.

One spring, when it was time to move back to the homestead, the turkeys were put in boxes and then into a small open trailer towed behind the car. Before they started up Moss Agate hill, Auntie got in the trailer with the turkeys to prevent them from piling up. Uncle Jim, with their niece, Sara, started up the hill. About half way up the hill and around a corner, he noticed the trailer was not following. He stopped the car and he and Sara walked back around the corner. The trailer had been attached to the car bumper with only wire and it, with its load of turkeys and Auntie, had come free and rolled back to the bottom of the hill. Needless to say, no one rode in the trailer the rest of the way to the homestead. Oh yes, all the turkeys survived, too.

In 1937, they sold the homestead to Art Horr and moved to the Frank Rogers place, south of Douglas. About 1940, they purchased a place from Dudley Ferbrache in the upper LaPrele Creek area. In 1944, they sold this place to Art Horr and moved to Douglas in 1946. Uncle Jim then worked as a ditch rider for the LaPrele Irrigation District and for several years was caretaker for Natural Bridge Park.

Uncle Jim was 81 years old when he died on August 24, 1955. He and Auntie had been married for 62 years. Ivy died on February 12, 1959.

Sara Nachtman

## Fackler, Thomas David and Nellie

This is the biography of Thomas David Fackler, born January 4, 1872 in Johnson County, Iowa. But first, a little on the history of the Facklers moving ever westward until Tom came to Converse County.

Most who came west, dreamed of owning land and a better life. This was also the dream of Wendal Fackler, when he came to Philadelphia from Germany in 1763, at the age of 17. He was apprenticed to work on the streets of Philadelphia for three years, but when one-half of his time had expired, he was released and employed at regular wages. He joined the colonists in the war for independence. When the Republic was established, he purchased land from the government. There, he and his wife raised ten children.

As the land became more settled, his grandson, Samuel, started moving west, stopping in Ohio and Wisconsin for a few years. Some time after 1850, he settled in Johnson County, Iowa.

Ira Fackler, second son of Samuel, married (Hannah) Margaret Silverthorn, June 1, 1859. He worked in various places in Iowa, where their children, Anna, Samuel, William, Daniel, Thomas, James and Lilly were born.

In the mid 1880's, land to be homesteaded drew the Facklers on west again to Lincoln County, Nebraska. By this time, Anna had married, Sam, Bill and Dan had left home. Sam went west with an uncle where they freighted from Cheyenne to Deadwood. He later settled in Nebraska near North Platte. Dan had also gone to Wyoming.



Tom and Nellie Fackler.

Tom left the family home in 1895, going to Missouri Valley, Iowa. While there, he was a member of the fire department until 1908 when he came to Wyoming. He joined his brother Dan in raising livestock. Their brand was  $\frac{N}{X}$  on the left ribs.

Dan had homesteaded several years before Tom came to Wyoming. Tom also filed on a homestead in Downey Park.

In 1916, Tom married Nellie Jewart in Medicine Bow at the home of her sister, Mrs. Chas. Richards.

Nellie was the daughter of Ephriam and Sarah Babb Jewart; she was born August 10, 1886 in Liberal, Missouri. Nellie had six sisters and three brothers.

She also had homesteaded in Downey Park in 1915. In 1918, they sold their homesteads to Roy Combs. The land is now owned by his son, Lee. The original cabin is still there; it has been added to over the years.

In October of 1918, Tom and Nellie purchased a ranch from Harry Isaac on lower LaBonte. There they made their home until Nellie died August 17, 1925, leaving two small daughters, Sara Margaret; age two and Nellie Nadine, just four days old.

Due to the caring for his two young daughters, Tom decided he should move to Douglas, and in 1926, he sold

the ranch. For the next three or four years he drove the mail route to Esterbrook.

One of the big events for me was when Dad would take me with him on the mail route, with a stop at the post office at the Fitzhugh ranch where I would play with the children. Then, when we got to Esterbrook, we would eat our lunch on the porch at the post office while the mail was being sorted, then back to Braae Post Office, then on to Douglas. I would put the mail in boxes for Dad. It was great fun until I slammed my fingers in the car door; they turned black, and that took the fun out of that trip.

Tragedy again entered Tom's life with the death of his youngest daughter, Nellie. She died after a short illness in February, 1927.

In 1930, Tom married Lillian Crowe. She had two daughters, Betty (Brock), and Dorothy (Gillespie), and one son George.

In the early 1930's, Tom hauled coal to Douglas residents from the Badger Coal Mine near Glenrock. In 1934, they moved to the White Lilly Motel, which they managed until 1939.

Tom passed away February 12, 1941.

His daughter, Sara, married Lawrence Nachtman, September 3, 1952. They have three daughters, Patricia (Palmer), Linda (Aeschliman) and Susan (Downs), one son, James (Jim) and eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Sara Nachtman



George and Anna Falkenburg.

## Falkenburg, George and Anna

The Falkenburgs, George and Anna, came from the Essen, Germany area on the ship, Pennsylvania September 29, 1892. Two sons, Herman and Garriet had come to the U.S. from Germany with them; children Elizabeth and Fred had died very young in Germany.



Early day posse: L. to R. I. G. Phillips, Herman Falkenburg, Bill McMaster, George Walkinshaw, Bob Barker, Sheriff Albert Peyton and Howard Jackson.



From Philadelphia they traveled to Iowa where George worked for the railroad. A daughter, Mary Ann, was born while the family lived in Missouri Valley, Iowa.

In 1894, George was transferred to Douglas, Wyoming where he worked as a Section Boss for the railroad for five years. At Inez, Wyoming, west of Douglas, Rose was born in 1895, Lucy in 1898, and Inez in 1900.

George filed on a homestead after receiving his citizenship papers. Rose well remembers the move there. "It took four days, as we had some cattle and horses to drive 72 miles to our new home. Dad drove the white span of mules and Herman, my brother, the brown span." The homestead was 15 miles north of the Little Medicine Post Office located in the beautiful valley with natural meadows and several large springs. Soldier Creek ran through the middle of the homestead. The family lived in a large two room cabin for two years owned by John Manlove, a Douglas sheepman. George and his sons built their home out of hewed logs. The cabin consisted of three large rooms and four small bedrooms with a large woodshed. They worked to paint all the woodwork and paper



the walls. They moved to their new home in 1902 and a boy Carl was born in 1903.

The next spring, Mary and Rose went to the Little Medicine Summer School. They boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Matt Burnett, paying \$8.00 per month for room and board. The teacher's name was Ida Purdy. After two years, the Falkenburgs got a winter school of their own; the first in the district at that time.

After clearing the big sagebrush off the natural meadows, and adding to the homestead land, the family cut enough hay to winter one hundred or more head of cattle. The winters were very severe in the mountains, so a winter supply of groceries were purchased in early October and again the first part of June. It was a long drive with horses and lumber wagon—72 miles to Douglas, and 69 miles to Medicine Bow.

Rose remembers the death of her father: "My dear father passed away one cold wintry morning on March 7th, 1907. Brother Herman was ill with pneumonia and the rest of us had a siege of "LaGrippe" as they called it then—the flu now! We put his body in the woodshed until Garriet and Mary could ride over to Little Medicine to get help. Our good neighbors came the 15 miles with bobsled. They had to follow the ridges as the snow was so deep. They buried my father in the Little Medicine Cemetery."

Anna and the boys continued to run the ranch. The winters were the hardest as the stock had to be fed every day, shedded at night, and the large shed cleaned each day. The girls helped after school with scoop shovels. It was all hard work; stacking hay in the summer, or running the horse mower or rake in the summer haying time; but they all worked together.

Anna Falkenburg married for a second time; a sheepman, Mr. William LaRue, in 1910. By this time the children were old enough to care for the ranch by themselves. Garriet passed away in 1910 with blood poisoning in his foot. Mary was married to Edward McGraugh the next fall. Rose went to Laramie to the University of Wyoming in the fall of 1913 to complete two years normal training to teach school. She and Hubert George married in 1915.

Anna and William LaRue continued to live on the "Plains" until 1914 when they purchased a place close to Casper, Wyoming. They both passed away in June 1930 and are buried in Douglas, Wyoming beside Garriet. Herman and Rose both settled on Wagonhound Creek in Converse Co. Mary and Lucy lived with their families in the Bates Hole area in Natrona Co., Wyoming. Inez made her home in Washington, and Carl settled in Caldwell, Idaho, and later Provo, Utah.

After his father's death, Herman helped his mother with the homestead until at the age of 30 years he enlisted in the Army in World War I.

He has vivid recollections of the war years, including the severe flu epidemic where he saw some of his best friends go to the great beyond. His orders were received to go overseas when the Armistice was signed in 1918.

His rank of corporal was earned while he was serving in the 33rd Balloon Corps - Air Service at Lee Hall, Virginia.

After the war Herman worked as foreman for Winnie Bucknum of Casper and saved his earnings, with which he purchased the Bob George ranch on Wagonhound

Creek in 1929.

On January 2, 1931 he married the former Gertrude Bicart who was a school marm at a neighboring ranch.

Gertrude was born October 20, 1906 at Fulton, Kansas to Joseph and Mary Bicart.

She attended public schools at Fulton, Kansas and college at Kansas State Teachers College at Pittsburg, Kansas.

After receiving her certificate she taught at St. Francis, Kansas and McKinnion, Wyoming. Upon raising her family, she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in education from Chadron State College at Chadron, Nebraska.

She taught the 3rd grade pupils in Douglas, Wyo. for 18 years before her retirement in 1971.

Herman and Gertrude experienced some of the worst years during the dust storms and grasshoppers of the "Dirty 30s" (1930s).

Gertrude recalls being unable to see the sun for days during the dust bowl days because of wind and blowing dust.

In 1933 and 1934 the grasshoppers ate every useable bit of foliage, even the fence posts. One summer the total hay crop on Wagonhound Creek was three ton.

In March of 1937 the thermometer registered 45 degrees below zero, so there were other adversities besides drought and insects.

The storm of April 12, 1945 brought four feet of snow on the level and the news of Franklin D. Roosevelt's death.

1949 was another never-to-be-forgotten winter with six weeks of bitter cold and blowing snow. The roads were only open twice during that time to bring in supplies and hay for livestock.

As the years moved along the Falkenburgs added to their holdings in the fertile valley.

In the 1940's they purchased over 640 acres of fine grass land from Roy Hylton, son of former prominent Douglas doctor, J. R. Hylton.

Included in this acreage was the famous Poison Lake, which at one time was refined for Epsom salts. The water in the lake is very poisonous and has been fenced for 122 years.

The fall of 1960 saw a group of ranchers purchase the R. L. Manning Ranch on LaBonte and Westfork LaBonte Creeks. The Falkenburgs were one of the group purchasing or leasing over 3,791 acres of this beautiful mountainous property.

Herman and Gertrude's children are George Falkenburg, who lives at the home ranch on Wagonhound, Dr. Joe Falkenburg, who lives on a ranch north of Harrison, Nebraska and teaches at Chadron State College, Mrs. Eugene Hardy (Joy), a registered nurse, who lives on a ranch north of Douglas and Mrs. Kenneth Hollibaugh (Rose Mary) who lives on a ranch near Hay Springs, Nebraska.

Gertrude died August 2, 1982. Herman died on February 27, 1983.

Sharon Lass Field  
Gertrude Falkenburg



# Fawcett, Art, Ruth and Jane

Art Fawcett was born in Morgan County, Chesterhill, Ohio, the son of Clifford and Florence Steer Fawcett. After attending forestry school in Minnesota he went to work on a private forest. Later he went to work for the United States Forest Service and was working at an experimental station at Amherst, Massachusetts when he met Ruth.

Ruth and Art were married on January 23, 1931. She was born on August 31, 1905 at Eastport, Maine. She graduated from Springhill, Massachusetts Hospital School for Nursing. She served, for a time, as a personal secretary to Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, founder of the National Geographic Society.

After their marriage, Art served with the Forest Service in Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Nebraska and North and South Dakota.

As a U.S. Forest Ranger, Art was transferred to the new Esterbrook District of Medicine Bow National Forest in 1937. The lanky ranger, his wife, Ruth, and their two children, Russell, six years old, and Ethel, five years old, lived in Esterbrook. Art remembered, "Logging was prevalent, and that first year I spent the winter marking and scaling timber."

Art rented the Norcross house in Esterbrook and built a small utility building to use as an office.

While Art served three years on the Esterbrook District, Russell and Ethel attended the small Esterbrook School. Art was kept busy establishing the first fire lookout on the District, building telephone lines, and constructing the Eagle Peak Truck Trail. Then came new orders to move, but by this time both Art and Ruth had grown to like the Esterbrook country, and Art turned down leaving, resigning from the Forest Service in 1940.

He rented a small ranch south of Laramie Peak for his first venture in the livestock business, but after four years, in the spring of 1945, he and Ruth returned to Esterbrook. "That was the spring following the April blizzard. We bought a few acres south of Esterbrook at the old Hamner place on Horseshoe Creek and we've been here ever since."

Another small piece of land was added later. "A car dealer in Casper had taken over a 40 acre homestead from a man who couldn't make the payments on his car. When he took the land in lieu of the payments, he was under the impression the 40 acres were at the forks of Horseshoe and Roaring Fork, but when I explained to him that his new 40 acres were up the ridge from the forks, he sold them to me," Art said.

Another 160 acres Art purchased during the growing years were sold to him with the proviso he would do nothing to change the character of the land. "It had been the woman's husband's final wishes that the land would remain undeveloped, so I was able to buy it for grazing," he related.

So, over the years, Art was able to add a little here and there.

But all that cost money. During the years that Art guided hunters, almost one-third of his income was derived from that occupation. Many years he had up to 25 out-of-state hunters for both deer and antelope, including outdoor magazine editors, other well-known sportsmen,

and one Attorney General of the United States, William Saxebey.

In addition to the guiding, he began haying for his neighbors as early as 1945, when he went up the hill to cut, rake and stack hay for Bob Sturgeon. "All the stacking was done by hand," he remembered.

Although much of the raking and sweeping still was done with teams of horses into the 60's, Art purchased a red Farmall Cub tractor in the late 40's and launched into "custom haying," cutting and baling for half the hay.

In the early 50s when drought hit the country and things went downhill in a hurry for many area ranchers, Art branched out into both horse breaking and saw-milling. "We boarded and broke horses for \$25 a head," Art said, adding wryly that "now you can get \$250 a head."

He went into sawmilling by working for Floyd Russell in 1954, and later that year, following the forest fire on the "burn" along the crest of the ridge to the south of the main ranch buildings, he and a hired hand used a cross-cut saw to fall the still standing, burned-over timber. By 1956 he was working on Ashenfelder Creek for Dale Anderson and Grover Stinson, and a year later he was cutting and skidding for Francis McVay.

"That was the year I decided it might be better to have my own mill and stop giving everything away," Art said, and that summer on Ernie Newell's place he set up his mill and with the help of Bill Dunn and Tom Bishop, he began cutting and skidding for himself, using a team of horses, "King" and "Queen" to do business.

But, while all this was going on, he still was a cattle rancher. When the drought inched into the country during the early 50s, Art was running polled Herefords, and he well remembers that the summer of 1949 was "a tough summer." That fall he sold his Herefords and brought in a few registered Angus, the first rancher in the shadow of the Peak to raise them.

Along with ranching, guiding, haying and saw-milling, Art also found time to enter into the business and politics of the county. For many years both the Wyoming Angus Association and Wyoming Hereford Association held their sales throughout the state. When Art became the manager of the Angus Fall Sale, we went to the manager of the state fair, Jim Roush, with an idea. By the time the two men were through talking, the idea of holding the annual fall sale permanently in Douglas was set in motion.

It seemed logical to the people of Esterbrook that their home should be included in Converse County, rather than in Albany County. So, Art and his neighbors started paving the way for a change in the county boundaries, and making that change took six years. "Of course, Albany County officials were opposed to the change, but Converse County officials were willing to take us into their county as a favor to the Esterbrook people," Art said.

Douglas attorney Joe Garst contributed time, money and effort, as did Lisle Pexton and many others of the area, including County Commissioner Earl Clayton and legislators Charlie Irwin and Bill Lindmier, Sr. It took three sessions of the legislature to finally get the job done, but as Art said, "We convinced a majority of the legislators we had a just cause, and they went along with us." The deciding factor was a unanimous vote among

the residents just before the 1954 legislature convened.

While Art was involved in his ranching, Ruth also was busy. "When we came to Esterbrook, Ruth was a registered nurse in an isolated community and while Douglas doctors supplied her with medicines, she cared for the ills of the people," Art said.

"It's astounding how few people ever got sick during the winters," Art recalls, "but one winter one of the logging family's boys broke his leg. It just happened that we were the only ones near who had a working passenger vehicle, but the snow covered the roads. We hitched a team of horses to the car, and other neighbors joined in to shovel a path. It took us seven hours to finally reach a spot on the Glendo road where we could drive the car, and we took the boy to Wheatland and returned the following day with the boy in his cast. We took care of our own out there."

Times change. Ethel, now Mrs. Larry Nauman, is raising a family in Rock Springs and Russell is living in Casper. Ruth died in 1974 and Art married his present wife Jane in 1976. Art sold his ranch in 1982 to Drs. Kirkland and Thiel, but he and Jane still live there on a small acreage he retained.

Tom Bishop

## Fenex, William and Sabra Family

William Lane Fenex, Sr. and Sarah St. Clair, who came to Buffalo, Missouri, from Tennessee, were married and had six children: Robert C. Fenex, born 1845 in Tennessee; Thomas Fenex, born 1848; Mary Jo (Mag) Fenex, born 1851; Sarah M. Fenex, born 1858; John C. Fenex, born 1860; and William Lane Fenex, Jr., born 1865, the latter five being born in Missouri. Both of the parents died in 1871, Sarah preceding William Lane, Sr. in death by five months. They left three minor children, who were sent to live with three different families who were paid to care for them. John and William Lane, Jr. came to Converse County, Wyoming, as hereinafter related.

John C. Fenex came to Wyoming in 1880, at the age of 20, presumably by train. William Lane Fenex followed two years later, in 1882, and he did arrive by train.

John was killed at a hog ranch across the river from Fort Fetterman in the summer of 1885. John was shot in the stomach following an argument with a gambler. He is buried at Fort Fetterman and his grave was the only one with a marker or headstone for many years.

William Lane Fenex, better known as Billy in younger years and Will as he grew older, worked at a number of jobs. One was herding oxen, which was accomplished by tapping them on the rear near of the spine with a small shingle with a tack in the end. He also cowboied at several ranches in the Douglas and Glenrock area, and, according to an account in a book by B. B. Brooks, later Governor of Wyoming, the two of them camped out one winter on the Big Muddy.

Billy Fenex and a friend, Missou Hines, saved their money all one year to go home to Missouri. At that time they had to ride horseback to Scottsbluff, Nebraska to catch the train. They arrived in Scottsbluff one evening, but the train was not due until the next morning. They

became involved in a poker game, lost every nickel they had, and got back on their horses the next morning and rode back to Douglas.

A story Will Fenex used to tell of his early days occurred one winter in 1887. He and a friend, Jap Sumner, stopped for the night at Fort Fetterman. When they went to bed there was about six inches of snow on the ground and the temperature was below zero. A chinook wind came up during the night and when Fenex opened the window in the morning he found the parade ground was covered with water, the snow was all gone, and the air was warm and balmy. Going back to the bed where Jap was still sleeping, he shook him by the shoulder and said, "Damn it, Jap, wake up! We've been asleep all winter."

Will Fenex made several trips back to Missouri. On one of the trips, his parents' estates were settled. Out of his share of the estate he bought a matching team of white horses and a buggy, and he squired Sabra Johnson around town at breakneck speed. He and Sabra were married in 1889. He returned to Wyoming ahead of her, and she arrived on the train, disembarking at Orpha, where she was met by some of the cowboys from the SO Ranch.

Will and Sabra made their home on the old Jim Barrie place on Boxelder Creek, near the Carey Ranch. During that time Sabra returned to Buffalo, Missouri, twice to have her first two children: Grace E. Fenex, and John Franklin Fenex.

In 1897 they moved to Glenrock and Will went to work in the coal mines. Over the years of their marriage, eleven children were born to them: Grace (B. January 1, 1890, M. Claude Lam, D. June 25, 1973); Gladys (B. April 1, 1906, M. Harold Thornton); Helen, (B. 1900, M. Hugh Smyth 1919, D. May 29, 1984); John (B. May 26, 1891, M. Gertrude Anderson, D. November 17, 1959); James E. (M. Hazelle Paxton); Leroy (M. Maude Rice, Myrtle ? and Marjorie McQueary Miller); Homer (B. January 2, 1902, M. Mary Foss, 1935); Guy (M. Wanda Whitney); Floyd (M. Marjorie Smith); Walter (D. age 10); and Ruth (D. age six months).

Later they homesteaded west of Glenrock in what is now known as the Big Muddy Field. Oil was struck on this land and thus ended for a number of years the struggle of making a living. They built a beautiful large brick home in Glenrock, one of three similiar ones, where they resided for many years. These homes may still be seen in Glenrock after some 65 to 70 years.

Sabra's father had died when she was three years old, and until her marriage she had never spent a night away from her mother. She didn't know how to cook or sew or keep house. After she married Will and came to Wyoming the cowboys taught her how to cook. And what a cook she was! Oranges, lemons or any fresh fruit were rarely seen. But she could make do with practically nothing. She made delicious "lemon" pies out of vinegar and flaky-crust ed apple pies out of dried apples. Nobody could touch her pies.

Sabra was a warm, lively witty person, with unlimited energy and very modern ideas. Her wedding picture shows her with a very short, mannish haircut, without the curls and puffs of her time. She always had time to run out to the yard to sing and play games with the children. Her favorite songs were "Buffalo Gal" and "Skip to My

Lou." She made everything an occasion-fishing in the North Platte River and bringing home a fish long enough to drag on the ground. (That was an outing for the kids, but it was also supper). And picking chokecherries and buffaloberries (better known as bullberries) made a day long picnic, but it was also chokecherry jelly and jam, bright clear red buffaloberry jelly, and canned berries for pies, all for the coming winter. She loved a picnic until the time she died, and about once a week the call went out to the members of the family: "Let's go down to City Park and have a steak fry," or "Let's go up to the Bean Pot and have a picnic."

Life was hard. Money was scarce. Winters were long and cold. Water was hauled by hand. Laundry was done on the board. Sabra made outing-flannel lined mittens from the good pieces of wornout overalls. Overshoes were paper or gunny sacks wrapped around the shoes and tied. Sabra baked bread to sell in order to buy a piano for Grace to play. She took in laundry. In short, she did whatever was necessary to be done.

Periodically the Indians came through Glenrock, often camping down on Deer Creek. The children would buy wild ponies from them for \$2.00 a head and break them. But when the Indians came the family's pet Great Dane, Jumbo by name, was chained inside the house and the shades were all drawn.

Will died December 28, 1941, at the age of 76, from complications following a hip injury suffered by having been butted by a ram while working at his sheep camp. He was a charter member of the Glenrock IOOF Lodge, a member and Past Master of Masonic Lodge No. 22 of Glenrock, and a 32nd degree Mason and Shriner. He served as Mayor, County Commissioner, Marshal and Deputy Sheriff.

Sabra died in 1955 at the age of 87. She was a charter member of the Baptist Community Church, which she and Will helped found; a charter member of the American Legion Auxiliary; a charter member of Golden West Chapter No. 37, Order of the Eastern Star, and Past Worthy Matron. At the time of her death, Sabra had 54 direct descendants. In 1983, there were 168 family members, spouses and friends present in Glenrock for a family reunion. Sabra was adored by her children and grandchildren.

Three of the Fenex sons born to Will and Sabra served in World War I: James E. Fenex and Roy Fenex having served overseas in France with the Infantry, and Floyd Fenex with the Navy. In World War II, their grandchildren served as follows: William Fenex, in three arenas, ending with Merrill's Marauders walking across the "Hump" in Burma. John F. Fenex, Jr., brother to William, was taken prisoner on Wake Island at the beginning of the war, remained there all through the war, and was beheaded by the Japanese when our country went back to retake Wake Island. James E. Fenex, Jr. flew a P-38 and Raymond Smyth flew a P-40, both attached to the British Eighth Army, chasing Rommel in Africa; William C. Lam was Flight Deck Officer on the carrier Yorktown; Dixie Lam served two years with the Air Force as a WAC.

Dixie Lam Kading

## Fenton, George and Sarah Family

My parents, George Aaron Fenton and Sarah (Sadie) Rebecca were married in 1901 in Alliance, Nebraska. They met in Hartville, Wyoming where Mother's parents, Jacob and Margaret Stoudt, ran a hotel. My father owned and operated a saloon and livery stable. A daughter, Violet Kathlyn, was born September 19, 1902 and a son, Arthur Jacob, was born December 25, 1903, both at Hartville. They lived there until 1909 when they moved to Lost Springs and filed on a homestead May 7, 1909. They built a home and moved their family there. My father built a saloon and later a livery stable. I, Mary Josephine, was born on May 17, 1910. He made proof of his homestead and it was patented June 13, 1913 after getting permission from the town of Lost Springs, as it was only one mile



George Fenton family, L. to R. Arthur, George, Baby Mary, Sarah and Violet.

north and was in the city limits. They didn't make any protests so it was allowed. Herbert Nelson was born November 8, 1914. Georgie Wilma was born December 31, 1917. Charles Alvaroy was born October 1, 1920. There were three baby girls that died in infancy. Margaret Louise, born May 22, 1913, died in August, 1913 and is buried in Douglas. A still born, date unknown, buried at the homestead and Willa Lee, born in 1923 and died at age three months, buried in Douglas.

At the time my father and mother moved to Lost Springs, Jake and Widdie Canon ran a hotel there. The Northwestern Railroad built a stockyard there as it was a large shipping point for cattle and some sheep. In the earlier years our transportation was by buggy and horseback. In the 1920's it was a Ford sedan. After prohibition my father, with his teams, contracted dirt work such as building road beds and sub-contracted building the Burlington Northern road beds at Orin Junction. He also put up hay for several ranches such as the old LaBonte and Joss ranches.

He was a deputy U.S. Marshal during the years the Onyon coal mine was in operation and settled several disputes among the miners. Sometimes he brought the prisoners to our home where Mother always fed them with our family until some other U.S. Marshal would pick them up and take them to jail. There was an incident I can remember of finding the body of a man in the rail-

road water tank. Also, the livery stable burning on a Saturday night after a dance and killing several horses. Also, the suicide of our railroad agent, Delbert Smith.

Often, in the middle of the night some of our neighbors would come for Mother as she was a midwife for many babies born on neighboring ranches and people who were ill. She worked with Dr. Christensen of Manville, Dr. Hylton and Dr. Nast of Douglas.

We all started our elementary schooling in Lost Springs and the three older ones finished the eighth grade.

Entertainment for my folks was dancing, playing cards and neighbors getting together for meals. We always had lots of company.

For the children we all had our own horses and got together with neighboring children on weekends and rode to baseball games at Shawnee, Keeline and Manville.

I played on the girls basketball team with Mildred Bowell, Dolly and Bertha Spellman, Lolo Ruhl and Donna Dern. Ray Reed was our coach.

Our highlight of the summer was the fourth of July celebration which Mr. Fero would put on, dressing all the kids like cowboys and Indians. There would be horse races for all ages, sack races, foot races, a barbecue and dancing in the evening at the community hall. In September, we looked forward to going to the state fair at Douglas.

About 1930, my folks left Lost Springs and moved to Casper where my dad worked on several ranches. He died in Denver, Colorado after being operated on for cancer, February 9th, 1938 and is buried at Freeland, Wyoming. My mother died November 12, 1956 in Casper and is buried at Freeland, Wyoming.

Violet Kathlyn married Carl Svare in Douglas in 1920. They divorced about 1931. She then married Floyd G. Carter in 1942 and they made their home in Casper until her death December 1, 1982. She is buried in Memorial Gardens at Casper.

Arthur Jacob married Georgia (Dode) Ward at LaGrange in January 1933. They ranched in the Goshen Hole country, later moving to Hysham, Montana with their two boys, Ward and Tyrone Vidal. They continued in the ranching business until Georgia's death, March 6, 1973 at Forsythe, Montana. She is buried at Myers, Montana. Art (as he was known to all his friends) continued living in Montana. He died of cancer in Billings, Montana on September 17, 1980. He is also buried in Myers, Montana.

Herbert Nelson married Eva Belle Cheney Adamson, July 1946 at Casper. She died May 25, 1971 at Casper and is buried at Freeland, Wyoming. Herb has a public scales in Casper.

Georgie Wilma married John Erickson, January 8, 1933 at Harrison, Nebraska. They divorced. She then married Cleveland Snelling. They divorced. She then married Donald Walkins and they are retired in Florence, Oregon.

Charles (Chuck) and his wife, Jane, live at Shoshoni. They have a farm and run cattle on grazing land near Hiland.

Mary Josephine married James (Jim) H. Cheney, November 24, 1925 at Lusk, Wyoming. We ranched in the Bates Hole country (Freeland, Wyoming) until the time

of his death, March 26, 1967. With my son, Vern Cheney, we carried on the ranching business until his death, November 3, 1971. I married Ben. F. Moore, December 31, 1969. In 1973, we sold our Cheney Livestock Corporation interest to my son, William and his wife, Pat, and they are carrying on the business. Ben and I bought an acreage and continue raising cattle and horses.

Mary Josephine Fenton Moore

## Fenwick, Robert and Blanche Family

On June 10, 1909 in Evansville, Indiana, a red-haired baby boy was born to Robert Lee and Blanche Cover Edmondson Fenwick. Named Robert Wesley after his father and Robert E. Lee, and Wesley in honor of his mother's religious beliefs, which at that time were of the Methodist faith.

The Fenwick family hailed from the state of Kentucky where his father, like his grandfather, was a railroad employee. A telegrapher, his father was sent to Indiana for a short period in the spring of 1909. Soon after Robert's birth, the family returned to Kentucky, but it would only be for a short time. Young Robert's mother contacted tuberculosis for which she was medically advised to move to Wyoming. So, at nine years of age, the young boy traveled with his family to a town north of Douglas, Wyoming, known as Locket. There, for the Burlington Northern, his father resumed his telegraphing



"Red" Fenwick.

career. The family home was made in a railroad car.

An opening with the Burlington Northern in Douglas afforded the family the opportunity to move to the town within the next year. By then, the "town" of Locket began to fade and today it is marked by prairie grasses and the passing of grazing cattle.

The health of Blanche Fenwick continued to fade and on March 3, 1922 in the front parlor of the Fenwick home on North Third Street in Douglas, she asked for a priest before whom she converted to the Catholic faith and then passed away.

Her love for her home state of Kentucky prompted her husband to sell her diamond engagement ring, enabling him to pay for her to be returned to Earlington, Kentucky for burial. The young boy and his father returned to Douglas to live.

Robert Lee Fenwick remained with the Burlington Northern as a telegrapher until a few years before his death, which came late in December of 1957. His service for the Burlington Northern was devoted, having begun after WWI. He is buried in the cemetery at Douglas and because of his love for railroads and his particular job, the epitaph on his gravestone reads:

Robert Lee Fenwick

The Burlington Man

From his gravesite yet today can be heard the whistle of the Burlington Northern trains as they pass through the town of Douglas.

An English teacher at Converse County High School noticed Robert's flair for the English language and began tutoring him after school in writing. Her guidance and belief in his talents inspired the young boy, who by then had become affectionately known to his classmates as "Red" because of his hair coloring, such that his entire life would be devoted to the written word.

Alice Nordgren's statement to her pupil, "Study hard, and one day you will become famous for your writing," became more of reality than even she imagined.

Red Fenwick also loved the life of a cowboy. His mother was more than a good shot with a 22-rifle. While growing up he worked on the "Morton Ranch" and at 19 years of age became a member of the United States Horse Cavalry F115th Troup. He was honorably discharged on May 27, 1929.

It was during these times as a cowboy and cavalry man that Red concluded his life would be spent in the west and writing about it.

Red's first job on a newspaper was with the *Greybull Standard*. Prior to that he headed a Civilian Conservation Corps camp in Yellowstone National Park; lineman for the telephone company; Press Secretary for U.S. Sen. Harry Schwartz in Washington, D.C.

From the *Greybull Standard* he went to Casper where he became city editor of the *Casper-Times* (now the *Casper Star-Tribune*) newspaper. His career as city editor at the paper held many highlights for him. One was the birth of his first son Robert Wesley, Jr. Married to the former Dorothy Scofield of Douglas, the couple eventually had five children, including Brian, Timothy, Patricia, Dorothy and Blanche. They were later divorced in Denver in the late 1940s. As city editor in Casper, Red was paramount in closing gambling, which had run ram-

phant in the late 1930s.

On December 7, 1942, Red went to work for the *Denver Post* newspaper in Denver, Colorado. His career as a reporter, newspaper columnist and respected friend of the West made him a legend in his own time. His list of honors and credits include the following:

Honorary Doctorate of Laws Degree from the University of Wyoming for carrying on the tradition of writing of Bill Nye, Will Rogers and Mark Twain; the first recipient of the Colorado March of Dimes Citizen of the West Award in 1978 for writing a series of articles on the plight of the Navajo Rehabilitation fund; the 1982 Westerner Award, the highest award given by the Old West Trail Foundation for perpetuating the lures and legends of the old West; the 1981 International Toastmasters Communication and Leadership Award (one of 50 recipients in the world) for a lifetime of distinguished leadership in the field of communication and leadership; Big Hat Award by Sigma Delta Chi at the University of Colorado for his series of articles on the Plight of the Plains Indians; The Denver Press Club Award for journalism about the Navajo Indians; The Pall Mall Award for distinguished service in journalism for freeing a man serving life in prison for a murder he did not commit; the 1974 Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award from the Wyoming Air National Guard, presented by then Gov. Stanley K. Hathaway; he was a charter member of the Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center at Oklahoma City for giving the first publicity for the facility when it began; he was awarded the Silver Medal Award from the Cowboy Hall of Fame for outstanding commentary on western art; and was a Colonel Aide-de-Camp on the staff of the governor of New Mexico.

Just shy one month and three days, Red would have marked his 40th anniversary in writing for the *Denver Post*. He died in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he made his home the last years of his life with his wife, Donelle, whom he married September 23, 1978. His death came on November 4, 1982.

Red Fenwick also authored a book, *Red Fenwick's West, Yesterday and Today*, a culmination of his columns the first ten years he wrote for the Post. It has been republished and is available at the Pioneer Museum in Douglas. Proceeds go to the journalism scholarship fund named in his honor at the University of Wyoming.

Red Fenwick was a legend in his own life, although he considered himself just a "local yokel". He left behind a legacy of good deeds and great western writing. He also left behind a host of loved ones and friends and a heritage Douglas (his old hometown), Wyoming can forever be proud to write among its history pages.

Donelle Fenwick

## Ferguson, Alexander J. and Sarah

A Scotchman by birth, (born on February 21, 1856) Alexander Ferguson left Banffshire, Scotland as a young man to come to America. He arrived at Huron, South Dakota in 1882, where he engaged in the freighting business between the Missouri River and Black Hills for several years.

Sarah E. McDougall, also of Scotland, became his



wife in the early 1880's. A daughter, Margaret M., was born at Pierre, South Dakota on August 8, 1884. Donald was born in 1889, and died May 28, 1917, from acute appendicitis. Marcella, another daughter, died in her early youth.

In 1888, the family came to Wyoming where Alexander continued the freighting business until the late 1890's when he entered the sheep business on the lower end of Dry Creek in northeast Converse County. Lands were purchased in Section 12, Township 37, Range 68 in 1904.

After Alexander's death on November 12, 1918, in Douglas, Sarah and Margaret operated the ranch for a few years, selling part of it to Alfred Bachle on October 25, 1925. These and other lands were later acquired by Fred Williams and later by Hap Ketelsen.

Sarah died on August 14, 1930, in Douglas.

Margaret attended high school at Ursaline Academy, York, Nebraska. She worked at the old Douglas Mercantile and at the Golden Rule when it was first started by Robert Gentle. Later she worked at the County Assessor's office when Grant Houghton was Assessor.

She lived at 315 South Fourth Street in Douglas until her death on January 1, 1968.

John R. Pexton

## Fiddymment, Edward and Cora

In the spring of 1918, Edward James Fiddymment, his wife Cora, and two daughters, Gertrude, seven years old, and Doris, two years old, moved from Illinois to Wyoming. Their worldly goods were moved in a boxcar on the railroad. Edward was a railroad engineer, and took a year's leave of absence to see for sure they wanted to make their home in Wyoming. Cora had a sister living six miles south of Douglas, Mrs. Ernest Nauman, with her husband and four children. Also, Pete Johnson and wife lived near the Naumans. He was Cora's father. Edward had just inherited eight thousand dollars. Everything looked good to them - a ranch in the west!

They had made a trip previously to look at the situation. Ed bought a homestead from Pete Johnson, and some more land from Shirley Call bordering the Platte River. A new house was built on a dry creek about one and one half miles from the river where he was able to homestead. A couple of years later, a new barn, a corral to train horses, chicken house and a cellar were built. Ed was a horse lover. He bought a set of books by Dr. Berry and several riding horses; two or three teams for driving were on hand, besides a number put out to roam the land, seeing them only every few months.

A good picnic and community gathering place was near the river in a grove of trees, sheltered by a high bank, where the dry creek flowed into the river. Dances were held beside a block house on a pavilion. Ed Jewell was the main fiddler for them. The first summer after the arrival of the Fiddymments, the pavilion was moved across the river and put in the bunkhouse of the Riverview Ranch, where more dances were held. The children would sleep while the parents danced. Often the sun was up when the dance was over. The river was forded or most often the ferry was used.



Top to Bottom: Daniel Leet, Vireda Moss, Gertrude Fiddymment, Harold Schellinger, Wendell Clay and Doris Fiddymment. 1921 Riverview School.



Ed and Cora Fiddymment.

Crops were planted; sometimes the yield was good, but more often, hail would shatter the crop or rain would not be abundant enough. Sometimes the rain really came quickly, and the dry creek that bordered the home would rise to ten feet and lowlands were flooded. Nobody crossed the creek then.

Two schools served the Irvine community — the Dorothys, Brocks, Eddys, Naumans, Williams, Clays, Durans, Leets, Stocks, Spellmans, Schneiders, Carmins and others. The first one was a half mile south of Naumans on a hill. Later, about 1920, a one-room building with a small barn for ponies was built a mile east of the "overhead" bridge (where the Burlington line crossed over the Northwestern line). Teachers in the new school were, first, Mrs. Fritz Schneider, then Mrs. Ward Brooks, Miss Read, and last, Mrs. Mable Nauman. In 1925, the children were bused to the school in Douglas. Mr. Wyatt served as driver many years.

Bennie Tubbs was a pupil at the new school. His stepfather treated him badly. At school he would search for crumbs in the coal bucket to eat. His stepfather beat him, and he ran away from home and hid in a straw stack one winter. Neighbors and his stepfather found him. His feet were frozen so badly they had to be amputated, then he was sent to an orphanage in Casper, where he was later adopted by parents of another crippled boy he would carry around at the orphanage.

The neighbors were enraged at Mr. Tubb's treatment of the boy, then they heard of him beating his wife, so they planned to beat him. When he was seen walking to the railroad empty boxcar station at Irvine to flag the passenger train to go to Douglas, they planned to watch for him when the train came back that day. He came back, and several men on horses watched him until he was a half mile from his home. They tied him to a fence post and whipped him, then released him. It was not long after that when both Mr. and Mrs. Tubbs were killed at Orin.

In 1931, Cora managed the county farm for county-assisted people who were in need of assistance to live. Cora had previously helped to deliver babies, nursing various people who were sick. From 12 to 24 people lived at the county farm until 1939 when it was moved from the Fiddymment ranch to Douglas.

In the days of 1918 to 1925, going to "country school," our mode of dress for girls was buttoned high-top shoes, black bloomers with elastic on the ends of the legs that came to the knees, and cotton ribbed stockings over long underwear. The underwear was put on in the fall, washed once a week, and worn every day until spring, the first of May or such. We kept warm by hot stones, or water bottles. Straw or feather ticking often served for a mattress. Every family boasted of a boiler, an oblong tub you could boil clothes in. The family wash made a big long day for the mother to do by hand, using a scrub board and hand wringer and two round tubs, besides the boiler.

Everyone knew the food must be "put up," fruit and vegetables from the garden, in jars, sauerkraut in crocks, for sure potatoes in a bin in the cellar, carrots, cabbages also in bins. Almost everyone milked a few cows, used a separator run by hand, and put the cream in a can day after day until it could be taken to town and sold

to the creamery. Probably an average family received three to six dollars a week from cream. That bought the necessities of flour, sugar, yeast, crackers and such. To buy commercial canned food instead of raising it in your garden and home canning was considered very wasteful. Some housewives made butter out of the cream, and molded it in a pound, put their name on it, and sold it to grocery stores. Some would have high reputations of good butter makers.

Edward Fiddymment was born in Lockport, Illinois in 1881. Cora Johnson Fiddymment was born in Frankfal, Kansas in 1884. Edward and Cora were married November 27, 1905 in Blue Island, Illinois. Their children are:

Gertrude, born February 22, 1911 in Blue Island, Illinois. She married Urland Meadows on January 16, 1933 in Basin Wyoming. Their children are James, Ruth and Nancy.

Doris, born March 9, 1916. She married Marshall Johnson on January 1, 1934 in Hot Springs, South Dakota. Their children are Sharlene, Carol, Gail and Stephen.

Edward Fiddymment died in 1958, Cora in 1965.

Doris Fiddymment Johnson

## Fleming, Tom and Margaret Family

Tom Fleming was born on June 1, 1876 in Marshalltown, Iowa, the son of Robert and Catherine Lithgoe Fleming. Robert was born in Scotland.

When still a lad Tom moved to Chadron, Nebraska, where he received his education attending business college. He came to Wyoming at the age of 19. He worked on several ranches in the area before going into business for himself.

In 1913 he married Margaret Stewart, a native of Scotland, in Elgin, Illinois. They lived on Duck Creek northwest of Douglas after their marriage. Two children were born to them: Stewart, born in Chicago, Illinois and Catherine, born in Cheyenne.



Reuban Black Lucas and Tom Fleming dressing out an antelope.

Mr. Fleming homesteaded in 1914 west of Fort Fetterman near the North Platte River. Later he leased a ranch on Lower LaPrele Creek from Mart Madsen. In 1925 he purchased the ranch. It is the family home of Catherine and her husband, Dick Strock, in 1985.

Tom served Converse County as its County Commissioner from 1933 to 1935.

Stewart served in the Air Force in World War II where he learned to fly. Stewart was killed in a plane accident on August 21, 1947 while competing in an aerobatic contest at an airshow in Casper.

Catherine married Dick Strock, son of Leonard and Hazel Strock, on May 27, 1942. They have five children: Thomas, Margaret, Shirley, Richard and Brad. Thomas lives on the old Wheelock place on LaPrele Creek.

Tom Fleming died on February 24, 1947, Margaret in December 1964.

John R. Pexton

## Flynn, John and Elizabeth

John Martin Flynn was born in Des Moines, Iowa on Feb. 12, 1869, the son of Martin and Ellen Kean Flynn. He acquired his early education through a governess and by private tutoring. He completed his studies at Notre Dame University in Indiana. John was associated with his father in the Walnut Hill stock farm near Des Moines where they raised purebred Shorthorn cattle. Martin Flynn was also the president of the People's Savings Bank of Des Moines.

John came to Converse County to engage in the sheep business in 1886. He was associated with his father and brothers in the venture. The company became one of the largest sheep outfits in Wyoming, running, at one time, 30,000 head. In addition to their sheep interests, the Flynns had extensive mining interests in Nevada.

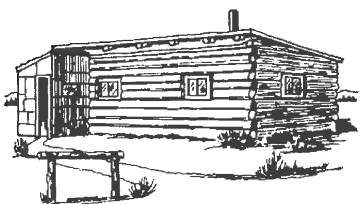
John was united in marriage to Elizabeth Jane Lee in 1895 in Fremont, Nebraska. Mrs. Flynn's parents were William Brownleigh Lee and Margaret Cassidy Lee, both of whom were born in Ireland. Elizabeth was born on Jan. 30, 1870 in Fremont. Elizabeth's father was a cousin of Robert E. Lee, Confederate general. He, along with a cousin, founded the city of Fremont, Nebraska. John and Elizabeth were the parents of one son, John Lloyd. John L. died September 23, 1958.

Mr. Flynn founded and was the first president of the Converse County Bank of Douglas in 1918. He served as a member of the State Fair Board for many years, and was president of the board for a time.

John is remembered as a big man physically, and a simple, kindly human being, considerate and helpful of his fellow man.

John died Dec. 31, 1936. Elizabeth on Sept. 21, 1962.

Ruth Grant



## Ford, Bernie Everett and Anna

Bernie Everett Ford was born in Missouri in 1888, the fourth in a family of eight children. His father, Andrew Alexander Ford was born in Missouri in 1859, his mother Mary Jeanetta Purcell Ford was born in Illinois in 1863. In 1904, the family moved to Red Cloud, Nebraska, hoping to find a drier, more healthful climate. There they were engaged in the farming business.

Bernie was married to Anna Morgan in 1915 in Oregon. In 1916, Bernie, his wife and their small son, Thayne, came to Wyoming where they filed a homestead claim on the north side of the Cheyenne River about 48 miles north of Douglas. Part of the time the family spent on the homestead, and the remainder of the time, they lived in Douglas. Bernie had built a home for his family in the Brownfield Addition. He was a carpenter by trade, working in Douglas as well as in Casper. A second son, Dean was born in 1919.

Bernie and Ross Owen, a fellow carpenter and neighbor traveled out to their claims together by team and wagon. There they helped one another build improvements on their homesteads.

In 1924, Bernie moved his family to Denver where they lived until 1933. At that time, they moved to Medford, Oregon where they operated a fruit and vegetable farm. In addition to his truck farm, Bernie kept on with his carpenter trade. He died in 1971.

Jewell Reed

## Fowler, Lee and Rachel

Lee Fowler arrived in Converse County on the 11th of November, 1916, at the age of 24 to file on a homestead. He was born July 13, 1892 on a small farm outside of Hope, Kansas and lived in that area until 1913. That summer, times were very hard and, with several other young men, he went to North Dakota to help with the harvest. From there he traveled through the northwestern part of the United States and western Canada, looking over the country and working wherever he could find a job.

In the fall of 1916 while in Saskatchewan, he received a letter from his family asking him to join them in Douglas. These included his parents, Ed (Daniel Edwin) and Catherine Haley Fowler; two brothers, Eugene Thomas Fowler and wife, Dora and children and Dennis Fowler, who was not yet 21 or married; and his sister, Nettie Fowler Cowger and husband, John and children. They had decided to move to Wyoming to take advantage of the additional land available under the Homestead Law.

The family filed, as near as possible, on adjoining homesteads approximately 22 miles north and slightly west of Douglas (between Box Creek and Skunk Creek) in the community which was later called Hyland. That first winter of 1916-17, they lived in Douglas in the front part of an old laundry building. Part of the time they shared this building with another family by the name of O'Leary. The living quarters were divided by the hanging of blankets between the two families.

One of the family's favorite stories concerns the



Top row: Murray Reed, Ellis Reed, Myrtle Shelden, Rachel Fowler, Viola Shelden holding Dorothy. Middle row: Richard Reed, Wesley Reed, Buck Shelden, Helen Shelden, Leona Fowler, Ruth Fowler. Bottom row: Kelley Shelden, Ruby Shelden, Mary Fowler and Polly Shelden.

building of the first house on the homestead. Early one morning, Lee and his brother-in-law, John Cowger, walked about six miles from his brother Gene's homestead, built the house, and put up the stove in time for John to make biscuits for lunch. In the afternoon, they started digging a well with the help of Gene and Dennis who had blown the morning taking the horses to water on Skunk Creek. The story, while true, leaves out such small details as the fact the lumber was already there, precut, and the house just eight foot square.

The hand-dug well, started that afternoon, is an example of the optimism Lee and his brothers shared. The site was chosen because it was on a corner which would serve three families. In an area where water is inadequate, deep, or non-existent, they were lucky and actually found a good well at 40 feet.

With a number of other men from the area, Lee went into the army in 1918. He left on June 6th and after a few weeks basic training at Camp Lee, Virginia, sailed for France on an old German freighter re-named the *Susquehana*. The crossing took eleven days and was a miserable trip with terrible food. One morning they were served hard-boiled eggs and cracked them open to find baby chickens instead. Overseas he served as an Asst. Farrier in the Veterinarian Corps. and returned to this country on a Japanese passenger ship with accommodations far more comfortable than on the first voyage. He was separated on July 4, 1919 in Cheyenne.

Rachel Furman (Fowler), and her twin sister Ruth (Mrs. Walter Whitaker), arrived in Douglas in the fall of 1923 to accept positions as teachers in the rural school system. They were born June 11, 1903 on a ranch a few miles east of Marsland, Nebraska on the Niobrara River. The youngest of eleven children, they were the only ones to move to Wyoming, but their father, Howard G. Furman, had traveled extensively over the state many years before.

In a short, hand-written document, Howard Furman wrote a little about his experiences at that time. The first paragraph reads as follows:

"In the fall of 1867, I landed in Nebraska. At that time, Omaha was not much of a town - just a few frame shacks - the end of the U. P. was at that time at Pine Bluffs, Nebraska. I remember seeing lots of deer and antelope along the track coming out from Omaha. Cheyenne was rather a noisy little town. From Cheyenne I went to Fort Sanders and when the U. P. built into Laramie City, I carried the mail from Fort Sanders to Laramie City."

He spent the next two years traveling around Wyoming, Utah, and other parts of the west before returning to his home in Pennsylvania. In 1872, at the age of 24, he enlisted in the army and returned to the west where he served at a small post near Laramie Peak at the time Lt. Robinson was killed. Of particular interest to Converse County is another paragraph:

"In 1876, we left Camp Douglas, Utah to take a hand in the troubles that General Custer was having with the Indians in the Big Horn country. We left the train at Medicine Bow. I was sent on ahead with material to cross the Platte at Fort Fetterman. We got across the Platte all right and were well on our way when we met a courier with the news of the massacre."

Rachel's father eventually homesteaded in Nebraska and many years later (almost 50) was seriously concerned about his two youngest daughters moving to Converse County, Wyoming because he was not sure anyone would make a living in what he called "short-grass" country.

Rachel was assigned to teach at the Sunnyside School which was located (at that time) less than a mile from Lee's homestead. She boarded with his parents, Ed and Catherine Fowler, and Lee and Rachel were married March 29, 1924. To this union four children were born; Ruth Helen, Rachel Leona, Robert Lee (deceased) and Mary Jean.

Soon after Lee and Rachel married, both of his brothers left and then his sister (the John Cowgers) moved to Douglas. In 1928, his father died and his mother also moved to Douglas where she lived until her death in 1946.

The early days of homesteading through the drought and depression of the 30's were years of hard work and hard times. Like many other families, we sold eggs and cream for grocery money, but it never occurred to us that we might be poor. There was always a big garden with the surplus canned for winter, all the meat and dairy products we could eat, store-bought candy when we went to town and cod-liver oil all winter long. Naturally, most money went for more land, livestock or equipment, but there was enough squeezed out for a trip to Nebraska every year and short trips to Yellowstone Park, the Black Hills and other places. In 1937, we took our first long trip. Lee wanted to show his family the wonderful country filled with green fields and orchards of his youth but the ensuing years had not been kind to Kansas. The trees were mostly dead and the land blighted. From there we went to Oklahoma and then Texas. Near Corpus Christi we hit a nine-inch rain with the road invisible and although we loved the orange groves in the Rio Grande Valley, on the way home (outside of Amarillo) we hit a dust storm so black that even with the lights on we were unable to drive until it was over. We were certainly glad



to get home to the clean, dry air of Wyoming.

In 1938, Lee and Rachel bought their first sheep. Although financially the sheep were more suitable for the ranch, we girls found them far less interesting. The cows had descriptive names (Brockie Face, Lump Jaw, Little Line Back, Anteover, etc.) but the sheep all looked alike. Another drawback to sheep, we soon discovered, was their ability to disappear. No sooner were we comfortably settled on our horse, one leg hooked over the saddle horn for stability and a good book in our hands, than they were over the hill and three miles away.

In addition to travel, Lee was an enthusiastic reader and always interested in new ideas. In the early 30's, he bought a Zenith radio and a windcharger for the power to run it and then a larger windcharger for lights and an electric fence to discourage cattle (and kids) from crawling through fences. After he got sheep, he ordered docking rings from Australia and was one of the first to try (and reject) crested wheat grass to reclaim fields. Not all of his experiments worked out, of course, but they kept life interesting.

Rachel loved being outdoors and spent as much time as she could helping outside. In the early years, she worked cattle, sheep and in the fields and now devotes that same enthusiasm to flowers and golf. This was in addition to all the inside work and Lee insists, even today, that they never went anyplace without Rachel staying up all night, the night before, making each of us girls a new dress.

The 40s did not change hard work much but times were better. With Ruth and Leona both graduated from the eighth grade at Sunnyside School, they got an apartment in Douglas so the older girls could go to high school and Mary to North Grade. All three girls graduated from Converse County High School. With the girls out of school and building material again available after the war, Lee and Rachel almost completely remodeled the house on the ranch. This house burned in 1969 so we have no early photographs.

In the spring of 1955, Lee suffered a serious heart attack and to a large extent retired. Lee and Rachel still made their home on the ranch but spent most winters traveling. The only other item which may be of future historical interest was the discovery of uranium by Humble Oil Company (now Exxon) north of Box Creek on federally owned minerals. The site they wanted for the uranium mill was on our deeded land which we traded for land they had purchased from Mortons, Inc. Since that time, Exxon has been busily and happily (we presume) re-landscaping the south end of the ranch.

1984 finds Lee (at 91) and Rachel (at 80) in excellent health. They still live on the ranch where they are joined by their three daughters for about three months of each summer and they still spend their winters traveling.

Ruth Fowler Lundburg



## Fowler, Wade and Maude Family

In 1899, Wade H. Fowler came to Douglas, Wyoming where he lived in the area for many years. He was especially active in the Democratic party, serving as State Senator for two terms and as County Assessor for two terms.

Wade was born in 1874 in South Carolina, the son of Elijah and Edda Corbin Fowler. He was educated in the elementary schools of his native state, continuing his education in Cullowhee Normal and Industrial School at Cullowhee, North Carolina.

After his schooling ended, he returned to the family home farm where he worked with his father until he reached the age of 21. During that period of life, he became familiar with all aspects of farming, learning the most effective methods of tilling the soil and gathering the crops.

When Wade was in his early twenties, he left his home. He served in the Spanish American War, after which he went to Texas where he remained only six months before coming to Wyoming in 1899.

Upon his arrival in Wyoming, Wade worked on the range, and was identified with the sheep business. In 1903, he started his own business, owning the Bates Sheep Company located north of the Cheyenne River. Later he was principal owner and director of the Dixie Sheep Company, having sold the Bates Sheep Company.

Maude Kimbrough Fowler became the wife of Wade Fowler in 1906. Maude had been born and raised in Madisonville, Tennessee. There were five sons born to the couple, namely, Fred, Carey and Douglas (twins), Corbin and Wade Kimbrough Fowler.

Maude worked for many years for local dentists.

Wade was appointed to the position of registrar of the United States Land Office in Douglas in 1913, and served in that position until it was relocated in Cheyenne in 1917.

Wade was a member of the Baptist Church, Woodman of the World and of the Commerical Club. He never regretted coming to the West, for here he was able to take advantage of opportunities to further his aims. He was active in the community, working for its development, as well as working toward the betterment of the State of Wyoming.

Ruth Grant

## Foxton Family

Six known children of George Fredrick and Clara Roberts Foxton of Fettercairn, Cincardshire, Scotland came to the United States in the 1880s and settled in what is now Converse County. They were: George (born April 16, 1863, died November 22, 1940), Jack (born November 30, 1866, died November 28, 1927), Fred (born May 17, 1864, died February 17, 1929), Clara (born 1867, died September 16, 1949), Henry "Harry" (born April 20, 1869, died August 26, 1938) and Mary (born 1870, died 1912).

George and Fred were the first of the family to come over. George, being the oldest in the family was, by family tradition, supposed to follow in his father's footsteps and be an Episcopal minister, but upon his decision not to do





L. to R. Anna and George Foxton, 1918.

so he left the family home and came to America, bringing his brother, Fred, along with him in 1884.

They first arrived in Cheyenne but before the year was out they came to Converse County where George found work on the Harry Pollard ranch. Fred moved on to Buffalo where he worked for the "76" outfit.

By 1885 George had squatted on land on Indian or Wilson Creek south of Douglas (Tim Pexton lives here now). It is evident by the water rights granted that Jack must have come over to join his brothers in 1885 because water rights were issued to him in that year on Mill Creek (Ann Grant Brock lives here now).

In 1888 George and Fred married sisters, George marrying Anna and Fred marrying Clara. They were daughters of the Richardson family, a well-to-do family of Scotland having acquired their wealth by dealing in junk. The newlyweds had known one another in their youth. The couples were married in New York where the sisters had been met by Fred and George upon their arrival from Scotland.

Fred and Clara H. (as she was called to distinguish her from her sister-in-law Clara) lived on Indian Creek before moving to Elkhorn Creek where they purchased the George Howe ranch in 1893 (Gus Gruwell lives there in 1985).

Harry and his sister, Clara, came to join the family. They lived with Jack on the Mill Creek Ranch. None of the three married.



Dick Foxton on the Indian Creek Ranch.

Jack became interested in the mineral development around Esterbrook and was instrumental in starting the mine at Esterbrook. He was also postmaster of Esterbrook from 1909 to 1911.

Clara is remembered by many of the neighbors and relatives as a person who loved cats and had many of them in the house at all times. She was a tall woman and was usually found sitting on the floor rather than on a chair. She is also remembered as being one of the first ladies to smoke in the community, rolling her own cigarettes by hand. She was known to usually have a sink full of dirty dishes; whenever one set got dirty she had another set that she would use.

Fred and Clara H. moved to Douglas in their later years where he worked in the mercantile business with George Metcalf. Their only daughter, Dorothy, married Frank Messenger, son of Charles Messenger. Clara H. died in 1940.

George and Annie had five children: George Jr., Marjorie (Hauf, Lewin), Richard, Jack and Douglas. They sold their holdings on Indian Creek to Arthur Kenyon in 1909 for \$15,000 and moved to Horseshoe Creek near Glendo where he purchased a ranch from George Boyd. Annie died in 1921. (Jack Lancaster lives here in 1985.)

The Foxtons were considered as country gentlemen ranchers by their neighbors. The early issues of the "Douglas Budget" have many items where the men are mentioned as having participated in shooting matches and in local social activities. Their Scottish and English heritage lives on in the architectural style of houses they built in the area.

John R. Pexton

## Freeman, General Henry and Sarah

Henry B. Freeman was born in Knox County, Ohio in 1836.

He entered the army as a private in 1855 and at the outbreak of the Civil War he received his commission as a second lieutenant. His service in the great war was marked by gallantry in action and long periods in southern prisons. He received the Congressional Medal of Honor for distinguished gallantry in the battle of Stone River. In May, 1866 he received his commission as captain in the regular army.

While visiting General Sherman in St. Louis, he met Sarah Darlington of Zanesville, Ohio. This meeting led to their marriage on April 26, 1866 in Newark, Ohio.

In 1866, Captain Freeman was stationed in the west and took part in the Sioux Wars of 1866-1868. He was at Ft. Fetterman from 1869 to the early 1870's. It was his command that buried General Custer at Little Big Horn.

His wife followed him throughout his service in the west, sharing the vicissitudes and dangers that went with an army officer's life.

During this time there were four children born: Louie, Cozie, Luther (B. November 27, 1871 in Ft. Crook, Montana) and Sarah (B. December, 1882 in St. Paul, Minnesota). Cozie lost his life while rescuing his younger brother, Louie, when he fell through the ice while skating on a lake.

In 1882, while in command at Fort Laramie, he made a hunting trip through this section and was so impressed with the beauty of the country in which the LaBonte flowed that he filed on a piece of land here.

George H. Cross, Sr. tells about this same piece of land in his journals. "Dennis Leman and I had become friends and, anxious to get settled before winter, decided to use our pre-emption and desert rights to file on adjoining claims on some very good land we had selected. We hired Wilbur Sampson, a deputy surveyor, to stake out the acreage and to line up an irrigation ditch. Dennis and I paid Sampson and went to file our claims only to meet with great disappointment as we learned Sampson had double crossed us and the day before had given General Henry Freeman the descriptions. Freeman had filed on the best part of the land so we lost out completely. Sampson had political aspirations and thought Freeman could swing more votes his way than Dennis and I. Freeman later told us Sampson had tipped him off. We protested to Sampson and demanded our money be returned but never got it."

The irrigation ditch that furnished water for their claim was called the Darlington Ditch. It was filed with the State of Wyoming with a priority date of October 1, 1885 and covered 645 acres.

Henry was made a major in 1891 and Lt. Colonel in 1895. He served in the Spanish American War in the Philippines. In January of 1901 he retired at the age of 64 with the permanent rank of brigadier general.

General Freeman died on October 16, 1915. Brief services were conducted at the residence of E. T. David in Douglas on October 17. He was buried in Arlington Cemetery at Washington, D.C.

Sarah died in November, 1927.

Julia, their daughter, married Robert D. Carey on September 4, 1901. He later was to become governor and a U. S. senator from Wyoming. They had one daughter, Sarah, and one son, Joe. Julia died in 1971.

Luther graduated from the University of Michigan becoming an attorney-at-law. He became acquainted with Harry Sinclair at school and was involved as a counselor for the defense for Sinclair Oil Co. in the Teapot Dome oil leasing case in 1924.

Luther married Margaret S. "Tippie" Willox. They had two daughters, Ann (married Newt Fackler) and Julia (married C. A. Thomas of Glendo) and one son Henry B. The Freemans lived on the ranch until 1935 when it was sold. The Whitaker Family own it now. Tippie later operated the Tippie Inn in Esterbrook and Glendo.

Luther died on July 19, 1957 and Tippie on December 18, 1966.

Julia Freeman Thomas

## French, William and Fannie

William Lee French was born in Chester, New York on December 3, 1858. Fannie Benham was born in Saranac Lake, New York on June 16, 1865. They were united in marriage in Saranac Lake in 1887.

They were engaged in farming in New York before deciding to go west. Their first stopping place was Fort Collins, Colorado and then they moved by covered wagon

to Esterbrook, Wyoming. Lee, as he was known to his friends, and his brother Tim worked together in the lumbering business at Esterbrook.

Tim French later moved to Lost Springs where he farmed for the rest of his life. He is buried in the Lost Springs Cemetery.

In 1903, Lee and Fannie moved to Douglas where they operated the LaFayette Restaurant for three years. Then he hired out as foreman on the Clelland Ranch near Ft. Fetterman. In 1909 they homesteaded northeast of Glendo where they farmed until ill health forced them to move to Glendo where they lived until his death in 1939.

Lee loved horses and working with horses. In addition to farming, he operated a dray business and also did road work around Glendo, Orin and Manville. This was in the days when roads were built with horses and scrappers. He told of many narrow escapes with runaway horses.

William and Fannie had three children. Their two sons were drowned in the LaBonte Creek near the George Goodwin Ranch (Rita Alexander now owns the ranch). They fell in the high waters while playing on the banks of the creek. Their bodies were found down stream later after the waters had receded. They are buried in the Douglas Park Cemetery.

Their daughter, Bessie, married George Jacob Snyder in Douglas, December 6, 1903. She was a very attractive girl, and according to the young men of the community at that time, the prettiest girl in Converse County at that time. She was a devoted homemaker who liked music, dancing and reading.

William, who passed away in 1939, and Fannie, who died in 1941, are both lying at rest in the French-Snyder plot in Douglas Park Cemetery.

While Lee and Fannie lived in Douglas, his sister Claudia French Miller and her son Bill came to visit and decided to make their home in Douglas.

Dr. Claudia Miller was the first woman to graduate from the Palmer Method School of Chiropractics and licensed to practice. She started practicing in Douglas. Her office was in her home located in the 500 block on North Fourth Street. She practiced in Douglas until about 1915 and moved to Oberlin, Kansas where she practiced until her death.

Emma Bansept Snyder

## Froggatt, Lloyd and Ruby Family

It was a humble beginning. The old log structure with dirt roof atop provided a simple birthplace for Lloyd Froggatt on the 15th day of February in 1887. He was the only child born to Tillie Brockway Froggatt and George L. Froggatt. The couple had claimed squatters rights in the Little LaPrele area. Lloyd's father died when he was only three months old so he and his mother left the meager cabin to live with her father and family on Fetterman Flats. There they homesteaded. It was the Brockway Family that originated the Morton Ditch.

Lloyd worked for George W. Metcalf in 1905 at his general store. In 1907 he went to work for the George Bolln Company, purchasing the store in 1932. He operated the store until 1937. In October of that year he was appointed County Treasurer, the office being vacated due to

the death of William Burgess. Mr. Froggatt held this office for five years.

In January 1908, he was married to Ruby Davis. They were the parents of six children: Veronica (Toots), George, Harriet (Mrs. Earl Scott), Jim, Anna and Jack.

In 1943 Lloyd was elected County Clerk and held that position until his retirement in 1966. Mr. Froggatt drove the Beaver mail route and part of the Ross route at the age of sixteen. A team and buggy, sled, cart — depending on weather conditions — were used for this purpose. He attended the first State Fair which was held in Douglas in 1905 and was present at one performance each year until the time of his death in June 1969. Lloyd was a gentleman dedicated to our county government and its people and spent his entire life in Douglas, Wyoming. Ruby died on May 11, 1938.

Ann Scott Boner

## Fryer, Robert

Robert Fryer was born at Cadiz, Ohio in 1837. He served with the 11th Ohio Cavalry in the Civil War. He came to Wyoming in 1878 to find work near Fort Fetterman on John Hunton's Milk Ranch located on Lower LaPrele Creek. (The ranch was located north of where County Road #30 crosses LaPrele Creek. The Strock family own the land today.) Mr. Hunton used the ranch to supply his freight wagons and to shoe the oxen in the blacksmith shop located there. Hunton mentions about having hogs on the ranch, no doubt they were butchered and either sold to people going through on their way to



Robert "Bobby" Fryer.

Rock Creek or to the southeast to Fort Laramie.

In December 1878 Hunton sold the ranch to Fryer. Hunton wrote in his diaries the following, "Thursday, December 5, 1878, turned over the shops to Robert Fryer. Sold him all of the hard wood left there except enough to finish my wagon. Went to Post (Fetterman) and reported to Captain Coats that I had moved Milk Ranch and abandoned shops to Fryer."

Records show Fryer getting a water right in 1890 out of LaPrele Creek for 37 acres.

Pauline Smith Peyton wrote about Fryer, "The idea of a rural school to be located in the lower LaPrele Valley originated in the mind of Robert Fryer, a bachelor who was commonly known as "The Blacksmith Poet of Lower LaPrele." The school became known as Pleasant Valley School with the school house being built from money donated by people living in the valley. Fryer was one of the first school board trustees.

Robert Fryer died on June 2, 1919.

John R. Pexton

## Gallagher, Grover and Emma

Grover Gallagher, stockman and farmer, came to Wyoming in 1907. Born in Lawrence, Kansas in 1888 he spent an early life and schooling in southern Missouri. His first job was with the Mahan Ranch near Casper. Shortly thereafter he connected with Gov. Joseph M. Carey's CY Ranch and participated in following years in the stock roundups extending from the Ross country to the Chugwater. Grover spent his next twenty years on the Careyhurst Ranch as foreman of irrigation and stockfeeding. He then went to work for the Freeland outfit in the Bates Hole south of Casper where he stayed in the same capacity until 1936.

In that year he purchased his own first operation from the B. C. Wheelock acreage in the LaPrele district. In succeeding years he acquired additional land and livestock to a total of 600 acres. He was a member of the ASC and the LaPrele Irrigation Association. In 1924, Grover married Emma Marask of Springfield, Illinois. The children of this union were Patrick (b. 1924) and grandchildren Michael, Matthew, and Robin; daughter Helen (b. 1930) and granddaughter Cherie. Fond of card games and the exercise of an acerbic wit Grover and his wife related tales of trips by buckboard and sleigh to early dances at the LaPrele Community Hall. Both Grover and his wife died in 1979. His son, Patrick, was a sergeant with the U.S. Army in the European Theatre during World War II.

Jim Williams

## Gardner, R. R. and Beatrice

I went to Wyoming in February, 1917 when the state was still new. People were coming in to file on homesteads and oil was being discovered.

I landed in Glenrock completely broke and worked for Jack Crow as a barber for about two months. Then I met Mr. Joe Slaughter who was a director of the Glenrock

State Bank and part-owner of the Slaughter-Patzold Sheep Company. He said, "they needed help in the bank," and told me to ask for a job. They hired me and in about six months I was Assistant Cashier.

I worked for the bank for seven years and at that time. C. Leonard Smith, an attorney, heard that I was studying law under the American Bankers Association and he asked me if I would like to study law in his office. I said I would and so I entered his office and studied law for three years, took the bar examination, passed it and practiced law in Glenrock until I retired and came to Florida in 1950.

During those early days in Wyoming, I handled applications for homesteads and took the final proofs and got patents for the homesteaders.

I was City Attorney for many years, and was active in all civic affairs: the Masonic Lodge, the Eastern Star, Lions Club, American Legion, etc.

I feel that I did have a part in the early development of Wyoming. I married Beatrice H. Rollins, granddaughter of Col. Emerson H. Kimball and his wife, Lizzie, both of whom were real pioneers in Wyoming. My wife and I proved up on a homestead so we knew what it was all about.

One of our sons, Leonard, still lives in Wyoming. He is retired and lives at Dubois and Dick lives at Merced, California.

Roscoe R. Gardner

## Gaylord, Preston O. and Grace Family

Preston Otis Gaylord, of English descent, was born in Marshalltown, Iowa on November 27, 1884, the youngest of six children of Rial Wilson and Sarah M. Gaylord. When Preston was 18 months of age, his mother died. Shortly thereafter, Rial brought his family to Hay Springs, Nebraska. In July 1887, they moved on to Chadron, then a small town of 400 people. It was the terminal for the Elkhorn, Fremont and Missouri Valley Railroad. In 1894, Rial married for the second time to Eliza F. Moore. To supplement their income, Eliza took in washing, mostly for the railroad engineers.

Preston grew up in Chadron and received his meager education there. He started working for the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad at the age of 14, wiping engines in the roundhouse. It was night work—16 hours paid \$1.10. He became ill from the gas created by the use of Iowa coal which contained sulphur so he quit the job to go to Wyoming, hoping to regain his health. He was employed on a sheep ranch, located about 50 miles west of Casper belonging to Adams and Crawford.

The sheep were grazed on the summer range near the Hole-in-the-Wall with Preston herding them. In 1902 the Curry gang came by the sheep camp and forced Preston to feed them. This is coincidental since George Curry grew up in Chadron and was a childhood friend of Preston's brother, Arthur Gaylord. George left home to go to Wyoming where he joined a band of outlaws who preyed on the shipments of gold carried by the railroad. After one such robbery, they stashed their gold in the Hole-in-the-Wall and went into Casper to celebrate. Misfortune befell them, however, for the sheriff gave chase. Curry



Orin tourist home filing station, 1924. L. to R. Otis, Grace and Earl Gaylord.

was separated from his gang and killed in the Utah desert. Arthur Gaylord was summoned from Chadron to identify the body.

After regaining his health, Preston returned to Chadron and was once more employed by the railroad, this time in the supply yard where they handled materials for building bridges. On October 15, 1905, he hired on as a freight brakeman. There was no limit to the number of hours one could work at that time. Preston's first trip lasted 44 hours. Later, laws were passed governing the hours, limiting them to 16 per day with relief for at least eight hours.

Grace M. Farmer was united in marriage to P. O. Gaylord on September 14, 1910. Grace's parents had homesteaded eight miles northwest of Hay Springs, Nebraska in the days when Indians forced farmers to grab a few blankets, pile into wagons and hurry to town, remaining there in churches or in the city hall until the emergency was over. Grace's family moved into Wyoming in the late 1890's to live in the Bates Creek country west of Casper.

Of interest is an account of a heroic ride made by a ranch hand in 1897. There was little or no available medical help then, and when a young woman of the community was stricken with a high fever, the man rode 25 miles to a neighboring place, changed to a fresh horse and rode another 25 miles to get the necessary medicine.



"J" type locomotive and snow plow, 1928, on Northwestern Railroad track in Orin. P. O. Gaylord, pilot.



He made the round trip of 100 miles in eight hours.

After their marriage, the Gaylords lived in various towns depending upon where the railroad required Gaylord to work. Two children were born to them, Otis G., in 1911 and Earl F., in 1913. At one time they lived on Capin Street at the east edge of the town of Chadron. Indians would camp on that block with their tents pitched on the hill. Their object was not actually battle, but they wanted instead to drive the farmers from their homes just long enough so that they could slaughter their cattle. The Ninth Cavalry from Ft. Robinson, a regiment of black horses and black men, would ride out to confront the Indians. Local children would wait for the soldiers to return, hoping to be given some hardtack.

In 1914, Grace and Preston filed on 160 acres at Orin and built their home near the old Cedar Tree Spring. Grace and the children lived there during the summer but returned to Chadron during the winter. Orin was the junction point for the Colorado and Southern Railroad and the Chicago and Northwestern. Passenger trains for both roads stopped there at noon to eat, the meals being served to the travelers in an old railroad dining car.

The homestead at Orin was improved and grew in size. A barn, chicken house and a well were added, as well as several more quarter-sections of land acquired by homestead or by purchase.

The Gaylords moved to Douglas in 1919. About this time, the highway through Orin was relocated to follow along the railroad tracks. It crossed a corner of the Gaylord property and Preston decided it might be lucrative to establish a filling station near the highway, so he moved the building from the homestead to the new location. During the next few years, he built a rooming house, along with sheds, corrals and a barn. Gaylords rented rooms to tourists, had a free campground with places for fires for cooking and furnished free wood. They also set up a small grocery store and stocked spare Model T parts. The Gaylord home was equipped with gas lights and they had the first refrigerator in town.

The C&NW purchased a plot of land from Preston near the filling station where they built a roundhouse for two engines, a turning "Y" and a water tank. The railroad was transporting gasoline from Casper to Houston, Texas at the time for shipment overseas. The oil trains needed help over the long grade from Orin to Jireh. Preston took the pilot's job, having charge of the two "helper" engines. This job lasted for 18 years. During this time period, the two Gaylord boys were educated in the grade school in Orin and later in the high school in Douglas.

Nearly all of the small towns had baseball teams in the early 20's, some of them being Dry Creek, Walker Creek, Orpha, Glenrock, Manville, Lost Springs, Keeline and even Braae, Wyoming, where over half the players carried the family name of Braae. Orin boasted a good diamond and a very good team. They made all their own bases, plates and even their uniforms. In 1933, Orin won the State Championship of the Farm League.

Prior to 1930, dances were held every other Saturday night at the Orin garage. The cars in the building were pushed to the rear, the cement floor cleaned and waxed and food was prepared for the midnight supper. Later on, dances were held in the warehouse behind the store and

in the hayloft of the Pollock barn. Music was by local talent, Lewis and Harold Gillespie and Mary Gillespie, Clifford's wife.

After the discontinuation of the "helper" engine, the Gaylords moved to Casper for a year. In 1939, Otis, the eldest son, died of leukemia. In 1944, Preston sold his property to Mr. Burke and the family returned to Chadron where Preston worked in the capacity of conductor on a passenger train. In 1947 he was involved in a hair-raising incident. He was on a passenger train south from Rapid City when they encountered a huge prairie fire. Close to Fairburn the crew found a bridge on fire. For a time, they tried to put it out with their engine hose, but failed in this attempt. Then they decided to make a fast run across the burning bridge, and they did! Further on, however, they found a bridge which was completely burned. They regretted their daring crossing of the first bridge. The crew bought rolls and cookies at Fairburn and made coffee on the burning bridge for the 13 passengers, two of whom were nuns. They were rescued later by a relief train. On a later run, the two nuns were again passengers on the train which Preston was conducting. They recognized him and laughingly reminded him of the night they all drank coffee from an old black coffee pot.

Preston retired in 1950 with an unblemished record with the railroad. In 1973, the Gaylords celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary at their home in Chadron, and that same year Mr. Gaylord became a 50 year member of the Masonic Lodge.

Preston passed away on the 22nd of November, 1976 at the age of 93. Grace, who also reached the age of 93, is buried beside her husband in the Greenwood Cemetery in Chadron. Otis married Mary Rooney in Cheyenne in 1936. He died on August 20, 1939 in Denver.

Earl Gaylord graduated from Converse County High School and worked for the Wyoming State Highway Department and at home for a year. He then attended Wyoming University when he met and married Vesta Jane Kinsley, daughter of Doctor Elmer Kinsley. Earl and Vesta became parents in August 22, 1938 when Gerald E. Gaylord was born. Both parents graduated from the university in 1939. Vesta with a B.A. in Education and Earl with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. The couple lived in various towns of Wyoming, where engineering work was available.

One stop was the Soil Conservation Service at Gillette where son Daniel W. Gaylord was born June 3, 1941. Upon completing necessary requirements in 1941, Earl was hired by the U.S. Army Corps as a professional engineer. Soon thereafter, he was called for service in the U.S. Infantry as a result of the commission he had earned while at the university. Shortly thereafter, he was sent to the Pacific Theater, and Vesta returned to Casper where son Thomas K. Gaylord was born September 22, 1943.

Earl returned from the service early in 1946 after seeing action from Milne Bay, New Guinea to Japan. Earl and Vesta then lived for seven years at Fort Peck Dam in Montana where the three boys attended school and Earl worked as a hydraulic engineer while the Corps of Engineers completed that great project.

The corps moved the family to Kansas City in 1952 to help update the Missouri River basin hydrology as a result of the 1951 flood. The family lived in Independence,



Missouri for several productive and also tragic years. Vesta Jane passed away in 1965 with Hodgkins Disease leaving a great void in the family. Earl retired from the Corps of Engineers in 1971 with 31 years of service and also retired as a Lt. Col. from the U.S. Army Engineers.

Earl Gaylord

## **Gazlay, Edith Cross Garnick**

Edith M. Cross was born on August 26, 1900 in Arcadia, Nebraska, the daughter of Joshua and Nancy David Cross. She was the youngest of seven children. Edith's mother was born in Pennsylvania and her father was from Nebraska.

The Crosses homesteaded near Arcadia on the Loup River. A large sod house was built by the family members on the homestead.

In 1906 Nancy died of an infection incurred while giving birth to a daughter. Edith remembers the heart-break and sorrow that the family went through as her mother died. Nancy called each of the children to her deathbed, one at a time.

Edith married Arnold Garnick. They moved from Marsland, Nebraska to a rented farm near Veteran, Wyoming where they ran a sawmill. They also had a homestead here.

The depression came and with it hard times for the Garnicks. Arnold went to work elsewhere and as a result Edith got a divorce. She remained in the area, living in a cabin in Esterbrook. She made a living by taking in ironing and washing from the CCC boys stationed at the nearby CCC camp one mile north of Esterbrook. There was one time when things were very desperate. They were saved when a lady from the welfare office showed up at their door with some groceries.

The family moved to Lingle for a time but Esterbrook was always their home.

Edith married George Gazlay in 1950. They moved to Oregon where they lived for ten years before coming back to Esterbrook where he died.

Edith lives in the Irwin Towers at the present time.

Edith Garnick Gazlay

## **Gedney, John and Martha Family**

The roots of the Gedney family in America began in 1637 when they came from England to settle in Salem, Massachusetts. By the 1870's a branch of the family had settled in Central Iowa. It was here that twin sons, Harry and Harold, were born to John and Martha Jane Teeter Gedney in 1879. Later John and his family moved to South Dakota.

In 1909 Harold married Cecilia Meoska in White Lake, South Dakota. Cecilia and her sister Sophia, who married Harry, were born in Plankinton, South Dakota to Joseph and Barbara Haberkorn Meoska.

Harold and Harry, along with their wives, came to Platte County in 1909. They purchased the Billy Burkett place on lower Elkhorn Creek.

Finding that the Elkhorn ranch was too small for two

families, Harold and Cecilia began looking for another place.

It was the lure of milk and honey that beckoned the Gedney family to Converse County. The LaPrele Ditch and Reservoir Co. thru their agents Thomas Brownfield, W.F. Hamilton and B.J. Erwin hosted a picnic in Downey Park for prospective buyers of land under the LaPrele Dam. They were also shown fields of peas grown by Ralph Olds in the park. The display of lush fields was supposed to exemplify that crops could be grown profusely in Wyoming. So it was in 1911, after succumbing to the sales pitch of Brownfield and associates that Harold and Cecilia; his parents John and Martha; his sisters Lola, Fay, Hazel and Marie came to Converse County settling on upper Bedtick Creek.

Shortly after moving to Wyoming John died in 1911 while Martha lived until 1919.

Lola, Fay, Hazel and Marie became teachers and taught around the area. Fay teaching at the Pleasant Valley School in 1911-12 with Marie as one of her students.

Later Lola was to marry Fred Roediger and moved to Platte County where they homesteaded and raised a family. Hazel and Fay married brothers, Lawrence and Charlie Graham, and moved to South Dakota. Marie met and married Fred Lietritz. They made their home in Alliance, Nebraska. Fred was named to the Cowboy Hall of Fame recently.

Three sons were born to Harold and Cecilia after they came to Converse County, Joseph in 1911; Lawrence in 1912; and Henry in 1916.

School for the children was first held in a building on Bedtick and later in a place near the Harry Anderson homestead on Little Bedtick. Some of the teachers were Marie McNamara, Edna Senters and Tillie Fourfangs. Mary Dunn (Bruner) was also a teacher at one time. Some of the teachers lived in Douglas and rode back and forth horseback using horses belonging to the National Guard Cavalry. Joe remembers that Thomas Brownfield was on the District #17 School Board at the time and was instrumental in seeing that everyone had good schools. Later on, a Model T Ford bus took the students to the Douglas School.

Harold died in 1934 and Cecilia in 1974.

Joe married Mary Stuckey of Hill City, Kansas on Jan. 20, 1949. They were parents of three daughters, Linda, Carol and Barbara. Mary passed away in Sept. of 1963 and Joe died in 1984.

Henry married June Stewart. They operate and own the original land that the family bought when they came to Converse County. They are one of the few families that still have the lands that were patented to them under the LaPrele project.

John R. Pexton

## **Gentle, Robert and Minnie Family**

The Gentle heritage is now in the sixth generation in the USA.

It started with Andrew Gentle, who immigrated to the U.S. from Scotland in 1784. He married Anna Yale, whose uncle was one of the founders of the Yale University. Not liking the new government and being a strong lobbyist, he

moved to Sweet, Canada. Three children were born of the union, Hiram, Sally and Betsy.

Hiram married Mary Bateman in 1821; and they had 13 children, of which Robert and Hiram left Canada and went to Iowa where they started to farm and do bridge work for the railroad.

Hiram, Jr. married Sara Tracy in Rome, Iowa in 1867. Three children were born to this union, Minnie, Albert and our father, Robert Tracy.

Robert moved to Livingston, Montana as a young man and started a men's haberdashery. He married our mother, Minnie Cresap (who can trace her family tree in the U.S. before the Revolution War). Three children were born to this union, Justine and William, who were born in Livingston and Robert who was born in Douglas, Wyoming.

In 1915, our father moved to Douglas, Wyoming where he and his brother-in-law, J. N. McCracken bought the Metcalf Mercantile. The store in general has changed many times. The first major change in the Golden Rule Store came in 1948 when all new modern fixtures were installed. In 1970 again the store went through another major change in its appearance.

After World War II, Robert's sons, Bill and Bob, became very active in the management of the Golden Rule Store. Tracy, Bob's son, is now taking over the active management of the Golden Rule Store, thus making the Golden Rule Store the oldest retail store in Douglas owned by the same family and in the same location — 70 years.

Robert Tracy died in 1950, Minnie in 1951.

Bill Gentle

## George, Emanuel and Mary

Emanuel George was born in England, probably Yorkshire about 1823, the son of Wm. Henry and Eve (Marshall) George. He came to the U.S. with the rest of his family on the ship, Ontario, to New York in 1839. The family migrated inland to Greene County, Wisconsin where he met and married a Swiss girl, Barbara Blum. Emanuel served in the Civil War in Co. C of the 43rd Regiment of Wisconsin Infantry, and shortly after his discharge must have made his first trip to Wyoming. In the "Annals of Wyoming" Vol. 6 Book 4, p. 318 Mr. E. J. Wells, in an article entitled, "Mineral Resources of Central Wyoming" tells of Emanuel: "In 1869, Emanuel George, an experienced and intelligent prospector, came to this section and found the old shafts and opened more. He found an abundance of copper, but as it was worth only about ten cents a pound, it could not be marketed because the Union Pacific, the nearest railroad, was over 100 miles to the south and roads were very poor. George was further handicapped by being a miner in cow country. The cowboys dubbed him "Crazy Horse" George. This nickname was advanced further because Emanuel wore his hair long and was often seen in buckskins."

Emanuel's home was a cabin between Rabbit and Crazy Horse Creeks; he later built another on Wagonhound Creek.

Barbara, his first wife died in Wisconsin in 1868.



Emanuel George.

He remarried a widow named Mary (Wisdown) Wallin who followed him to Wyoming. Little is known about her life in Converse County. Mention is made of Mary George in George Cross' journal in 1887 when she worked for them. At the time of their daughter Stella's marriage (1896), she had a home on 4th Street in Douglas. The Court-house records of Converse County show this was sold by Emanuel and Mary to the First Congregational Church of Douglas who later sold to the Chambers family. By 1886 Emanuel had sold his land to Charles Horr.

In the mid-1880s Emanuel made the long trip from Douglas to Cheyenne by wagon team to pick up his son Fred and family from Wisconsin. They had come to Wyoming by train to settle after farming in Wisconsin and Nebraska. Blanche (George) Carothers, daughter of Fred and Mary Ellen, recalled years later: "The journey from Cheyenne to LaPrele took 13 days." The children kept inquiring of their grandfather where his place was.

His reply was always the same — "over the next hill."

Emanuel left Wyoming, traveling west to visit his children on his way back to Wisconsin. Three of his sons had married girls by the name of Copsey. Mrs. Copsey, who did not like the terse ways of "Mann" George remarked she "didn't care for her girls marrying those George boys!" According to family legend, Emanuel replied, "Your cares will be great, for I have a son for every one of your girls!" To add to that, two Copsey cousins married the other two George boys! Emanuel died in Wisconsin in Oct., 1900. He is buried by his first wife, Barby. Mary, meanwhile left Douglas and lived with her daughter, Mary, at Topeka, Kansas. She died there in 1923.

Sharon L. Field

## George, Fred Jr.

Fred George, Jr. was born in Douglas, Wyoming August 15, 1896, the 9th child of Fred George, Sr. and Mary Ellen Copsey George.

Fred grew to manhood on his parents' ranch south of Douglas. He received his schooling in the rural schools and in the high school in Douglas. In 1918, he married Beatrice Hattie Poirot, daughter of Gene and Edith Brockway Poirot. Bea was born in Lusk, Wyoming on Sept. 17, 1898 and died May 11, 1935 in Douglas. They had one son, Eugene and two daughters, Lorraine (Cashner) and Betty (Homer). Lorraine made her home in Roseburg, Oregon, and Betty in Eugene, Oregon.

In 1939 Fred married Elsie McCleery.

Fred worked most of his life on ranches until 1940 when he traded his boots for a hammer and started driving nails for Uncle Sam on barracks and camps during the war. Later he signed up to go to Kodiak Island to work. It was quite an experience for someone who had always worked on a ranch.



LaBonte School - Top row: William Dorale, Carrie Johnson, Fred George, Harry George, Hallie White Croco - teacher. Bottom row: Hilda Dorale, Arthur Johnson, Olga Dorale and Elga Johnson.

He always made lots of friends wherever he went and made the best of a bad situation. He was a man who always saw both sides and always said there were two sides to everything. He loved to pull a joke on someone and could take one on himself. He would sit and tell of lots of pranks pulled on the ranch by him and on him. He loved to tell about a horse he was breaking and he brought him to the cabin where the family lived. His younger girl Betty said, "Tie him to the wagon Dad, I will gentle him for you." He always had a good laugh over that.

Fred was very active in the Odd Fellows Lodge. He went through all the chairs and after his retirement spent lots of time out at the hall working around repairing things. He made two altars and platforms with rollers so they could be moved off the floor.

Fred passed away July 29, 1971.

Elsie M. George

## George, Fred and Mary Ellen

Fred and Mary Ellen George came to Wyoming from Crawford County, Wisconsin and York, Nebraska. Both had come from families who had come to Wisconsin from England. The George family had immigrated from Yorkshire and Hampshire, England, while the John and Mary (Talbot) Copsey family had come from Suffolk, England to New York on June 10, 1834 on the ship ELIZA. The Copsey's lived for a short time in Herkimer County, N.Y. before traveling further west to Crawford County, Wisconsin.

The children of Fred and Mary Ellen born in Wisconsin were Bertha, Arthur, and Blanche. A baby, Earl who died at birth, Guy T., and Robert S. were born in Nebraska.

After the arrival of the younger George family in Wyoming they made their home for a time with Fred's father, "Mann" George on LaPrele. The community was rapidly growing, so Mr. and Mrs. George Cross donated an acre of land for the new school on the little hill near the Cross home. Anne Sanford (nee Rice) listed the first students in a letter to Emma Cross Morton: "School opened Jan 15, 1887 with Mary Cooper as the first teacher and pupils as Blanche, Bertha, and Arthur George and Lottie Virden."

The George family later moved to the place Ed Raeber developed, then to the Guthrie place (now the Frank Pexton ranch) where Fred was employed. Fred and Mary homesteaded the present Rody Brow Ranch. During this time Goldie, Maude, Hubert, Fred, and Harry were born. The oldest son, Arthur was killed in a haying accident June, 1898, and lies buried on the hill behind the ranch home.

Articles from the "Years Ago" Column of the *Douglas Budget* tells us on Dec. 5, 1906, Mr. and Mrs. Matt Carothers and Fred George left for Ohio and points east for a visit with relation. Also noted, "Bob and Guy George purchased from E.T. Kelly a fine three-year-old Percheon stud. It is one of the fine string of horses Mr. Kelly has been showing here for the last week."

Fred enjoyed the hobby of beekeeping and on May 12, 1914 the *Douglas Budget* related: "Mr. and Mrs. Fred



Fred, Sr. and Mary Ellen George.

George of LaBonte were in town last Thursday and remained overnight. In addition to a large load of chickens and other produce raised on their ranch they brought in 100 dozen eggs, which they disposed of to the Geo. Bolln Co. Mr. George, in addition to raising some mighty good horses, has furnished the local market with large quantities of honey and it would seem as though he had contracted to supply the egg demand."

On April 2, 1925 a social note appeared in the *Douglas Budget*: "Mr. and Mrs. Fred George of LaBonte, Converse County pioneers, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Tuesday with an open house. In the evening they were feted at a dinner at the Methodist community house. Nine of their children, thirty-three grandchildren, and three great-grand children were there to wish them their best."

The George children and their descendants have called Converse County "Home" for many years. Mary Ellen died in 1926. Fred made his home with the Hubert George family until his death in 1940. Both are buried in Douglas, Wyoming.

Sharon Lass Field

## George, Hubert and Rose Family

Hubert George and Rose Falkenburg met when Rose and her sister and brother, Mary and Herman Falkenburg rode from their home, the old Fishspear Ranch on the Little Medicine, to the Guy George Ranch to purchase and trail cattle back to the Falkenburg Ranch. During the Thanksgiving dance at the Matt Carothers' home, Hubert and Rose became well acquainted, and were married the next year on Feb. 3, 1915 at the Wheeler Ranch near Casper, Wyoming. Rose was the daughter of George Henry and Anna Lisetta (Schroer) Falkenburg, who had come to Wyoming from Essen, Germany in 1892.

The honeymoon was a short one—Hubert's father, Fred George, was ill in the Douglas hospital and a cook was needed at the George home. Rose can remember how the boys teased her about the "FAT German noodles" when they were used to the "THIN English noodles" their mother made. She won't forget the time Fred Jr. told her the biscuits were "hard enough to break a door in," and tossed one at the kitchen door. To Rose's dismay, the top panel fell to the floor with a crash! After the laughter died down, they explained the panel had been loose for years, and the biscuits were pretty good.

A baby girl, Mary, arrived Mar. 28, 1916. "That spring we moved to the old Ralph Wilson place that adjoined the Fred George Ranch. The next year we built a small house on the Fred George Ranch and lived there three years. Mathew was born Feb. 13, 1918, and Allen Jan. 24, 1920. The following spring Hubert filed on a homestead on Trail Creek southeast of the old Fred George Ranch. The youngest son, Warren, "Jiggs" was born Sept. 4, 1922. Later in the year a move was made back to the Fred George Ranch to farm and ranch on



Hubert and Rose George.



shares. That was how Rose recalled the years with small children and several moves.

After the death of Mary Ellen George, Fred sold the ranch. The Hubert George family moved to the old Jim Marsden Ranch on Wagonhound owned by Mr. C. Zimmerman. The three oldest children were in school by then. In November 1929, Hubert and Rose purchased the ranch on Wagonhound from Harry Durham, a lawyer in Casper.

The children grew up during some years of hard work and few conveniences. Mary can remember lines full of the family's and hired men's clothes—all done on the washboard. Few of us modern gals have stood over a wood burning stove in the hot late summer canning fruits and vegetables for winter food.

School was not far from the ranch, so it was convenient for the school teacher to board and room at the George ranch. The George kids were average American youngsters with their share of scraped knees, burns, croup, and a bout with the measles brought on by "measle-infected funny papers" passed around the community from family to family. Hubert found a small prairie dog in a post hole one morning and brought him home to the children. He always slept with Allen, and when the evening milk was brought in from the barn, there was the prairie dog with his doll bottle for his share.

A lot of tears were shed when the little guy was caught in the screen door and died. Neighbors and friends still remember the "cow riding" contests behind the barn in the summer and the many branding times with tables of good food. When the grandkids visited there was always a battle over the Chinese checker board and who was the champion croquet player!

Hubert was especially proud of his Hereford cattle. Rose enjoyed her home and lovely yard. When Hubert passed away Oct. 17, 1958, Rose continued to operate the ranch with the help of her son, Mathew and his family. In 1963 she leased the ranch to Mathew and bought a home in Douglas. After Mathew's death July 19, 1966, the ranch was leased for five years to his wife, Bernice and two sons, Hazen and Stephen. At the end of the five years they did not want to renew the lease or buy the ranch, so it was sold to Rose's nephew, George Falkenburg and his wife, Phyllis.

The George children have families of their own now. Mary and her husband, Stanley Lass are retired after selling their ranch and moving to Douglas. They have two daughters, Sharon married to Sam Field who lives in Cheyenne with a boy, Shadd and girl, Shelly. Bette married Jim Hildebrand and lives in Douglas with sons, Todd and Troy.

Allen and his wife, Alice have a home in Thermopolis. His children: Craig is married and lives in California, and Nancy, married to Glen Miller, lives near Torrington, Wyoming. Nancy is a registered nurse.

Warren and his wife, Norma Jean have a ranch on the upper Bates Creek near the Shirley Basin uranium mines in Natrona County. They have two sons, Jeff and Paul, and run cattle on their large ranch.

Mathew's widow, Bernice, had a home in Douglas. Kristeen, their daughter, married Jack Moore, and they manage one of his father's ranches north of Douglas. The sons, Hazen and Stephen are both deceased. Hazen left

three sons; Stephen and his wife, Marlene, did not have children. Bernice died on Dec. 13, 1983.

Rose enjoys her home and yard, and keeps busy with many organizations around Douglas. She has served on the Board of Directors for Senior Citizens and as a Deaconess of the Congregational Church of Douglas.

Sharon Lass Field

## George, Peter and Amy Family

The George family came in a sailing vessel, to the United States from England, when Peter was seven years old. They settled in Green County, Wisconsin. Peter received his education there and married Amy Green on Dec. 7, 1855. They had four boys, two died in infancy. Frank was born October 2, 1856 and Charles Henry on January 20, 1862.

Peter enlisted in the Wisconsin Volunteers during the Civil War. He was wounded twice, taken prisoner and spent some time in the Andersonville prison in Georgia, where tens of thousands of Union prisoners were confined in 1864 and 1865, under conditions so bad that over 12,000 of them died.

Peter George survived and he was mustered out at Madison, Wisconsin, after waiting 40 days for his dismissal.

Sometime in the early 1870's, Peter and Amy and the two boys moved to Nebraska, near Grafton. Here Mrs. George was taught by Indian women to tan deer hide and



Charles H. and Dema George.



make buckskin gloves. She always made three instead of two for a pair, an extra one for the roping hand as they wore out much faster. While living here, she made some and sent them to General Custer.

In 1878 Peter and his wife and son Charles started for California. When they stopped at Fort Fetterman for supplies, they were advised not to move Mrs. George, who was very ill. Peter paid a squaw man \$500 for a dugout house where they remained. A log house was soon erected.

Mrs. George's health improved and she was soon selling her dairy products to the officers at the Fort. She also made the buckskin gloves to sell to the cowboys and the stage drivers. The stage from Rock Creek passed right in front of their door.

As soon as Peter had the log cabin completed he started improving the land. He built an irrigation ditch, which he surveyed with a straight edge and a carpenter's level. It was quite a wonderful feat of engineering. It was told he carried a shovel on his shoulders from early spring until well into the fall. State water records show Peter getting his water right on May 1, 1879 in Sec. 6, T.31, R.73 for 104 acres.

After a few years a frame house was built which was the first of its kind in the area. The doors and windows were freighted from Cheyenne.

When the Peter Georges left Wisconsin, Amy's brother Emerson had just lost his wife, leaving four young children. His health was also bad. After the Georges were settled in Wyoming, she sent for her brother, believing the climate would benefit his health. He came and brought his family and Aunt Amy raised his children.

When the ranch work became too heavy for Peter George he and his wife moved to town, where he still found plenty of work building sidewalks and planting trees in the cemetery and fairgrounds.

Death claimed Peter on October 12, 1911 and "Grandma," as she was known, lived in the family home until shortly before her death on April 26, 1918.

Charles H. married Dema Kuhns on Dec. 15, 1884 in North Platte, Nebraska. Their children were Pearl (1885-1921), Vernon (1888-1973), Dennis (1891-1904), William (1893-1893), Dema (1895-1985), Edward (1898-1965), and Earl (1900-1939).

Charles operated a livery barn in Douglas for several years. Dema was the local librarian for numerous years.

Charles died on Dec. 24, 1920, Dema on Jan. 19, 1918.

Their daughter Dema married W. Wallace McCrillis. She lived in California. She died in 1985.

Edward married Faye Chambers on June 23, 1920. Their children are: Maxine (Erwin), Charles and Marilyn (Blassingame).

Ed purchased the Kandy Koop in 1919 after his discharge from the Army and World War I. He bought the building to the north and cut a door between the two. Ed continued to sell to the theater crowd as they came in while also serving the Koop's fountain service.

In 1939 Ed started an insurance business, the George Agency, which is still in business today and run by his son Charles and his sons Randy and Jeff.

Ed died on Sept. 24, 1965, Faye in 1982.

Sharon Field

## Gerlach, William and Mary

John William "Billy" Gerlach came to Douglas in May 1898 from Harrison, Nebraska. He was the second child of Lewis and Anna Kreitzberg Gerlach and was born May 10, 1874 at Lyman, Iowa.

Upon arriving, he went to work in Merritt's store, then he worked in George Bolln's clothing store; and in May 1902, he established his own "William Gerlach men's clothing store" on the corner of Center and 2nd Streets, where Slick's Sportin' House is today. In his store he not only had ready-to-wear suits, but advertised to come in and be measured, and this service was affiliated with Hart, Shaffner and Marx. He also was the tobacco broker for the town, keeping the tobacco in a special case, and the other storekeepers came to him to get it. He did business with cowboys and sheepherders, who came in and either paid cash for whatever items they wanted, or they exchanged items they brought in for new merchandise. Ralph Merritt and Orin Young were two of his clerks.

In 1903 he went out hunting one day, hiring a team and buggy from Powell and Amspoker's livery stable. His shotgun went off accidentally and shot one of the horses in the hip, but didn't hurt it permanently.

In 1907 he bought the land where his store was, for \$600.00 from Wilbert Stewart, and kept it until 1945 when he retired. That year he installed a new up-to-date cash



Mary and Billy Gerlach.

register in his store as well as a fine four-section clothing cabinet in which to display his clothing, selling three old showcases to Arnold Lumber Co.

He bought one of the first cars in Douglas — a 28-horsepower Ford Roadster, purchased from the Rice Brothers. He dearly loved automobiles, and traded them in at least once a year, so he could drive the latest thing out, usually Studebakers.

He was married October 24, 1911 to Mary Martha Bruner, daughter of Thomas and Martha Bruner, at the Bruner home near the foot of Mill Hill below Esterbrook. They left on their honeymoon in their car, heading for Laramie through the mountains. Roads were nothing but wagon ruts and they had a flat tire on Mill Hill. Billy tied a rope around the wheel and managed to get to Frank Newell's at Springhill, where he was able to get a tire of the same size and on they went. Coming home they had sprung the front axle on the car and it had turned very cold, so Mary boarded the train near Glendo to ride on to Douglas.

Soon after that Billy had a narrow escape with death. He was driving on the LaBonte Road and met a four-horse team and wagon on Fitzhugh Hill. In order to miss the team he turned it into a bank where it upset and the steering gear was laying on his chest. The car was raised before he suffocated.

In 1917 he had a 46-foot new brick addition made to his store.

In 1925 he was a director of the First State Bank of Douglas, and he served on the local school board, was a member of the Kiwanis Club, and a charter member of the Douglas Shrine Club, and of the Natural Bridge Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons.

Billy and Mary had five children: Martha, Lewis, George, Jesse, and Harvey, then tragedy struck when Mary died of pneumonia in 1923. His sister, Lucy Bonne, came and took care of the children for a time and then Mrs. Ernest Finney took care of them.

Billy had some high button shoes in his store that had gone out of fashion, so he decided the boys could wear them. Jesse says that they hated them so bad, and found that with practice, they would wear out a pair in two days! The boys got plans for an ice boat from Popular Mechanics, and built one. The runners were old ice skates, and the sail was a new muslin sheet. After a month's work they took to the river somewhat south of the fairgrounds. The boat started downwind, and really went — straight for the center bridge pier. The best part about the crash was they didn't have enough left to cart home. George built a pusher air cart. He had a Maytag motor and some old wheels, everything but a prop. The day it came \$7.00 C.O.D., his dad really hit the roof, but at two-bits a week allowance, it was hard to get things. All of the children helped in the store.

Billy developed diabetes and died in his sleep in 1946.

His daughter, Martha, lives in Seattle, Washington, with her husband, Karl Lind. They are retired from their graphics arts business and have two sons, John and David.

Lewis lived at Mercer Island, Washington, with his wife, Van. Lewis was sales manager for Kenworth for 44 years. He built a fantastic red firetruck bunk bed for his grandson, complete with headlights, grill, wheels, etc.

They have three children: Leonard, Karol, and Joy, and six grandchildren. Lewis died October 30, 1985.

George and his wife, Yvette, live at Seattle, Washington where he is a building contractor. He was a member of the "Jolly Rogers", Liberator group of the Pacific, earning five battle stars and unit Presidential citation with oak leaf cluster. They have three sons, Gary, Robert, and David and one grandson, Jason.

Jesse and his wife, Ruth, live at Napa, California. He is a retired carpenter. Jesse remembers catching rides with his sled hooked to cars as they backed out from the post office in Douglas, when he was a boy, and the circus days in Douglas — they came in on the Burlington train unloading with elephants, and a parade by noon and a show that afternoon — with all the kids watching, if possible.

Harvey, the youngest, and Jesse, spent their summers out at the Bruner Ranch. One time Harvey went up in the mountains in a Model T car. While he was up there, he had to crank it to start it, and as often happened, it backfired, and broke his arm. He was married to Ruth Daley and had two daughters, Susan and Sharon, and then was killed in 1949 in an Army surplus P-40 airplane he had bought, which had been undergoing repairs, and as he took off, it swerved out of control and crashed. Then Ruth married Jesse Gerlach who had a son, Charles, from a previous marriage, and they had a son, John, and now they have six grandchildren.

Sibyl Bruner Prager

## Gibb, James and Judy

Jim was born on May 14, 1906, near Montrose, Scotland to Edmund S. and Catherine McKenzie Gibb. He attended schools in Scotland. As a young man of 17, Jim decided to come to the United States. While in Scotland, he worked for J. P. Morgan, at the Morgan Shooting Lodge; and when he left for America in his pocket was a letter of recommendation from Mr. Morgan.

Jim worked in Detroit for awhile and then came to Wyoming in 1927. Jim established a trucking business in 1928 in Douglas, Wyoming. Jim also sheared sheep around Wyoming and was one of the top sheep shearers in the area. Jim tells of many of his trucking experiences in his business. He talked of taking 3-4 days to go out into the Ross Country, just to get a load, as the roads were so muddy and bad, you fought every mile of the way. One such time, Jim tells of getting stuck on the Ross Road in a snow storm, and all he could see was a light in the far distance, so he walked to the old Amspoker place, where he found a hot meal and a warm place to sleep. Many old-timers kept lights burning in their windows for such just occasions.

One other time, Jim tells of a narrow escape from getting shot. The Sheriff had foreclosed on a small rancher on the east end of Converse County, and Jim was ordered to go down and get the livestock. As he approached the place and backed into the loading chute, he came under gun fire. All the tires were shot out on his truck and he waited for the Sheriff to arrive and help him out of the mess.

Jim was so strong that when loading lambs, in his earlier days, he would just stand in the loading chute and throw the lambs into the top deck.

On April 6, 1959 Jim married Mrs. Judy Gilbert Wilson, widow of Charles M. Wilson, son of Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Wilson, pioneer people of Converse County. Judy, daughter of Dan B. and Anna N. Gilbert, was born in Sterling, Colorado.

Serving his country in World War II in the United States Air Force in the 423rd Photo Reconnaissance Group for four years, Jim saw service in Europe and England. While overseas Jim got to see his father for the last time as the senior Mr. Gibb died in 1954. Jim's mother died in 1908 when Jim was two years of age.

Following World War II Jim and Judy bought the Boot Ranch, which was established by the Kellogg Family. In 1966, they bought the Etta Nichols Ranch, another old-established ranch, once owned and operated by Tom Pexton.

Jim died on July 8, 1979 in Douglas.

Earl Shatto

## Giehm, Carl & Marie Family

Charles L. "Carl" Giehm was born October 11, 1874 in Germany. His parents did not come to this country and their names are not known. Carl and his brother came to America when Carl was but a small boy and settled in Philadelphia where they lived until they enlisted in the army during the Spanish-American War. After the war, Carl's brother changed the spelling of his last name to Geihm and moved to Aurora, Illinois.

Marie L. Meyers was born March 1, 1880 in Murhard, Wittenburg, Germany. She came to the United States when she was twelve. While at Ellis Island, she bought what she thought was an apple from a vendor. It was a tomato, which she had never seen. She took a bite, became ill, and never ate another one. Marie's sister lived in Philadelphia, and it was there that Marie went to live.

Carl and Marie met in Philadelphia just after he returned from the army. They were married on August 5, 1903. Later that year he was transferred by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company to LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

It was in LaCrosse that their first son, Rudolph C. "Rudy" was born on October 1, 1905.

The family moved to Ferryville, Wisconsin where Albert H. (born March 5, 1909) and Herman P. were born.

It was in 1916 that the family came to Wyoming to homestead six miles east of Douglas. Carl built a small three room house; it was sided and painted white.

At some point in time, Carl worked in a chicken slaughter house in Wisconsin. One year during threshing time at the Matt Kirn place, Mary, Anna, and Sophie Kirn were killing chickens for the crew's dinner. Carl came early and decided to help the ladies with this chore. After the chickens had been scalded, he demonstrated how to clean them. Carl said, "You don't pick a chicken, you rub it." In no time at all, he had the chickens clean of feathers. After that, the Kirns saved much time by following his proven method.

Rudy married Marian Cranston of Casper. Marian's father came from Scotland in the late 1800s. Her mother was a Freeze and was born in Buffalo in about 1890. Rudy and Marian had three children, Wesley Paul, Beverly, and Joy. Marian died in Casper on November 19, 1937. The children were raised by their grandparents, Carl and Marie Giehm. Rudolph died January 28, 1964 in Seattle, Washington.

Albert married Thelma Noel of Casper. They had four children, Noel, Albert Jr., James, and Faye Giehm Barrera. Albert passed away November 28, 1975 and was brought to Douglas for burial.

Herman married Rose Leigh Peterson of Douglas, the daughter of Percy "Pete" and Zella Van Dalsem Peterson. They have two children, a daughter Mary and a son John, and presently live in San Mateo, California.

The Giehms farmed and raised cattle until 1941 when they retired and moved to Douglas where they purchased a home at 502 South Fourth Street.

Paul, Beverly, and Joy all graduated from Converse County High School. Paul joined the Marines from which he retired; he presently lives in Kennewick, Washington. Beverly attended the University of Wyoming and became a rural school teacher, teaching the Frank Rothleutner children. She later joined the U.S. Army, retired as a major, and settled in Shady Side, Maryland. She died May 30, 1979 from cancer and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Joy Giehm Menard lives in Bellevue, Washington and has two married daughters.

While Bill Chapman was Converse County Agricultural Agent, Carl began working for the county helping to prepare the agriculture exhibits for the Wyoming State Fair. When Chapman became Wyoming's Commissioner of Agriculture, Carl continued to work under Orville "Nick" Nicholls who took Chapman's place. During this time, each county had a booth containing exhibits of fruit, vegetables, grains, hays, etc. in the Agricultural Hall. Carl would gather produce from the farmers, ranchers, and gardeners in Converse County for exhibit. One year Converse County placed second in this competition of counties to determine who had produced the best agricultural products.

Marie passed away January 4, 1952, and Carl passed away September 1, 1957. Both are buried in the Douglas Park Cemetery.

Catherine Larkin Pexton

## Gillespie, Harry and Lena

Harry Gillespie was born in Howard County Nebraska, September 17, 1874, to Joseph and Anna Gillespie. He left home at the age of 18 and came to Wyoming where he punched cows on the Yellowstone and Powder Rivers until 1897, when he returned to Chadron and farmed until 1903. From there he returned to Wyoming and went to Hartville where he worked in the mines. From there he ranched on Horseshoe Creek near Glendo. He then went to Orin where he opened a cafe. In 1912 he filed on a homestead northeast of Douglas which was then known as Shawnee Basin. While living there he served as County Commissioner from 1921 to 1932.

On November 16, 1897 he married Lena Speckman.

They had two boys, Edwin E. and Clair C. In 1948 he sold his ranch and moved to Douglas where he died in 1950. Lena died on February 13, 1962.

Edwin had two daughters, Mary Irene and Betty who died when a baby. Clair had a boy, Stanley, and a girl, Phyllis.

Helen Lam

## Gillespie, Lewis and Alice Family

Lewis Cook "Mose" Gillespie, son of Joseph and Anna Gillespie, was born October 30, 1877 at Ord, Nebraska. In 1885 the family moved to Chadron, Nebraska where Mose, his three brothers and his sister grew up. While living there my grandfather, Joseph Gillespie, rode in the famous Thousand Mile Horse Race from Chadron to Chicago. Among the riders was "Doc" Middleton.

In 1889 they traveled by covered wagon from Chadron to Fay, Oklahoma. I, Helen Lam, have a copy of a diary that my grandmother kept while they were enroute.

In 1899 Dad attended and graduated from Grand Island Business and Normal College.

Dad's first glimpse of Wyoming was when he helped Jim Shaw trail Texas longhorn steers up from Texas. He fell in love with the country and returned to make it his home. In 1906 he and my mother, Alice Nylen, daughter of Charles and Mary Nylen, were married. He filed on a homestead south of Orin Junction where he lived until 1919 when they moved to what was then known as the Haynes place. In 1938 he was elected as County Commissioner and served two terms.

My mother was born at Camp Carlin, Wyoming in 1880. This was a supply depot for twelve forts in Wyoming and located east of the main entrance to Fort D.A. Russell. Grandpa Nylen drove one of the supply wagons until the camp was dismantled in 1890 by the War Department. From there they moved to Hartville where Grandpa ran a saloon, which is still standing, and is one of the oldest in Wyoming. From Hartville they moved south of Orin Junction where they ran a stage station.

My mother and her four brothers went to school in the Shaw house. Their teacher was Belle Dodson, who was a sister to Mrs. Jim Shaw. Mother said that many a time they could hear wolves howling in the timber at McKinley and, needless to say, they did not waste any time getting home. As there were still Indians in the area, it was not a bit uncommon to see Indians looking in their windows.

My three brothers, Lewis, Clifford and Harold, were all born at the ranch and I was born at Douglas at Grandpa Nylen's home.

We all attended a little country school and for several years I was the only girl in the school. The other pupils were my three brothers and Bud and John Pollock. Having no playground equipment, we made up our own games. Many a wild football game took place and, not having a football, we used an old overshoe. We did lots of ice skating and hockey was another favorite game. We used a cottonwood stick and a bean can for our equipment. How excited we all were just before Christmas, when we had our Christmas program at school. I can still smell the cedar from the freshly cut tree and see the

candles glowing. How we worried for fear we would forget the piece that we were supposed to speak.

Other forms of recreation were skating parties on the Platte River and dances in a big garage building at Orin. We attended Sunday School in the school house and on Sunday evening we had Christian Endeavor. Some of my other memories are the good times we had at the Churchill Hotel in Orin, where we spent many an evening making fudge, popping corn and dancing to the Edison phonograph.

George Pollock was our nearest neighbor, and we never tired of gathering around the piano at his house having an old fashioned sing-along. Mollie Pollock was always ready to play the piano for us.

We also had many a wild rodeo at the ranch when we would attempt to ride the "milk pen" calves. I always got bucked off.

Having no car, our means of transportation was with a team and wagon or by train. Mother would make out a grocery list and send it up to the George Bolln Company and they would send it down on the train to Orin where Dad would pick it up at the Orin Depot. This we looked forward to, as Mr. Bolln would always include a sack of candy for us kids.

We usually came to Douglas on the train and stayed at Grandpa Nylen's house which used to stand where the Tillard and Bill Smith Sr. home now stands. In fact, I was born in that house. This was quite a treat as there was indoor plumbing and the best stair bannisters to slide down, which came to an abrupt halt when Grandmother informed me that "little ladies did not do such things."

Mother and I went to the state fair on the train, while Dad and my brothers rode their horses up from Orin. The boys usually entered the kids' cowpony race and the wild cow milking. My uncle, Gus Nylen, raised race horses and had a horse entered in the races.

My three brothers were all talented musicians and had their own orchestra. They earned their spending money playing for dances. They acquired a Model T Ford and traveled many a mile to dances. Harold would take along a pair of coveralls and about halfway to their destination, would stop along the road and take up the connecting rods.

The only way we could get across the North Platte River to go to Orin and Douglas before the bridge was built, in about 1920, was either ford the river or go down to the Platte Valley Ranch bridge at McKinley, Wyoming.

Mother died in 1938 and Dad in 1958.

Lewis W. was born in 1907 and died in 1972. He was married to Dorothy Johnson in 1952.

Clifford R. was born in 1910. He died on March 28, 1954 in a tragic accident when a westbound Burlington train crashed into his pickup as he was crossing the railroad track on the road leading out of his ranch. He was married to Maud Mary Lees on June 1, 1929. They had one son, Calvin.

Harold W. was born in 1911. He married Frances Haworth in 1936. He worked for the LeBar Motor Co. as a mechanic for several years before going into the trucking business. They had one daughter, Sharon.

I was born in 1912 and married Harry Lam in 1935. He was killed in 1955 at the Clayton Tank Farm. We had two children, Helen and Harry.

Helen Gillespie Lam

## Gilmore, Clarence A. and Dessie

Dessie Margret Ford was born in Missouri in 1892, the sixth child of Andrew Alexander Ford and Mary Jeanetta Purcell Ford. She was united in marriage to Clarence A. Gilmore in 1917 in Colorado. Immediately after the marriage, the couple, accompanied by Dessie's sister, Vena Ford, came to Wyoming to homestead. Bernie Ford, brother of Dessie Gilmore and Vena Ford, had homesteaded in Wyoming in 1916. Vena and the Gilmores filed claims on lands adjoining that of Bernie.

The Gilmores' first home in Wyoming was in Douglas. There they waited for their homestead goods and farming equipment to arrive. Clarence was employed on a part-time basis by the Ford Garage. When their equipment arrived, they set up a tent on their claim and began hauling logs with which to build their cabin and that of Vena.

In the fall of 1917, the Gilmores, along with Vena, returned to Colorado where Dessie and Clarence became the parents of a son, Eugene, born in February of 1918. Later that spring, they returned to Wyoming in the Gilmores' new Chevy touring car.

Since the spring of 1918 was very wet, the new car became mired down in the Cheyenne River Crossing. The party had no choice but to walk to the Gilmore cabin in the dark, a distance of about two miles, carrying the baby and a sack of groceries. When daylight came, they discovered that they could have walked to Vena's cabin which was only about one-half mile from the stranded vehicle.

Gilmores' cabin was built on the shore of a shallow lake. Due to the abundant rain, the lake was full. The Gilmores built a log raft and enjoyed boating on the lake that summer.



Dessie and Eugene Gilmore

The Gilmores lived on the homestead each summer to "prove up". Clarence spent one winter hunting and trapping. From his winter's catch, he had a fox fur neck piece and a bobcat rug made for Dessie for Christmas. They completed their "proving up", after which they chose to relocate in Happyville, Colorado where they built a store which also housed the local post office. In 1924, Clarence and Dessie sold their Wyoming land to Vena Ford Pellatz and her husband, Orville Pellatz.

The Gilmores raised their family of three boys and one girl in Colorado. Clarence died in 1966, and Dessie, in the company of her youngest sister, Mary Ford, lives in her home in Loveland, Colorado. She has 19 grandchildren and 29 great grandchildren.

Jewell Reed

## Githens, Milton and Geraldine Family

What is progress to one person may not be to another. This appears to be the case with my great-granddad, James Riley Githens. (I am Bill Githens, Jr.).

It seems he had a freight line from Missouri into northern New Mexico. His dad freighted in this area also, whether it was with his father or on his own, I don't know.

Anyway, he was living in or about Watrous, New Mexico when his wife felt the labor pains of her first child's birth, Milton Riley Githens, February 5, 1883. Milt, as he was known, was my granddad. It is said that he was the first child that wasn't of Spanish or Indian descent to be born in Watrous.

One day the clop of the oxen, horses, and mules feet were drowned out by the clang of steel, a puff of smoke, and the hiss of steam. The great iron horse went galloping by, and before long there was no need for the freighters.

What now? Gold. Great-granddad felt the lure, so he took his wife and now three sons and headed for the Colorado goldfield. They arrived in Boulder, Colorado and there decided to make their home.

It was in Boulder that Milt, my granddad, grew up and learned the masonry trade. On September 16, 1903, Milton Riley Githens and Geraldine Gloria Sledd were united in marriage at Denver, Colorado.

They made their home in Boulder, Colorado to start with, and it was there on December 10, 1904 that my dad, William (Bill) Edward Githens, was born.

My grandparents continued to live in Boulder until after my uncle, Milton (Roy) Githens, was born in January 1907. Early in 1907, Granddad moved his family to Denver and remained in that area until 1913. Granddad heard that there was need for masons to work in construction of refineries in a little boom town in Wyoming.

Sometime in 1913, Granddad moved his wife and two sons to Casper, Wyoming. During this time period, he also layed brick on the Hotel LaBonte in Douglas, Wyoming. While working in Douglas, Wyoming, Granddad met Mark Gitthens. Mark got Granddad to file on 160 acres a few miles north of Douglas. Part of the land is now owned by the airport.

Early in 1914, Granddad started moving his family onto the 160 acres he had filed on. Bill (my dad) and Roy, who due to his red hair had obtained the nickname of Red, went to the old North Grade School in Douglas. Milt



and Geraldine Githens also added two girls to their household, Geraldine (Lorraine) Githens born in January of 1919, and Lela May Githens born June of 1921. Both my aunts also went to the North Grade School in Douglas for their grade school education.

Living in a ranch community and having a love for horses, I guess it was only natural that Dad would want to be a cowboy. One day the school room could no longer hold his attention, so dad quit school and sought ranch work. Dad was a good story teller, and as youngsters, my brother and I enjoyed hearing tales of his life and work on the CY and George Cross ranches.

Granddad was contracting brick work and Dad worked for him some, mixing mortar and carrying hod. A couple of the brick contracts Granddad had in Douglas were the Masonic Temple and the National Guard Armory. My uncle, Roy (Red) Githens, has the handwritten contract Granddad had on the Armory Building.

Three of Granddad's brothers had also moved to Wyoming from Colorado. They all filed on homesteads in the Dry Creek community north of Douglas about 1922. Dad and Red also filed on homestead land in this area when they were old enough.

It was here that William (Bill) E. Githens took Velma Viola Fisher to live after they became husband and wife on June 17, 1927. I also took up residency here after my birth, May 12, 1928. My brother, James Richard (Dick) Githens, also came to live with us after his birth, June 18, 1930.

I stayed with my grandparents and went to North Grade School in Douglas my first year of school. Other than that, my brother and I took all our grade school and some high school at Dry Creek, now known as Bill.

There were years of depression and also drought, so times were pretty tough. All Dad's uncles had proved up on their homesteads, sold them and moved back to Colorado. This wasn't unusual, almost all the homesteaders moved on to other parts once they had proved up on their land. Most sold their land back to the U.S. Government, but a few to individuals.

My dad, with his brother and father, formed a partnership and started trying to put together a little ranch in the Dry Creek community.

Granddad didn't stay in the partnership very long. I don't remember what year it was, but Granddad decided to move back to Boulder, Colorado. He bought a little farm north of Boulder, that was later sub-divided into a housing area. Grandmother, and the girls, Lorraine and Lela, left Douglas with my Granddad.

The girls completed their education in Colorado and were married there, but have lived in Wyoming most of their married life.

Lorraine married Charles Raynor and they made their home in the Lander, Wyoming area, where they raised their three children. Lela with her husband, William (Bill) Adams and also three children lived in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming, with Worland, Wyoming becoming their home town.

Dad and Red continued to work their ranch, but times were tough. Government programs provided some work. Dad and Red both worked with horse crews, building dams and reservoirs on homestead land the government now owned in the northern part of Converse County.

Due to the drought, Dad and Red shipped most of the cattle to pastures in Colorado. Red went to Colorado to look after the stock there. Dad and Mother stayed with the place at Dry Creek, stacking tumbleweeds to feed the cattle they kept there.

While in Colorado, Red met a lady, Agnes Preston, and they were married at Glenrock, Wyoming, October 6, 1938.

Dad and Red continued to ranch at Dry Creek until 1944-45. Dad sold his interest to Red and went into dirt work construction full-time. In 1947, Dad bought into a partnership called Hinkle and Githens, Worland, Wyoming. Dad managed this company, which specialized in land leveling, until shortly before his death in February 1965.

My parents were living in Greybull, Wyoming at the time of Dad's death. Mother continued to reside there until September 1, 1972. She moved to Buffalo, Wyoming where at this writing, she continues to reside. She is active with her home, gardening, making quilts, and is very active in her church.

In 1945-46, Red sold out at Dry Creek and bought a ranch at Laramie, Wyoming. Red's nickname didn't follow him to Laramie, so they knew him as Roy Githens there. Roy and Agnes ranched in the Laramie area until the spring of 1971, when they sold out and retired in southern Arizona.

My brother, Dick Githens and Dorothy Seeber of Chappel, Nebraska, were married August 1950. They have lived in California for a good many years, where they raised their two children, Gayle Richard Githens and Genelle Githens Bloom.

Myself, I married Margaret Miles from the Texas panhandle town, Hereford, Texas. We were married in February 1948. We have lived in Sheridan, Wyoming since August of 1964. Our three children finished school here. They are David E. Githens, Synthia Githens Cooley, and Linda Githens Cecil.

Wm. (Bill) E. Githens, Jr.

## Gladson, Elmer and Verna

Elmer Gladson was born at Shelby, Iowa on September 9, 1884, the son of William Preston Gladson and Elsie Ready Gladson, who carried on a farm and ranch operation a few miles from Shelby, Iowa. Elmer was the eldest in a family of ten children.

Elmer was four years old when his parents left Iowa in 1888 and traveled by team and covered wagon to Custer County, Nebraska. In 1892, William, Elsie, and children returned to Shelby Iowa, making the journey again by team and covered wagon. Due to several dry, hot summers, farming did not prove profitable, so William with his wife and children once again packed their belongings in the covered wagon and moved back near Milburn in Custer County, Nebraska in 1898.

Elmer finished his schooling at the Sand Ridge Country School near Milburn, Nebraska. He helped his father on their ranch and farm, and worked out when not needed at home.

Elmer was married to Verna Robertson in 1912. Her father had taken up a homestead claim on land near New

Helena, Nebraska. He and his wife established residence on his homestead. Verna grew to womanhood on her father's place.

Soon after Elmer and Verna were married they traveled by team and covered wagon to Rosemont Colorado, where Elmer had a job. Their son, Forest, was born at Rosemont on July 29, 1913.

In 1915 Elmer, Verna and child traveled by team and covered wagon back to Nebraska.

Their second child, Lucille, was born at Merna, Nebraska on January 10, 1916.

Two years later Elmer, Verna and their two small children once again left Nebraska and traveled by team and covered wagon to Lusk, Wyoming in 1918. Verna had a sister living at Lusk.

Soon after reaching Lusk, Elmer and his family moved on to Douglas, Wyoming. Ruth, their youngest daughter was born at Douglas.

Elmer homesteaded on land fifty-five miles north of Douglas in the Verse community in 1920.

Jobs were scarce in Wyoming, so for several years after Elmer had established residence on his claim, he would return to Milburn, Nebraska in late fall, and hire out to pick corn during the corn picking season for the much needed extra money.

It was in the mid 20's when an acquaintance of Elmer's, known as Shorty Trusty started a coal mining operation on Antelope Creek, where there was a high creek bank and named it the Antelope Mine. A thirty foot vein of coal showed below the ground vein of soil. Settlers living near there used picks to knock the coal off into their wagon for their own use. Elmer freighted coal to Douglas, Shawnee, Lost Springs, Manville and Lusk with team and wagon and sold it. He would bring back groceries and other supplies for William Boehler, who owned and operated the Verse store and post office.

Coal was in great demand at that time. Many people had coal burning stoves and coal was used in furnaces for heating their homes during the winter months. A number of people living in Douglas used coal in their furnaces for heating, still in the 30's. Coal at that time was selling for \$1.50 to \$2.00 a ton.

Elmer got his homestead patented on December 14, 1925 on Section 26, Township 41, Range 72. In 1928 Elmer and Verna Gladson sold their 640 acres of land to Florence B. Kane of Campbell County for three thousand dollars.

In 1931, J.B. Morsch obtained a state land lease right on one hundred twenty acres which included the Antelope coal mine. Elmer and Shorty had no lease so could no longer mine coal there. They started another coal mine about three fourths of a mile down stream on Antelope Creek, and named it the East Antelope Coal Mine. Soon after they had the mine in operation, Shorty sold his share in the mine to Felix Niemcyk. For several years Elmer and Felix kept the mine in operation.

In 1933 Elmer decided to get out of the mining business. He sold his share to Felix, the mine then became known as the Niemcyk Coal Mine.

Elmer went to work for the government, using a four horse team and fresno building reservoirs and ditches on government land.

In 1937 Elmer, Verna and daughter Ruth, moved to

Sandpoint, Idaho to be near their other daughter Lucille Phillips and family.

Elmer died January 8, 1957. Verna continued making her home in Sandpoint until she passed away on April 10, 1963. They both rest in the Pinecrest Cemetery at Sandpoint. Lucille passed away suddenly July 7, 1968 of an apparent heart attack. She rests in the Pinecrest Cemetery beside her husband at Sandpoint Idaho.

Forest Gladson died February 11, 1971 of a heart attack in Denver. He is buried in the cemetery at Gillette, Wyoming. Ruth (Gladson), their daughter, lives at Spokane, Washington.

Lynard Gladson  
as told to Velma Steckley

## Goldsby, Bruce and Elsie

Bruce Goldsby was born on January 22, 1896 near Pendleton, Oregon, the son of George and Louise Ellen Nail Goldsby. At the age of nine he and his family moved to Kansas.

In 1918 Bruce came to Converse County and homesteaded northwest of Douglas in the Hyland community.

He married Elsie O'Brien Powell, young widow of Warren Powell, on April 13, 1929 in Casper.

Elsie was born in September 1893, the daughter of John and Margaret Devoe O'Brien. Her mother died in 1895 while giving birth to a girl. Elsie was raised by her grandparents, Captain and Mrs. John D. O'Brien, in their home on LaPrele Creek.

One of Elsie's fondest memories is being presented a bouquet by Mrs. Al Heaton for an outstanding performance in one of the school programs at the Douglas Opera



Elsie O'Brien Goldsby

House on North Third Street.

Elsie attended school at the Pleasant Valley School on LaPrele Creek until she was 13 years old. At that time she went to work to help her grandparents. One of her first jobs was doing housework and caring for children at the Wilkie Collins home in Douglas.

In 1913 Elsie married Warren Powell, the son of William "Billie" and Alice Sherwin Powell. Warren and Elsie homesteaded northwest of Douglas in the Hyland community.

They became the parents of two daughters, Margaret and Blanche. Margaret married "Red" Morris. Blanche married Don Brannan. A son, Billie, died at the age of three from croup.

Elsie tells of the many times that she would take Margaret with her while riding a horse. Margaret was placed on a pillow in front of Elsie on the saddle.

After their marriage, Bruce and Elsie lived on his homestead raising bum lambs and growing a big garden. Bruce found work operating a caterpillar tractor for their neighbors, the Mannings.

In 1941 they purchased a place east of Bill, Wyoming. They lived there for 20 years raising livestock. In 1961 they moved to a small place south of Douglas which they purchased from Dee Harkins. Bruce rode ditch for the LaPrele Ditch Co. and sold cars for Messick and Rogers. Later they moved to Douglas at 320 South Third Street.

Bruce passed away October 10, 1985 in Casper.

Faun Cole

## Gonsalves - Phillips Family

Verissimo Gonsalves was born October 1, 1865 on a small island off the coast of Portugal called Tresada. His brother, Izadorio, was born on April 4, 1867. They were part of a family of eight, four boys and four girls, born to Joseph and Louisa Cortez Gonsalves. The Gonsalves were devout Catholics and named their sons after the saint whose day it was on the day they were born. The family was pretty well off when they lived on Tresada but they decided to go to Brazil. On the way to Brazil they were shipwrecked and lost all their belongings. They were rescued and taken to Fayal, one of the Azore Islands.

When Verissimo was a small child he caught a severe cold which settled in his eyes. It caused the loss of all sight in his left eye. Despite his handicap he grew into a big man, towering over his smaller brother, Izadorio. When the boys were old enough they went to work on a dock that was being built on the island. There they saw the ships and heard about America.

In order to avoid being drafted into the Portuguese Army they stowed away on a ship going to America. This was easy to do, the captain just looked the other way. It was a cheap way to get good labor. They had to work for their board, no pay. Verissimo worked in the kitchen on the ship. There were a lot of animals on the ship because they had to keep their food alive until they were ready to eat it.

At the time Verissimo and Izadorio came to America, emigrants had to have a relative living in the U.S. whom they could stay with. Verissimo and Izadorio had an uncle



L. to R. Gertie Bradley, Mrs. Young, Nels Young and I. G. Phillips.

living in Chugwater, Wyoming. Their uncle's name was John Phillips, better known as Portuguese Phillips, the man who made the dangerous ride from Fort Phil Kearney to Fort Laramie which saved the fort but killed the colonel's favorite horse. Later he moved to Chugwater and ran the stage station there.

Verissimo and Izadorio arrived at Chugwater in March of 1883. It was a very cold reception from the tropical climate of the island to the Wyoming plains in winter. Neither brother could speak any English when they arrived. The ranch hands played pranks on them. They told them their wrist was their ankle and their ankle their wrist then laughed when they made mistakes. They helped their uncle at the stage station. Both boys learned to read and write English despite the obstacles.

John Phillips died in November of 1883, the same year they arrived. Soon after he died they had some trouble with the old man who managed the stage station. He was picking on Izadorio so Verissimo grabbed him by his goattee and knocked most of his teeth out. The tooth that didn't get knocked out had to be pulled out. After that, Verissimo and Izadorio felt they should leave Chugwater. They worked on the Union Pacific Railroad and also as civilians at Fort Laramie.

Then they heard about Casper which was not a town then but a freighting station. They decided to leave Fort Laramie and go to Casper, but they only had one horse. They couldn't both ride the horse and neither wanted to walk so they compromised. One brother rode the horse for several telegraph poles, tied the horse to a pole and started walking. The other brother walked to the horse, rode it several poles, tied it and started walking. And that is how they got from Fort Laramie to Casper.

They arrived in Casper in 1886. Izadorio decided to go by I.G. Phillips (I.G. stands for Izadorio Gonsalves). Everybody called Verissimo, Vic. Both brothers filed for homesteads. Vic homesteaded on the Big Muddy. He raised

a small herd of cattle and cut mine props for the coal mines on Casper Mountain and Muddy Mountain. I.G. homesteaded east of Deer Creek at the base of the mountains. They helped each other build identical log houses. There were two small bedrooms in the back and one large room in front which was their kitchen, living room and dining room.

I.G. was married twice. Evelyn, his first wife, died in 1927. Bertha, his second wife, lived with him at the homestead until his death in 1937. There were no children from either marriage.

Vic met Flora when she was working as a cook at the Grand Central Hotel. It was the fanciest hotel in Casper at the time. They were married on January 26, 1901. They rode into Casper on a load of hay when they went to get married. Flora had three children from previous marriages. Together Vic and Flora had three children; Isadore, born May 24, 1902, Mabel, born May 25, 1904, Louisa, born January 21, 1906.

They were living on the Big Muddy when the children were born. Most women had their babies at home with the help of a midwife. However, the spring before Mabel was born there was a lot of rain and all the bridges washed out. The midwife couldn't get to the Gonsalves' homestead. When Mabel's time came there was no one to help Flora (Vic was on the mountain cutting mine props) so she had the baby by herself, got up and bathed her off. A couple of days later Vic came down and Flora told him to take his men and go back to work because she didn't need him.

A favorite pastime of the small Gonsalves children when they were living on the Big Muddy was playing with the sulfur matches. They would crawl under the table and rub the sulfur on their hands so they could watch it glow in the dark.

Vic and Flora sold their place on the Big Muddy. On May 20, 1909 they and their children moved to a new place in the mountains where Willow Creek meets Boxelder Creek. The next day they put in a patch of potatoes. On June 9 of the same year there was a flood. The water came up around the house and they had to evacuate. Vic had to carry the kids to the buggy. They went to the school house because they didn't know any of their neighbors yet since they had just moved in. Flora worried all night that they would not have a house left in the morning but the house was still there. They soon moved the house to higher ground. The potato patch, however, did not survive the flood and they found potatoes along the creek banks all summer. Another job that summer was picking all the rocks out of the field that the flood had left.

They raised and sold hay on the new place. Vic was an excellent irrigator and he used water from the creek nearby. The children had to walk about a mile over a big hill to get to the small school house. They went to the same school all the years they went to school. Their teacher usually boarded with them so they really got to know the teacher. Mabel and Louisa were the only girls in the school except for summer school. During the summer people who worked in the coal mines during the winter would come to live on homesteads, prove them up, and sell them to neighbors for pasture land. These places are usually named after the families that homesteaded them. This would mean more kids for summer school. The kids

from town would make fun of the Gonsalves children because they had never been to town.

Two summers after they moved to the mountains, May, one of Flora's girls from a previous marriage, got scarlet fever even though she hadn't been to town or in contact with anyone who had it. May and Flora were quarantined in the house and everyone else had to stay in a tent. The doctor came periodically to check on her and she got better but the only way he could find that May could have caught the fever is through Montgomery Wards. She ordered some clothes from Montgomery Wards which must have been packed by someone who unknowingly had scarlet fever.

Vic and I.G. were the only Portuguese around which worked to their advantage sometimes. When they first got telephones around the area some people liked to listen in on other people's conversations, but when Vic and I.G. talked people could listen but it wouldn't do them any good because they talked in Portuguese.

Vic developed cataracts on his good right eye and he became totally blind. He and Flora lived on the same place until they died. Flora died April 17, 1942 and Verissimo died May 3, 1942, exactly two weeks after his wife.

Mabel married Ralph Hiser while Louisa married Joe Alley.

Leonard Hiser

## Good, Bert and Ela Family

James Albert Good, the son of William Allen and Irene Matilda Dundas Good, was born December 9, 1879, at Glenrock, Nebraska, the sixth of nine children.

When in his late twenties, Bert (as his friends called him) went to Ewing, Nebraska, to help his brother Alva get his family settled into their new home. One day he was there alone when a horse and buggy came into the yard and a beautiful young lady, who introduced herself as the new school teacher, asked if she might board there with him. With a twinkle in his eye he told her that he didn't mind but it would be proper if she asked his brother since it was his home. She did ask and she did board there.

Ela Rosalind Mann, the beautiful young school teacher, was the daughter of Augustus Caesar Dodge and Ida Alice Bruno Mann, born at Central City, Nebraska, on



Bert Good homestead.



June 6, 1883. Ela was the first born of twin girls, making her the second of five children. The twins had been born when their mother was at home alone with their four-year-old son, Joy. When their father returned home, he was surprised to find his wife had given birth to twin girls, Ela Rosalind and Etta Vivian. Both girls grew up to become school teachers.

Ela paid the smart young fellow no mind at first because she already had her eye on a certain young man. Before the school term was finished, Bert was not only interested, but interesting!!!

On September 4, 1907, Bert and Ela were married at the home of the local Justice of the Peace, Alva Good. Later on they had a real church ceremony in the Christian Church in Palmer, Nebraska. The happy couple worked on ranches in the area for the next several years. One night, Bert was detained in town and being a jokester at heart, decided to pretend that he was intoxicated. He came into the house dragging the harness. Ela met him at the door, totally disgusted, and told him that he did indeed have the right idea. "Leave the harness right here and you go sleep in the barn!" He sobered up instantly!

August 30, 1908 made the Goods a real family, with the birth of little Ida Agnes. She was a perfect baby in every way.

October 10, 1910 was the day that Frances Irene joined the family, she finally received her name when she was about three months old.

On Christmas day 1911, little Ida Agnes lost her bout with pneumonia. She was laid to rest in Chambers, Nebraska.

One year later on Christmas day, Maurice Albert was born. It seemed to Bert and Ela to be a sign to return to happiness.

Ela June was born June 29, 1915, and Rua Vee completed the family on April 23, 1919.

When Rua was about six months old Bert and Ela decided to move their family of four to Wyoming. They bought a Ford car and crammed Frances, Maurice, June and baby Rua and themselves into the car and headed out. Ela later commented that "we felt pretty high up in that car, but it was a pretty tight fit."

They spent two years in Douglas and in the spring of 1921, after a bout with scarlet fever and whooping cough, they were feeling pretty weak but mighty happy to be headed at last to their new home. They moved into an old homestead shack and lived there until they could renovate the old Douglas Ice House that they hauled out from Douglas on a truck.

"I was glad to be out on the ranch, where the kids could get out and run around. Snakes came right up on the doorstep. I was trapped in the cellar one time, with a snake between me and the door, a rattlesnake, and nothing to kill it with!" commented Ela years later. Ela also held a certain fear of the range cattle around the children. At night she would warn them not to get too far from the house for fear the cattle could see them. "No telling what they might do to you."

Bert and Ela brought some of, if not the first, black cattle into the Dull Center Community. They went to Antioch, Nebraska and purchased a Black Aberdeen Angus bull to up-grade their range cattle. This venture caused a bit of contention at the time, however the Angus



Good-Dull School, Top row: Winona Dull, Arizona Dull.  
Middle row: Charles Dull, June Good, Berdena Dull, and Frances Good.  
Bottom row: Vernon Dull, Maurice Good and Walter Dull.

cattle are rather popular in that area at the time of this writing.

Bert's brother Will and nephew, Wayne came from Nebraska and got work on the Fiddleback Ranch. Later his brothers Evett and Harold and twin sister, Hattie came out to help Bert on his ranch and also took homesteads of their own. Ela's brothers Joy and Seymour came out also. Wayne relinquished his homestead to Seymour and Joy also got a relinquish homestead.

How those homesteads could support so many is a wonder at all.

They had to haul water from the Cheyenne River until Bert could drill a well. He started drilling wells to supplement their income. Many were the tales that came from those experiences. Ela later commented about Bert's well drilling, "He drilled wells all over the country. He drilled a lot of wells. Boy, boy, boy, he was gone all the time. One time he drilled a well and then the people had no money to pay him with, so he came home with a crate of four or five chickens and a bottle of hooch!"

One well that he had just completed was near Bonneville, Wyoming and Bert was eager to get home. The ride to the train depot was extended, due to a flat tire, and he missed the train. That train wrecked later that night in the famous Cole Creek Train Wreck. My, how thankful the family was for that flat tire.

In 1924, Bert and Ela helped to organize the Dull Center Sunday School, which they named Bethany. Ela was either teacher or superintendent or both for the next 20 years. Sunday afternoons were often filled with picnics and/or a ballgame.

During and shortly after the depression of the thirties



the Goods and the entire community would get together on Saturday night once a month and "make their own pleasures" in the form of a Literary Society. Every member was to have some kind of entertainment for each monthly meeting. It could be a reading, a skit, or they could speak a piece, or sing, . . . anything. Then they enjoyed lunch afterward. One evening a debate was planned. "*Which is the Most Useful, a Broom or a Dishrag?*" Ela took the side of the broom and Molly Dull took the side of the dishrag. The debate went on for some time and was finally called a draw. That evening when the Dulls were ready to go home, Walter did not come when called. Molly promptly picked up the broom and went after her son. After much laughter, The Broom was declared the winner of the debate!

All the girls were married now and each one had a family, Maurice had gone to the navy after Pearl Harbor was bombed, and once again it was two against the wilderness. The decision was made that town was the place to live when all was considered, especially the 65 mile ride to town.

Only four years after the move to town Bert passed away on January 3, 1950. Bert's philosophy for life is best illustrated by this true life incident. Hail was in the process of ruining the best grain crop ever for the Goods since being in Wyoming. Bert turned from the window where he had been watching the storm and went to lay on the floor until it was over. Then with a smile he got up and said, "Best thing to do at a time like this is to get some of that stuff and make ice cream!"

After Bert's passing Ela supported herself by boarding high school and air force boys. Later she took the job of hostess for the Shoppers Lounge in Douglas, Wyoming, where she worked for 30 years. She retired shortly after her 101st birthday and now lives by herself in Douglas.

In the last seven years Ela has experienced a broken leg and several surgeries but has not lost her dedication to life and work.

Frances married Lee Clement Wells on August 23, 1937. They now live in Gillette, Wyoming. They have two girls.

Maurice married Betty Janice Dickau on May 29, 1947. Maurice managed the Converse County Airport, R. and G. Aircraft, and lived in Douglas. They have three boys and one girl. Maurice died on Sept. 4, 1985.

June married August Henry Riehle on May 3, 1935. They own and operate a ranch 47 miles north and east of Douglas. They have one boy and one girl.

Rua married Ed Irvine Whiting and after his death in 1952 she married Robert Edward Kirk in 1954. They own and operate the Highway 59 Self-Service near Douglas. They have two girls and three boys.

Ela has 13 grandchildren, 26 great grandchildren and two great, great grandchildren. Her life has been lived around her favorite Bible verse, Psalm 118:24, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

June Good Riehle

## Goodwin, George and Emma

George F. Goodwin was born on January 1, 1847 in Chicago, Illinois, the son of J. P. and N. B. Reynolds Goodwin.

Mr. Goodwin came to Wyoming in 1883 settling on LaBonte Creek, one mile south of the confluence of West Fork LaBonte and LaBonte Creek. His water rights were granted in 1887.

He married Emma Barnes Marsh, a widow with two children, Clarence and Dell Marsh, in 1891 in Kansas City, Kansas. Emma was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin on May 26, 1844, the daughter of Hiram Barnes.

Moving his family to Wyoming in 1891, he lived on LaBonte Creek until 1899 when he moved to Douglas. During the time he lived on the ranch he was also in a partnership with O. P. Witt and George H. Cross, Sr. running sheep in the Wagonhound Creek area. They sold their property to the Sims brothers.

After moving to Douglas he built a two-story rooming house on South Second Street. It was known as the Goodwin Rooms for years.

George died on December 30, 1918; Emma on January 26, 1929.

John R. Pexton

## Gordon, Dave Jr., and Edith Mae

A native of Ballymena, Ireland, being born there March 4, 1877 to Dave and Isabella Gordon. (Isabella died in Ireland.) Dave Jr., along with his father, one brother, four sisters, and a nurse came to Wyoming in 1882. They settled on Horseshoe Creek on the Bob Walker and "Skew" Johnson place. Dave Sr. married the children's nurse, Mary Ferguson, shortly after arriving in Wyoming.

In 1892, when Dave Jr. was fifteen years of age, he went to the mountains near Laramie Peak to live and



Charles Paull doing barber work on the range.



Bottom row: Emmett Newell, Clara Newell, Maggie Newell, Frank Newell, unknown, Tom Shepard, Arthur Wann and Dave Gordon, Jr. climbing Laramie Peak, 1899.

work. He first homesteaded on Trail Creek (where Justin Werner has his mountain headquarters). After selling his homestead to James Carragher, he purchased the Giles Strangeways place on Muddy Creek on July 3, 1907. Soon after, in September 1908, he sold this to Archie Hamner.

Shortly after his father's death, Dave purchased the ranch on Horseshoe Creek from his father's estate.

Edith Mae Mitchell became Dave's bride in February 1911. Miss Mitchell had been teaching at the school where the children of his sister, Sarah Shepard went. They made their home on the Horseshoe Ranch.

Dave and Edith had one son, Donald. Edith died in 1935 and Dave Jr. in 1958.

John R. Pexton

## Gorsuch, Frank and Phoebe

Frank was born on Jan. 9, 1876 at Bloomington, Kansas. He worked in coal mines in Kansas and Missouri before coming to Douglas, Wyoming in 1919. Frank homesteaded 47 miles north of Douglas, and seven miles north of Bill, Wyoming, which was Dry Creek in those days. The Bill Post Office was approximately four miles

east of Frank's homestead.

Frank built a one-room log house. In August of 1922 he went to Osborne, Kansas for his mother's funeral. Frank met Phoebe Elda Powers and was married. Frank and his wife returned to Douglas and enjoyed the State Fair, before going out to the homestead. One of Frank's neighbors took them home with a team and wagon.

Frank then built on two more rooms to the house made of rock. He built a rock chicken house, a rock smoke house and a rock cellar to store vegetables in.

Frank owned 36 cows, four work horses and one saddle horse. Water was from a dug well with a hand pump on it. That was a daily job to pump water for the livestock. In wet years, a small creek had holes which held water.

Feed for the livestock was grown—oats, corn, cane. In dry years when there was no rain, crops wouldn't grow and thistle took over. They were cut and stacked with salt for feed.

Frank added a windmill and barn in about 1930. The barn was made of logs hauled from the Black Hills with team and wagon. Then he would chink the cracks with fresh cow manure.

On September 26, 1923, Frank and Phoebe had a

daughter, Mary Susan. Phoebe stayed at Dr. Lynch's place which was about two miles north of the Dry Creek Post Office.

On June 24, 1926, a son was born, Lee Francis. Phoebe and daughter, Mary, stayed at the Lon Waltons homestead then.

On July 18, 1928, another daughter was born, Marjorie Marie. This time Pauline Riehle stayed with the Gorsuch family.

Mary went to the first two grades of school at Verse, Wyoming, approximately fifteen miles north of Dry Creek. Then there was a school house built close to the Bill Post Office, where there was about 30 children from first to eight grades.

In good weather the children would walk to school, but on stormy days, Frank Gorsuch and Ernie Steinle would take turns taking their children to school by team and wagon or team and sled.

Mary stayed with the Jim Stevens those first two years of school.

Roy Lynch ran the Dry Creek Store and Post Office Tom Hamlin ran the Bill Post Office.

People from different homesteads would get together to make soap from cracklins and lye.

Trips to Douglas were three or four times a year. It was a day trip with a team and wagon. At those times Frank would take eggs and cream to town to trade for flour, sugar and salt.

Baby chickens and turkeys were hatched in a kerosene incubator or under a setting hen.

In the early 1930's a road was built from Douglas to Dry Creek. Frank worked on this project with four head of horses and fresno.

In the early 1930's Frank and Phoebe got their first car, a Model T Ford. Then Frank built a rock garage.

The toys for the Gorsuch children were all home-made, out of old clocks, driftwood and tin. Frank made airplanes and tractors. The old clocks were stripped down and the main spring used for the power unit, and wooden wheels of spools were generally used. Frank made doll cribs, table and chairs out of orange and apple box wood.

Frank traded turkey eggs for a toy cook stove, 18 inches by 2 feet. It was made of good cast iron. There was a water reservoir and a warming oven in it. That was really great, because you could cook on it. It burnt wood. The Gorsuch children enjoyed a sled purchased in 1935. The sled is being put in the museum at Douglas.

On Sundays, the families would fry up chicken for picnic lunches and all gather along Dry Creek, just south of the store for a fishing spree. Bullheads were the fish. On one Sunday there were 32 families fishing in the holes along the creek.

John Downs was the game warden and he came up the creek and caught all thirty-two families without licenses. They were all fined \$50.00, but suspended, except two who sassed the judge.

In 1938, Frank's health got bad, times were bad. Frank sold the homestead back to the government and moved to Douglas.

At this time, he traded for a 1933 Ford car. A former sheriff's car, it had seven corks in the door to plug bullet holes. William R. Silvers was the sheriff.

Sheriff Silvers owned a small place three miles south of Douglas, where Frank moved. He lived there for three years, until Silvers left the sheriff's office.

Frank bought a small house in Douglas. He gathered railroad ties and saved them up for fire wood, which he sold for \$7.00 a cord. Frank and his son, Lee, would saw the wood with a two-man cross-cut saw.

Frank would gather old clothes and cut them into strips. These strips were run through a rug loom. He would sell the rugs for a few dollars.

On December 10, 1950, Frank passed away at Douglas Memorial Hospital, which was located west of Douglas, where the Prisoner of War Camp was located during World War II.

Lee F. Gorsuch

## Grant, Ulysses and Gertrude Family

Ulysses S. "Uly" Grant was born in Vermont on February 16, 1864 to Daniel Seaver Grant and Frances Sophia Adams Grant. Daniel, born in Steven Town, New York, was related to the 18th President of the United States. Frances was born in Vermont, and was related to President John Adams, and John Quincy Adams.

The family moved to Wisconsin when Ulysses was 6 weeks old. Later they moved to Illinois, and in 1872, they moved back into Iowa. They came by covered wagon to Green County, where they settled on a claim of 160 acres near Rhodes.

Uly was the third son in a family of nine boys and one girl. At the time the Grants settled in Iowa, Fred was 16, Will, 14, and Uly was 11 years of age. As soon as the sons were old enough to earn their keep, they left home to seek employment.

Fred and Will made their way to Virginia Dale, Colorado to work in the railroad yards. In the spring of 1887, Uly left Iowa and went to join them. He had been advised to find a higher drier climate in which to live. His health was poor.

The three brothers decided to go into the Wyoming Territory to homestead. They traveled to Tie Siding from Virginia Dale by train. There they bought a team and



Gertrude and Ulysses Grant.

wagon and what supplies they could afford. The trio went first to the Bates Hole country, but it was not appealing to them, so they proceeded across the Laramie Basin, and then northeastward into the Boxelder Creek area. It was here that they found land to their liking.

The young men took up homestead claims, side by side. Will's was to the north, Fred's was in the middle, and that of Uly's was to the south.

Uly's improvements consisted of a small one-room log cabin, a log stable and a corral. Natural springs provided him with water for his home.

Since the range was open, numbers of cattle and sheep roamed in the mountains, straying from the lowlands to the north. There were few other people in the immediate vicinity at that time. Mart Smith had a homestead north of Will's location, and Buck Pratt was situated to the south of Uly's homestead.

In addition to doing the work on his claim, Uly found employment on the Laramie Plains. He worked for a homesteader by the name of Failes the first summer. It was imperative that the brothers find means of earning some income. They arranged a trade with Mart Smith in the summer of 1888. In return for hay which they would cut from their meadows, Smith would give them cattle. He had brought heifers, predominantly Hereford, in from Iowa. Thus, the brothers got their start in the cattle business.

In the years which followed, they broke the cows to milk, made butter from the cream, and used it to trade for food and supplies. The butter was molded into one pound blocks and placed in a large tank of salt brine in the spring house. When they had accumulated enough for a pack horse load, Fred would ride into Medicine Bow, some 65 miles distant, to trade the butter. In addition to this means of income, the brothers killed and butchered elk, antelope and deer. They had a ready market for the meat at the red rock quarry located at the foot of Clayton Hill. The larger deer and elk heads and antlers were also in demand. The meat brought 15¢ per pound, but a trophy head might bring as much as \$50.00.

As the brothers accumulated the necessary machinery and horses required for farming, they planted oats, and sold the surplus grain.

Will proved up on his homestead in 1891, but became disgusted with the country and went to work for a time at the rock quarry. He leased his land and the horses which he had acquired to Uly. Later he sold Uly his claim.

In 1889, Fred brought his bride, Josie to Wyoming from Iowa. Their daughter was born in 1890. In 1891, Fred became seriously ill; Uly and Josie applied hot cloths and mustard to his abdomen. On Saturday morning, Uly saddled a horse and raced down to Glenrock to get a doctor. The doctor refused to come, so Uly returned home. Fred's condition had become worse. In desperation, Uly saddled a fresh horse, and rode to Douglas to find a doctor. This doctor agreed to come, but was too late to save Fred's life. Fred died in agony on the following Friday of a ruptured appendix. Uly had ridden 130 miles making the two trips, and had gone without much sleep for the entire six days of Fred's illness. It was decided that the body must be shipped back to Iowa for burial. That presented another problem. There was no casket in Glenrock, so one had to be shipped in from Omaha. Josie,

her baby daughter, and Uly accompanied the body. By the time they arrived in Iowa, Uly was on the verge of collapse.

After the funeral, Uly and Josie remained in Iowa for about three weeks to rest and visit. They returned to Wyoming, but after spending the summer there, Josie decided to go back to Iowa to live. She sold Fred's homestead and stock to Uly.

Several years later, Uly hired his younger brother, Charles, to work for him. Charles took a homestead claim, bought some cattle, and worked for Uly for seven years. Subsequently, he bought the Ed Smith place, and operated on his own.

In 1900, Uly returned once more to Iowa to marry his childhood sweetheart, Gertrude May Chamberlin. The ceremony took place in Des Moines. Gertie was born in 1881, a native of Iowa. She was the daughter of August Eliab Chamberlin and Mary Emogene Russell Chamberlin who were neighbors of Uly's parents. He brought his bride to live in a 16' x 30' log house, which he had built some distance north of his original cabin. After the birth of their fourth child, Zelma, Uly doubled the size of his dwelling.

In 1906, Daniel, Uly's father, decided to sell his Iowa farm. Uly bought the farm with the intention of moving his family back to Iowa to educate them. The move was not made, however, and Uly leased the farm to his brother Merrill. Some years later, he disposed of the property.

About 10 years later, Uly bought the Noah Young place near Glenrock. His intention, once more, was to offer his children a better education. The schools in the rural community of Boxelder were in session for only six months, and often were held in summer due to the severe winter weather. The school house was located about two miles from the Grant home, thus the children either walked the distance or rode horseback.

To help finance the move to Glenrock, Uly started a dairy on the Young property. The children delivered milk on foot to the townspeople. While the family lived in Glenrock, Uly spent most of his time on the mountain ranch. After four years, the family moved back to Boxelder. The dairy was rented to John Fenex. Evidently circumstances were such that Uly was obliged to change his mind about his family's education. After Fenex quit the dairy business, Uly rented it to his only sister, Gertrude, and her husband, Gus Herzog. During their school years, some of the members of the Grant family boarded with the Herzogs.

Twelve children were born to Uly and Gertie — five boys and seven girls — of which nine lived to maturity. Uly delivered, or helped deliver all of his children except the second daughter, Helen, who was born while her mother was visiting in Iowa.

Emogene May was born at the Snowshoe Ranch in 1901. She married Wes Henderson, and is the mother of five children. She was widowed in 1983, and makes her home now in Denver, Colorado.

Helen Arvilla was born in Baxter, Iowa in 1905. She married Roy Smith and was widowed in 1953. She is the mother of four children, one of which died in infancy, and one after reaching maturity. She lives on Deer Creek.

Jess Nelson was born in 1906 at the Snowshoe. He was

married to Elizabeth Naggadai, and is the father of three children. Jess died in 1971.

Zelma Isabel was born in 1908 at the Snowshoe. She married Robert Hiser, and to them were born three children. One son died after reaching maturity. Bob died on April 14, 1982. Zelma made her home on an acreage west of Douglas, Wyoming. Zelma died on August 15, 1985.

John Mason was born in 1910 at Snowshoe, was married to Lydia Matthews and is the father of five children. One son drowned at the age of two. John died in 1974.

Elmer Lester, born in 1916, at the Snowshoe Ranch, was married to Helen Oberg in 1965. Helen died in 1979, after which Elmer married Ruth E. Mitchell.

Allen Ulysses was born in 1919 in Glenrock, Wyoming. Allen was married to Ann Robbins, and was the father of two sons and one step-son. Allen died in 1977.

Amy Frances was born in Glenrock in 1922. She married Oscar Hansen and is the mother of five children. She makes her home with Oscar in Montana.

Bessie Gertrude was born in 1923 at the Snowshoe. She is the surviving member of a set of twin girls. She is married to Edward Hiser and is the mother of 16 living children.

After the birth of her fourth son in 1919, Gertie's health began to fail. She developed a dropsical condition. During the next four years, Gertie lost a baby girl in infancy as well as one of a set of twin girls. Two months after the birth of the twins, Gertie died, leaving four children, aged 2 months up to 7 years. Uly and his older sons and daughters cared for the younger children. A large part of the responsibility rested upon the shoulders of Helen and Zelma, aged 19 and 16, respectively. Helen married when she was 20, but continued to help with the youngsters, particularly, Bessie, the surviving twin girl. Bessie had been very frail since her birth, and at times, it was thought that she would surely die. Her sisters carried her about on a pillow since she was so tiny and fragile.

Roy Smith, Helen's husband, worked for Uly. He had homesteaded about 20 miles from the Grant place. Helen divided her time between the two households, helping Zelma to care for the family. In addition to working in the fields, Zelma helped care for the family, and spent a little time in Glenrock attending school. Life was difficult, to say the least, for the Grants during these years. Though Uly hired men to help with the ranchwork, the girls were expected to manage by themselves.

After Helen and Roy had started their own family, Helen was not able to help Zelma as much as she had previously. It was plain that Zelma was in need of help with the household. The first two "hired girls" engaged by Uly did not stay long. The third woman, Lydia Matthews, had a small son of her own. Her mother had remarried to a man named Naggadai after the death of Lydia's father. Naggadai had taken a homestead in Mormon Canyon. Besides Lydia, there were two half-sisters in the family. At the time Lydia came to work for Uly, her mother had died. Shortly after Lydia was hired, her two half-sisters moved into the Grant home to work for their room and board. In 1932, Zelma married Bob Hiser and began her life at his home.

Uly purchased his first tractor and mower in 1935. Up to that time, all of the work on the ranch was done with horses and horse-drawn equipment. A "Model A" Ford

had replaced the saddle horses as a means of getting to town. During the haying season, there were always extra hired hands to handle the six or seven teams of horses working on the mowers, rakes and stackers. In the winter, all the livestock feeding was done by moving the hay on sleds drawn by four head of horses. By then, there were around 200 head of cows and 100 head of horses and colts to be fed and cared for. Uly called his outfit the Snowshoe, naming it after the brand which he used. Cattle belonging to John Nelson Grant, son of Jess, wear the brand today.

By 1940, Uly owned about 54 sections of land. He had increased his holdings over the years by acquiring the homesteads of his children and those of many others who became disenchanted with the rigorous life of the mountains. Uly had a set price of \$2400 which he offered for a section of land. The owner could take it or leave it. Together with State, Federal and Forest Reserve lands, Uly owned or controlled 40,000 acres.

John Mason married Lydia Matthews in 1933. They began their married life in the Grant home, and lived there until 1940. Then they moved to the Mart Smith place to make their home. Jess, the oldest son, married Elizabeth Naggadai that year, and he and his wife moved into the home where Uly and Jess' younger brothers and sisters lived. About three years later, Elmer and Allen decided to move to the Buck Pratt homestead to the south where they "bached" until Allen married Ann Robbins in 1948. Elmer continued to live with Allen and his family.

By this time, Uly had celebrated his 84th birthday. He had enjoyed good health for the most part since he came to Wyoming, but now his health was deteriorating. At the age of 89, Uly died, having lost his battle with cancer.

After the death of his father, Jess, John, Elmer and Allen assumed the operation of their father's business. For six years, the brothers managed the ranch together. In 1956, however, Allen sold his share of the ranch to the three other brothers, and moved to a ranch he had purchased on Mill Creek south of Douglas.

In 1965, Elmer was married to Helen Oberg of Glenrock. A year later, the brothers agreed to divide the land into three separate ranches, each brother having his own. They would continue to run their stock together, sharing the work. The eldest, Jess, died in 1971, leaving his son, John Nelson, to assume the operation of his share. John Mason died in 1974, after which his son, Lester Ulysses, carried on his father's business.

In the spring of 1972, it became apparent that Elmer's wife was not at all well. For this reason, among others, Elmer decided that he would withdraw from the business, and continue his operation alone. In 1973, Helen's health had deteriorated considerably, thus causing Elmer to dispose of about half of his land and all of his livestock. From that time until her death in 1979, Elmer's days were spent caring for his wife — living in Douglas so that he could be near her. She spent a large part of the last six years of her life in some hospital, or in the nursing home in Douglas. After his first wife died, Elmer remarried and makes his home north of Lost Springs, Wyoming. He leases his remaining land for livestock grazing.

Ulysses S. Grant had very little formal education. He was a self-taught, self-made man. He was ambitious, intelligent and thrifty. He existed with few creature com-



forts. His Scotch ancestry was reflected by his austere way of life. He demanded much of himself and of those around him, willing to make any sacrifice to achieve his goal — that of acquiring vast amounts of land and livestock. He expected his family to be equally self-sacrificing. In his opinion, conveniences within his home were luxuries. While he believed that his children should have some education, he thought that a higher education was unnecessary. He once remarked that girls did not need a college degree to change diapers.

Uly was stern with his family. Laughter did not come easily to him, nor any demonstration of affection. He was generous only if he could foresee some benefit by being generous. Uly was respected by his family and friends, but permitted little interference with his management of the ranch or household. He often said that he would rather give a man twenty-five dollars than to tell the man anything about his business. Because he was willing to trade his time and labor, Uly was a good neighbor.

As a member of the local school board, he donated his time and money to establishing and maintenance of the few schools in the area. He worked hard his entire life, with little time or inclination for pleasure. Though he was a determined unyielding man, he must be admired for what he was able to accomplish in the rugged, beautiful mountains which he chose for his home.

Although there are a large number of great-grandchildren, there are only four great-grandsons who will perpetuate the name of Ulysses Grant. Craig and Mark, sons of Lester Ulysses and Norma Jean Haygood Grant; William, son of John Nelson and Margaret Davidson Grant; and Dillon, son of Kenneth and Linda Townsend Grant. Three of the four live today on the ranch in the Boxelder mountains which Uly loved so well.

Zelma Grant Hiser  
Ruth Mitchell Grant

## Grant, Walter and Cora

Walter Mason Grant first came to Converse County, Wyoming about 1888 to visit his brothers who had located in the Boxelder Park country in 1887. At that time, the stone quarry was going full blast, and there was a railroad spur running from Glenrock to take the stone to the shipping point. By 1889, they were laying off men and a letter to Walter said, "Glenrock is dead, the funeral is New Year's Day." Potatoes were sixty to eighty cents per hundredweight, beef was five to ten cents, and the judge in Douglas was 29 years old.

Walter was the son of Daniel and Frances Adams Grant. He was born on October 16, 1865 in Illinois. The family was on their way from Vermont to Iowa where they had heard that land was cheap. After a few years in the woods of Wisconsin, they did arrive in central Iowa. The father bought a little flour for the wife, corn for the horses, and had ten cents left.

Walter grew up on the farm with his eight brothers and one sister, attended country school and went to State Center High School. He said they lived on seven cents a day, but he took food from the farm. At home, they took fried cakes made from cornmeal, salt and water for school lunches.

Walter learned the barber trade and worked in Forest City. He contracted typhoid and was told to find outside work, so he did odd jobs. He fell in love with Cora Lundy, the daughter of James D. and Mattie Mathews Lundy, and they were married on Thanksgiving Day in 1903 at Natoma, Kansas where Cora was teaching school. They took a wedding trip to Wyoming, and after Cora taught the spring term of school in Boxelder, they built a cover for the spring wagon and with a team of mules made the trip through Yellowstone Park. Only horses were allowed there then, and the stage was pulled by teams. On Sundays, they layed over and Cora washed the clothing and baked bread for there were no bakeries.

They left Glenrock one morning and that night, they were at the Iba cabin east of Evansville. No wonder it took them all summer. Years later, they made the trip by car and were amazed at the miles covered in a day.

In the fall of 1904, they went back to Iowa and settled down in Baxter. They had several lots on the west edge of town and had a huge garden, a cow, chickens, a horse (for driving) and many fruit trees. It was a great place for their children to live. Jessie was born May 12, 1905, Marian on January 13, 1907, and Merritt Mason on May 27, 1910. Jessie obtained a nursing diploma at the University of Wyoming, married John Hakalo, and they raised three children. Marian studied public school music at the University of Washington, but quit to come home and marry Alvin Clark. They made their home in Glenrock and had one son, Stuart, who died in Korea when he was 21 years old. They now live in Hemet, California. Merritt worked at the two Casper theaters and was the installer of the first sound equipment at the America Theater. He joined the diplomatic service and served as vice-counsel in England, India, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Greece and Egypt. His wife, Margaret Curry, is now deceased, and he lives in Fort Bragg, California.

Walter bought and sold furs, and one of my earliest memories is of going with him by horse and buggy to an Indian camp. They had a nice tent, two girls and puppies — but papa would not let me (Jessie) take one home.

About 1915, the family moved to Clarence, Iowa, and Walter had a hardware store. He was not very successful and after Mother and Marian had the 1918 flu, they loaded everything in a box car and moved to Jireh, Wyoming where his brothers Theron and George were. Papa found no work there, but his brother Uly offered him a job on his ranch, so we moved up by wagon. While we were in Jireh, a little white dog came along and stayed. We called him Joe because we were reading the book, "Beautiful Joe". He lived to a ripe old age but was blind in one eye because he ran into the wheelbarrow chasing a coyote around the house in Jireh.

On the ranch in Boxelder, the family did well. Walter took up a homestead at the mouth of Horse Canyon, and Cora took a stone and timber claim. Both were sold to Uly. While we were proving up, Marian and I went up each afternoon and stayed the night. Marian usually managed to find a grouse or young cottontail to shoot for our supper. One night, Joe trapped a packrat behind the wood box. We took the poker and pulled out the box, and the rat ran up on the open door where Marian shot it. Not to eat, tho!

Walter planted grain on his homestead, and the grain

won a prize at the fair that fall. Mother cooked for the men until we moved to the lower ranch, purchased by Uly from Charlie, then she taught school and went to summer school. She had a life certificate in Iowa, but she had to upgrade her certificate by going to the University of Wyoming summer school. The cooking fell to me.

After a few years Walter was not able to keep up the ranch work, and they moved to Glenrock. He bought the little second hand store, and Cora taught school at Careyhurst. Parkerton, Glenrock and served four years as County Superintendent of Schools.

At first, they rented the little house on First Street owned by Lewis and Adelyna Smith, and later they bought the house on the hill now owned by Gilmore Kennaugh.

Walter was a sportsman and often had articles published in the Sports Afield Magazine. He was an active member of the Odd Fellows Lodge and a deacon in the Baptist Church.

Mother died in California in 1950. Walter died of pneumonia in 1930 and is buried in the Glenrock Cemetery.

Jessie Grant Hakalo

## Graves, Fred and Florence Family

A westward trek that started in a covered wagon and ended in an emigrant car brought Fred Graves to his Wyoming homestead.

Fred was born January 14, 1883 at Guilford, Mo. and lived there until 17 years of age. He traveled with his parents Rufus and Ellen Graves, and brothers Glenn and Marcus and sister Bessie, by covered wagon — first to Waverly, Kansas and later to Kirk, Colorado — where he grew to manhood. There he married Elizabeth McLean

on August 7, 1907, to which a son Tyson Jewel was born. This marriage ended in divorce in 1910.

Fred eventually left Colorado — working in Kansas, South Dakota, and Nebraska on farms and in the harvest fields. Finally he came to Brady, Nebraska and went to work for his future father-in-law; and thus met his wife-to-be, Florence Abercrombie. Meanwhile, he acquired a small business containing a pool table, bowling lanes, and a snack bar, which he operated for two years. By this time, he was planning to marry; and since he and his bride-to-be decided to farm, he sold his business and rented a farm.

Florence "Flossie" Abercrombie was born September 23, 1888 at Brady, Nebraska; the eldest daughter of Agricol and Ida Abercrombie whose family numbered seven daughters and one son.

Flossie grew up first on a farm and later in Brady where her father ran a livery stable. She received her education in Brady and at the North Platte Junior College and State Teachers College in Kearney, Nebraska. She received her lifetime teachers certificate (a certification similar to a present day Bachelors Degree) and taught for several years in the Brady area. She remained interested in educational issues all through her life and at an advanced age took oil painting lessons and enjoyed painting for her family and friends.

Early on June 10, 1914, Fred and Flossie were married at the home of her parents and after a wedding breakfast left for their rented farm 18 miles away. All their worldly possessions were piled in the wagon with them. There they farmed for three summers, and there the first two daughters, Gladys and Berniece were born. Later, in Wyoming, sons Wayne, Marcus and daughter, Virginia were born.

The prospect of owning their own land, by home-



L. to R. Marcus, Bessie, Glenn and Fred Graves.

steading, enticed Fred on westward to Wyoming. His plans were to settle at Jireh, Wyoming; but the land agent was not in his office that day. So, Fred continued on to Douglas. There he was shown out to a site which was open for filing by Milt Githens. For this service, Mr. Githens was paid, at a later date, with 12 chickens. Fred filed on the land (parts of Sections 6 and 7, Township 70, Range 33) in 1916, but when the laws covering homesteading were changed, returned to refile in 1917. That summer, he and his wife's uncle, Jim Harmon, built a one room homestead-home; the usual 'car' roof and tarpapered to turn the wind and snow. He returned to Nebraska and the next spring loaded all the family's possessions — livestock, chickens, farm implements, household goods and personal belongings — into an emigrant car. On Good Friday he started for Wyoming, arriving in Douglas on April 1, 1918. While waiting for the rest of the family to arrive, he added another small room to the house and hand dug a water well.

Flossie and the girls came on a later train, benefiting from the luxury (?) that a passenger car could offer. She marveled at the brightness and seemingly nearness of the stars as they left the train. They spent their first night in Wyoming at the White House Rooms, which has only

recently been moved from its original site on South Third Street.

In order to establish the boundaries of their land they located the southwest corner stone. Flossie measured the circumference of the wagon wheel, tied on a bright marker and counted the revolutions as Fred drove the team on a straight line to a pre-established land mark set up by the North Star. When the number of turns to make the mile was completed, they were only a few feet from their goal of the northwest corner.

As soon as possible, the land was fenced — plowed — disked — harrowed and planted. In the early years, this Wyoming land produced great crops — corn, wheat, barley and oats. The family raised their own beans, potatoes and garden produce.

After the first year passed, Flossie had the house moved to a hillside further south of the original site so that she could see farther toward the town. There the house was enlarged and a screen porch added, as well as, a cellar dug for storing surplus root crops and home canned goods, and later a well was drilled near the house.

The cattle produced milk and cream, as well as beef. Milk was separated to obtain cream for butter and to sell, to produce cash for the items that had to be purchased.



**Kindergarten 1940-41 Douglas:** Flossie Graves, teacher. Top row: L. to r. Clydeen Hales, Jean Braae, Jim Morton and Helen Roush. Second row from top: Jesse Nance, Ted McKelvey, George Bancept, Wally Ballard, Clifford Harkins and Bill Hern. Third row from top: Alice Heckert, Sally Shaffer, Frank Skelton, John Huntzinger, David Fowler, Harry Davies, Ron Herrick, Rosemary Stepp. Bottom row: Carol Wilson, Carol Curtin, Peggy Jo Hales, Murleen Bloom, Viola Gibson, Earl Scott and Imo Russell.

Sometimes there were even the luxuries of dried apples, apricots and prunes and for Christmas socks — an orange!! Fred also worked at odd jobs moving houses, carpenter work, or in the Casper and Glenrock oil fields, to produce needed cash for taxes, clothing, seed, etc.

Many tales could be told of cold winter mornings, winter blizzards and flash floods, hauling water in barrels which froze in the winter — going to “the timber” six to ten miles away to lay in a winter supply of wood; but these could well be repeated in variations by all homesteaders.

Flossie, though raised on a farm was not as well adjusted to the homestead life as was her bluff husband, Fred. She was dreadfully afraid of lightning and would let out a scream each time it thundered; and taught her children that a “feather bed” was best protection from lightning — so at the first crack; there the family went — like an old hen followed by chickens — plop, plop into the feather bed. Coyote and hawks were her mortal enemies and though deathly afraid of a gun, she one time had to save her chickens by shooting a coyote. She trembled for hours before finally calming herself, and then, basked in the glory of her bravery. She had taught her chickens that at the appearance of a hawk she would emit a sharp coo-coo-coo and it was a sight to see those chickens hustle for shelter when so warned. In later life, she was proud of her membership in the “Sod House Society” signifying that she had been born in a sod house and had taught in a sod school house, as well.

Illness was a special dread because of the distance to travel to a doctor. The family kept a supply of basic remedies; epsom salts, turpentine, mustard for mustard packs, and castor oil, senna tea, and asafetida which was worn on the person to ward off germs — and probably owed its success to its dreadful stink — which kept everyone so far away that no doubt the isolation did the trick. The family had their share of childhood illness — and Flossie managed to have them all over again with her children — mumps, measles, chicken pox and scarlet fever.

Accidents did happen in spite of the caution taken. When chopping wood for the fire, a chip flew from the ax into Fred's eye. Unable to remove it at home, Fred walked the seven miles into town to the doctor. The chip was removed, but Fred lost the sight of his eye. Flossie had blood poisoning due to an abscessed tooth and her face swelled double in size. By putting hot epsom salts packs and rinsing with hot salt water, she was able to cure the problem. Gladys was carrying milk pails to the barn astride the family horse when the rattle of the buckets frightened the horse, who bolted and ran for the barn. About to enter the barn (which would have decapitated Gladys) the horse stopped, turned and dumped Gladys — with only a broken arm. At the time the parents didn't believe it to be broken — so it healed without the benefit of a doctor and is still crooked.

Wayne was severely ill with the mumps; the only time a childhood illness became dangerous. One time when traveling to a club meeting at a neighbor's house, Flossie accidentally dropped the harness lines and in trying to retrieve them stepped out onto the tongue of the wagon and spooked the team, which bolted and ran away throwing her out. Marcus and Virginia were left in the

wagon for a ways, but eventually they were thrown out, breaking Marcus' leg. Flossie moved to town into one room where Marcus was bedfast with weights attached to his legs. He suffered great pain, and when the cast was removed, it was found that it had been too tight at the ankle and caused “proud” flesh. This flesh had to be cut away and doctored and the terrible scars and adhesions remain.

Berniece became ill and had a condition the doctors called Saint Vitus Dance — they removed her tonsils and she slowly outgrew this condition. Amazingly, through it all, no lives were lost and Fred and Flossie died natural deaths at 79 and 87 respectively, attributed to old age — and all of the children remain alive.

Great fun was also part of the homestead life. Once Flossie, upon reading of the new flapper style hair cut, waited till Fred left, then “bobbed” her hair — and as he returned took a flapper stance; and she laughed, till tears came, at the sight of his shocked face. Christmas and birthdays were made great events by Flossie, even though sometimes it was with an ‘eggless’ cake. Choosing the Christmas tree was a major family event and the popcorn strings and home made decorations were beautiful in the family's eyes, and never once did Santa fail to arrive.

Pets were part of the household. One of the favorites was Blue — a pigeon who became a character. He discovered that he could enter the house through an upstairs window and would hop down the stairs — one at a time; and then, if the phonograph happened to be playing, would pace across the top, cooing until someone chased him outside. He learned when school was out and would fly to meet the children, would light and walk home with them.

Old Tom was a pet hen who demanded attention if she was expected to lay an egg! She would nest as close to the house as possible, then she would cackle several times so the family would go out and pet her. One time she tried to nest in the old ash box of a heating stove that had been set out on the back porch for the summer.

Ted was a black and white mongrel who was a hero. Several times he was bitten while killing a rattlesnake; which he would grab in his mouth and shake and throw till he managed to kill it. After he attacked a porcupine, we had to remove the porcupine quills. He stood still in spite of the pain and then whipped the young dogs into submission, too.

Queen was afar from a queenly horse, but how the children loved her — sometimes riding three or four deep. And there was the nameless pet sow who carried corn husks and straw to make a bed by the back door to have her pigs.

One time Fred was aroused in the middle of the night by barking dogs and went out in his shirt-tail to investigate. Just then, around the corner came a dashing skunk followed by angry dogs — between Fred and the door. Needless to say, Fred took off around the house leading the pack — shirt-tail flying, while the family, who had been awakened also, peered down from the upstairs window roaring with laughter.

Since the Graves' original home had been replaced and was quite large, the neighbors often met there on Saturday nights, for a country dance. The wives brought

cake or sandwiches and the husbands helped move all the furniture out on the front porch. Someone would start out on the fiddle and several women were able to 'chord' the pump organ. So much fun for all of the family to waltz and two-step and even have a "square" or two while Fred made the calls. After a midnight break for lunch, dancing continued until "Three O'Clock in the Morning" signaled time to get that special partner for the final dance, "Home Sweet Home". At other times there were Halloween masquerades or taffy pulls. Good times were plentiful — as were the hard times — but Fred and Flossie maintained that these were the best times of all.

However, the drought came and it became impossible to grow the crops to feed livestock, although by then they had a windmill and could irrigate the garden. Even the grass no longer grew long enough to wave in the wind, as it did in the 20's, so the family had to look elsewhere for livelihood. The market crash would have had no effect on them, if only the rains had continued to fall. It became necessary to reduce the number of cattle by selling to the government. So, the Graves sold the horses and remaining livestock to neighbors and moved into town, into a small house Fred had built on a lot they owned. Fred took various jobs until his health failed and then Flossie went to work, using her education to again go into teaching what was the forerunner of the first kindergarten in Douglas. She continued to work while Fred built several houses which they rented for income in their retirement years. They both remained active in community affairs — Flossie became a charter member of the Red Cross Grey Ladies. Fred died on Dec. 15, 1962, Flossie on Nov. 18, 1975.

In spite of the lean years, all of the children graduated from Converse County High School, except Wayne — who graduated in Nebraska. For the first eight years, all attended the rural 'Graves School' — walking a mile through snow and blizzards, rain and blistering heat. For high school, they continued to walk the mile to catch a bus to ride the six miles into Douglas.

Gladys, the oldest, taught school for four years; she then married and raised a family of three — two sons and a daughter, who is deceased. She later became a book-keeper and for seven years a store manager. She is now retired.

Berniece had two daughters — one who is now deceased. She became an accountant and after retiring, remarried and traveled extensively with her husband who was employed overseas. Her travels included the far East, Turkey near Iran and the Russian border. She later toured several European countries, spending 18 months in Vietnam and Thailand, following which they toured the Asiatic Theater.

Wayne served in World War II after which he became a carpenter. Later he was employed as City-County Building Inspector for Stockton, California. He is now retired and has three married children.

Marcus was in service during World War II. After returning home, he worked for the Wyoming Highway Department, except for a period of time when he was self-employed. He has three daughters and a son who was lost in Vietnam. After 29½ years with the Wyoming Highway Department, he is now retired.

Virginnia moved to California during World War II

and worked as a secretary for several years. After marriage, she and her husband had their own business from which she is now retired. She has two children; a son who has graduated from college and a daughter now enrolled in college.

The family homestead is still owned by the collective family.

Gladys Graves Hill

## Graves, Glenn and Lillie

Glenn Graves was born in Guilford, Missouri on Aug. 6, 1885, the son of Rufus L. and Ellen Marie Ham Graves. Twins were born to Glenn and his wife on June 4, 1906 in Binkleman, Nebraska. Glenn's wife and son died at the time of the twins' birth. The surviving twin, Stella, was raised by her grandparents, Rufus and Ellen.

Stella attended school in Kirk, Colorado. She came to Wyoming with her grandparents in 1919 when they homesteaded north of Douglas. One son, Herman, and one daughter, Ruth, were born to her marriage to Percy Howard. She married George Jackson on March 16, 1933 after she was divorced from Percy. Six sons, Albert, Richard, George, Delbert, Andre and William, and one daughter, Cora, were born to Stella and George. Stella married George's brother Bert after George's death in 1966. She taught school in many of the rural schools in the county. She died on June 21, 1971.

Glenn came to Converse County in 1922 to homestead near his parents.

In the late 1920's he married Lillie Fields Gwartney, a widow with eight children. Glenn and Lillie had two children of their own, Ellen Marie and Albert Lee.

Glenn had horses and one of the teams, Maude and Prince, was used in the State Fairs in competition in the log pulling contests, etc. They were a majestic team and well trained. Many was the time they found the way home during the blinding blizzards and return trips from town pulling the wagon full of commodities.

Gene and Colista Combs' ranch joined us on the south. They had large Angus bulls that had a habit of going on the rampage, and when they did, they wiped out fences or whatever got in their way. To the north was the Morton Ranch. They always had the beautiful stud horses that had to be respected. We used to go to an old windmill where a lot of horseradish grew. It was during those times we encountered the studs and had some frightening experiences. The Claude Thompson homestead was only a few miles to the north of us.

Times got tough and about the only thing that was plentiful, seemed to be blizzards, cactus and rattlesnakes. Many times Glenn hitched his faithful team to the wagon to take us kids to the Graves or Happy Hallow Schools only to find the roads were closed and the teacher could not get through. With freezing hands he would build a fire in the school house stove to warm us up. The teacher would be hours getting to school. Sometimes we would have to return home early as the storms worsened. Many is the night Glenn sat with us by the kerosene lamp to help us with our studies.

As the years passed Lillie managed to save a hundred dollars. She packed our belongings and the family headed



to California and later to Washington where Glenn became employed at the Seattle-Tacoma shipyards. Glenn passed away in 1953 and is buried in the Sumner Cemetery at Sumner, Washington. Lillie died in 1976 and is also buried at Sumner.

Ellen became a registered nurse. She had four children, Cecil Glenn, Albert, Mary and Charlene. Ellen died in 1975 and is buried at Sumner, Washington.

Albert Lee was born on the McComb place north of Douglas. He has one daughter, Alberta. Albert lives in Tacoma, Washington.

Clara Mae Gwartney Wirtz

## Graves, Marcus

Marcus Graves, son of Rufus and Ellen Graves homesteaded in Converse County following his discharge from World War I in 1918.

He was born in Guilford, Missouri, July 2, 1891 and at the age of 14 moved to Kirk, Colorado with his family.

Marcus served in World War I from June 16, 1916 until April 29, 1918, and during that time was offered a candidacy for Officers Training School. He was in the 157th Inf., 40th Sunshine Division. He served on the Mexican border then was transferred to France where he spent eight months. He was proud of his association with Black Jack Pershing, and was extremely patriotic, having a great love for flag and country.

Following his discharge from the army, he followed his brother, Fred, to Wyoming and filed on his homestead. He soon 'proved' up — being allowed time towards his proving up time for his time in service. He had an unusual team — mules — Jack and Jerry, of which he was duly proud, as they were good steady workers. Much to his distress and the subject of much speculation was the fact that they disappeared — no trace of them to be found. Whether they were stolen or were inadvertently included in a wild horse roundup never was known. He spent the rest of his life in the area, where he worked on ranches in the local vicinity, as well as working with his brother Fred as a plasterer's helper.

He belonged to the Methodist Church, Odd Fellows, American Legion and V.F.W., of which he served two years as Commander. Marcus was always interested in young people, and was actively involved with the local Boy Scout troop for many years.

He was somewhat of a "character" and is remembered for his jocular manner and for his willingness to help his fellow man.

Marcus never married, but was greatly loved by nieces and nephews — not only as an Uncle, but as a beloved friend.

Marcus died July 17, 1965.

Gladys S. Graves Hill

## Graves, Rufus and Ellen

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus L. Graves came to Wyoming from Kirk, Colorado and filed on their half section in 1919.

Their sons, Fred and Marcus, had already moved here and their other son, Glenn soon followed.

They had one of the few sod houses in this part of the



Rufus and Ellen Graves and their soddy house.

county. Memories of this soddy reflect the coolness of summer and warmth in winter. The inside was plastered over and whitewashed. The thick window walls made a great perch for visiting grandchildren to sit on and dream in the sun.

Rufus and Ellen raised not only their own four children (daughter Bessie remained in Colorado), but took an infant granddaughter, Stella, to raise when Glenn's (their second son) wife died in childbirth. Stella was a twin, whose brother died at birth in 1906.

Ellen's descendants are proud of her heritage — her mother being one-half Powhattan Indian and her father a professor who was schooled at Yale.

Those who remember Ellen recall that her back was bent and her hands badly twisted with rheumatism. In spite of this, she managed the home. To compensate, she would put the bread dough in a large pan to raise on the oven door and since she could not stand, would pull a chair and sit to knead her bread with those almost doubled under twisted hands.

One incident of vivid memory was when Rufus was stricken with pneumonia with only Ellen to care for him. As son Fred and family approached down the lane leading to the parents home, they saw Ellen hobbling along toward the gate wildly waving her apron. She wasn't sure who was coming down the lane and had to wave in whoever it was to get Rufus to the hospital. That is the only recollection of Ellen crying; as she broke down in relief when help arrived. Rufus was unconscious for many days, but early day Douglas Doctor Hylton, pulled him through; not with fancy drugs, but with a regular dosage of 1 tablespoon of whiskey.

Rufus actively supported the organization of the first Sunday School at a community center and school called Happy Hollow. He taught the adult Sunday School class and with booming and sometimes off-key voice, led the group singing. Mrs. Nancy Jackson was the first Superintendent and Mrs. James (Goldie) Henry was organist. Flossie Graves taught the children's class. All in all, there were probably ten or twelve families and since some came as far as seven miles in horse-drawn lumber wagons, usually a lunch was brought along, and the day became a social gathering.

Rufus had been a house mover before he came to

Wyoming, and that skill he had taught his sons.

Though the first trip to Wyoming was by car, Rufus made several trips back and forth to Kirk, Colorado, with team and wagon.

After granddaughter Stella married, Rufus and Ellen returned to Colorado. They lived in Wyoming for six years.

Gladys Graves Hill

## Guthlin, Max

Max O. Guthlin was born March 18, 1888 at Elmwood, Ohio to John and Emma Guthlin. He attended Elmwood schools and remained there until 1908 when he entered Baltimore Polytech. Two years later he accepted a position in the General Land Office of the United States in Washington D.C. In 1910 he was transferred to a position of clerk in the Land Office in Douglas, Wyoming.

A genial gentleman, Max made many friends in Douglas, among them members of the Jacob Jenne family, with whom he made his home for many years. He was highly respected by all who knew him. Max was especially fond of children and was known as "Uncle Max" by them.

Max resigned from the Land Office in 1916 and became associated with Charles F. Maurer, a pioneer attorney. He returned to Washington D.C. in 1917 for employment with a firm which was building gas and storage tanks for the United States in France. He

continued on to France where he remained until the end of World War I.

Max returned to Douglas and became Secretary-Manager of the Douglas Water Users Association. He later became cashier at the Commercial Bank and Trust Company of Douglas. He moved from there to the Wyoming Sales Tax Division in 1933.

He moved to Los Angeles in 1943 and remained there in various accounting positions until his retirement in 1970. He lived in Sun City, Arizona; Cheyenne, Wyoming at the home of Dr. John Shaffer; and the Bel Air Manor in Mitchell, Nebraska where he passed away on November 26, 1973.

Max is buried in the Jenne family lot in the Douglas Cemetery.

George C. Sims

## Guthrie, Julian H. and Alice

Julian came to Douglas from Leon, Iowa in 1917 when ten years old with his parents, Thomas J. Guthrie and Jennie P. Guthrie (nee Cherington). They came by automobile as far as Omaha, Nebraska, where they were involved in a car wreck which delayed their progress for some time. They continued their journey by train arriving in Douglas in the late winter of 1917. His dad, Tom Guthrie, got the family settled on a homestead 28 miles north of Douglas about three-fourths of a mile west of the present highway to Gillette and one-half mile north of Box Creek where he built a house and a barn that spring.

His dad passed away July 4, 1918 and so the family's care and support was left largely to his mother and their three young sons, Frank, Julian and Willard, none of whom was yet 13 years old.

After a bout with the flu epidemic of 1918, they managed to get their land into cultivation with a horse-drawn plow in 1919. By selling cream and eggs they were able to support themselves, with God's help, and the encouragement of a few good friends, such as Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Ballard and Mr. Guy Crommett.

Their diet was often supplemented with rabbits and antelope.

By 1928, Julian had filed on a relinquished homestead of his own in Township 36, Range 71, consisting of 640 acres; which was about 32 miles north of Douglas. He was, of course, required to fence the land and build a house as were the other homesteaders of that era.

He then hired someone to drill a well, the water fortunately was drinkable.

He bought a new International tractor model 22-36 in the spring of 1929 for \$1420. It was a large four-cylinder model and could pull a three-bottom plow. The tractor had iron wheels with V-shaped lugs to give it added traction.

The tractor appeared to be a good investment that spring because dryland wheat and barley had been doing well during much of the Twenties. Unfortunately for Julian and millions of other Americans the Great Depression and drought of the Nineteen Thirties lay ahead.

On February 10, 1931, Julian married, the widow of Frank Guthrie, the former Alice M. Pinkerton of Manville, Wyoming, whose son Willis A. Guthrie was then



Max Guthlin, 1910.

three years old having been born April 25, 1927. On their wedding day they ran over a fire hose in the Douglas street with their 1927 Model T. Ford and were fined \$5.00 which was a pretty big fine in 1931.

Alice and Julian had two sons, Ralph J., born February 11, 1932, and Daniel H., born March 30, 1946.

Julian did many things during the depression years to earn a living, a few of them were as follows:

1. Farming
2. Ranching
3. Hauling coal (\$5.00 a ton delivered)
4. Selling meat (11 cents a pound for hindquarter)
5. Driving school bus to Dry Creek School, 1937
6. Working for Standard Oil Co., 1936.

Lest I paint too dark a picture of the Thirties, I would like to say here that there were some good times then also, such as the Literaries at the Dry Creek Hall. The Church services were held at different locations by men such as Rev. Ervin Noyce, Paul Eiselstein and John Faulkner.

In 1939 Julian and Alice sold their homestead and bought about 2000 acres of range and irrigated land from the Metz family, on the south side of the North Platte River, 15 miles west of Douglas.

Dad hired young Jim Exley to help build fence and farm the land.

Seeing the need for a telephone line to Douglas, Julian talked to the Mountain Bell Company and with the cooperation of neighbors in the area, such as John and Robert Hildebrand and Fred Marburger, he built about seven miles of private line and then connected to the company's main line.

During those years Dad was chosen to be a Deacon in the First Baptist Church and was also on the building committee for the new church building in Douglas.

In 1945 Julian sold the ranch west of Douglas and started a welding and machine shop, on Second Street in Douglas, which he bought from Mr. Fred Cannon. Because of the scarcity of new parts caused by World War II, his shop was especially useful to those in the community who had to repair heavy equipment, well drilling bits and farm implements.

By 1949 he moved to Loveland, Colorado where he ran a larger machine shop until 1965.

His first wife, Alice M. Guthrie, passed away July 5, 1964 and was buried in the Douglas cemetery.

During 1965 he remarried and moved to Richland, Missouri where he is still in the shop business and has a small cattle ranch, both of which he is actively operating as of now (1984).

Ralph J. Guthrie

## Guthrie, Silas and William

William E. and Silas Guthrie came to Wyoming in 1879 from Marion, Ohio.

An excerpt from a letter from William to Silas tells of the ranch that they bought from the Swan brothers. Dated March 11, 1879, the letter states, "The ranch is between the Laramie and the Platte Rivers on the head of a mountain stream. There aren't any cattle above but several small herds below which will have to be crowded out by

whoever controls the ranch of which I speak. The natural boundaries are first class, being the Laramie River on the south, the North Platte on the north, and the Laramie Mountains on the west. I think that \$38,000 will buy it but am not certain. There is 2227 head of cattle included in the price."

The ranch was located at the confluence of West Fork LaBonte and LaBonte Creeks. Frank Pexton lives here in 1985. The brothers were to expand the ranch to be one of the largest in the county. At the time of its sale in 1901 to the Gibson Livestock Company for \$220,600, it controlled much of the drainage of LaBonte and Wagonhound Creeks and extended west to Downey Park.

The Guthrie record books show they owned 9083 cattle in 1882. By 1899 sheep were also part of their operation. A "Douglas Budget" edition of that year quotes the brothers as having a wool clip of 225,000 pounds with part of their range as being 60 miles north of Douglas on Antelope Creek.

In 1884 the Guthrie-Oskamp Company was formed with a capital stock of \$520,000. Its shareholders were William and Silas Guthrie of LaBonte, Wyoming and Clemens Oskamp Jr., Henry Oskamp and C. S. Burkholder of Boston, Massachusetts. Later the Guthries formed a company with T. B. Hord. They named the company Guthrie-Hord and branded the trowel.

A post office was established at the ranch headquarters on West Fork LaBonte on February 23, 1895 with Mrs. Silas (Isabel) Guthrie as its postmistress. Later, on January 17, 1900, Libbie Russell served in the same capacity until June 25, 1900 when Mary Gibson was appointed. The post office was transferred to LaBonte Post Office on October 25, 1900.

The election precinct in that area was also named after the Guthrie family. It is still so identified in 1985.

The Johnson County War found William as an active participant as was also the ranch's foreman, Mike Shonsey. Silas, however, refused to take part in the invasion.

William retired upon the sale of the ranch in 1901 and died later in Bridgeport, Nebraska.

Silas married Isabel McLean. Two children were born to them, Rodney and Isabell. Rodney served as justice of the Sixth Judicial District and of the Supreme Court of Wyoming. He married Mary Belle Pemberton.

Silas was elected by a majority of one vote to the office of County Clerk of Converse County when Wyoming became a state in 1890. He served two years. Upon the sale of the ranch, he moved to Weston County where he had extensive holdings, running sheep. He died in 1923.

John R. Pexton

## Gwartney, Henry and Lillie

Henry Colvin "Hank" Gwartney was born May 25, 1882 weighing a whopping 13 pounds. Born at Winchester, Kansas, the son of Ephriam and Martha Ehart Gwartney. Hank married Nan Welch; three sons were born to them, George Gerald, Leonard Eugene and Franklin Thomas. Franklin died at the age of two years. The marriage ended in divorce.

Hank and his two sons moved to Douglas, Wyoming



Henry C. Gwartney on left with auto in front of his paint store in Douglas.

in the early 1900s. Hank established a painting and decorating business on main street. The main line of paint was The Dutch Boy Paint.

He bought other property around Douglas and lived in the south area of town. Sam Cirby was a near-by neighbor and close friend.

Hank married Lillie Fields Holloway, who had been widowed with four young daughters. They started out with a ready-made family and added four more of their own, Thomas Henry, James Franklin, Clara Mae and Louis Edward. Hank continued running his place of business and enlarging the home.

Hank became ill with pneumonia, but would not rest properly and kept on with his work. This proved too much for him. One Saturday, he parked his Ford automobile, spoke to Paul Jones who had the Paul Jones Market near the paint store and as he stepped upon the curb an agonizing pain struck him in the chest. Henry Colvin Gwartney died at his store of a heart attack on October 31, 1930. He is buried in the Douglas Cemetery.

His sons, George and Leonard, returned to their mother in Kansas. They both served in the armed forces during World War II. After discharge George became an inspector at the Ford Motor Company in Kansas City. He had two sons, Donald and Edwin. George G. Gwartney died at age 54 of a heart attack in April 1964. He is buried in The National Cemetery at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

Leonard Gwartney was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. He and George attended the Douglas schools. We have no current address on him.

Thomas attended the schools in and around Douglas and was active in rodeos. He worked for various ranchers, including lambing for Wade Fowler. He remained single and now lives in Sacramento, California.

James attended the South Grade, Graves and Happy Hollow Schools. He lived with the Finks for some time and also worked for various ranches in the area. James married Betty Mason, the daughter of Lewis Joseph Mason and Betsy Kaarbo Mason, who homesteaded just out of Douglas. Lewis died October 4, 1925 at

Douglas and his wife Betty died December 11, 1941 there. James and Betty had four children. Joe, Patsy, Mary and Lee. Mary died at birth. She is buried in the Douglas Cemetery. Joe served in the Vietnam War and was injured. James and Betty reside in Payette, Idaho.

Clara Mae, the only daughter of Hank Gwartney was born in Douglas on September 1, 1925, with Dr. Storey attending the delivery. She attended the South Grade, Graves and Happy Hollow Schools. Leona Bartling was her first grade teacher; Mrs. Adkins the fifth grade teacher; Mr. Cleveland the seventh. Nell Mohr was the principal of the South Grade School and a very fine person who had the respect of all the children. Garnet Dixon, among others, taught at the Graves School and was also a very good teacher.

Clara Mae is married to Sylvester V. Wirtz, a retired electrician. They have four children: Deana Lyn of Reno, Nevada; her two children, Mathew Lain and RanDee Lyn Banovich; Valon Rae of Reno, Nevada and son Brandon Bishop; Douglas K. an electrician living in Folsom, California; and daughter Darla V. Wirtz of Folsom. Clara Mae Gwartney Wirtz resides in Folsom, California.

The youngest of H. C. Gwartney's children was Louis Edward, born on November 4, 1928 at Douglas. He attended the same schools as the older ones. He married Geraldine Walker. They had three children, Steven, Luanne and Rex. Rex was killed in a motorcycle accident. Luann married Frank Calafiore and has a son Jeremy living in Citrus Heights, California. Louis lives in Sacramento, California.

Clara Mae Gwartney Wirtz

## Haefele, Ralph and Rosalind Family

One of the eight children born to Joseph and Cora Booth Haefele was born at McKinley, Nebraska on August 10, 1897. He was named Ralph McKinley and was raised on a tree claim near Broken Bow, Nebraska.

As a young man, in 1918, Ralph came to Wyoming and homesteaded on a 640 acre claim on Sand Creek, 52 miles north of Douglas. Ralph ran a freight line for ranches between Gillette, Douglas and Casper to earn money to build his own home and prove up on his homestead.

Ralph's brothers, Charlie and Joe, and sisters, Lizzie and Ruth, followed him to Wyoming and homesteaded on neighboring claims. With help, Charlie, a lifetime bachelor, built a two-room cement cabin. Ralph and family later lived there while building their log home.

In 1924, Ralph returned to Broken Bow to earn extra money working in the fields and to find someone to share his life. Rosalind Leola Fair, one of ten children, was born January 4, 1904, to Homer and Lena Fair in Fairmont, Nebraska. Rosalind earned her teaching certificate in 1922. She was staying at the Haefele home teaching Ralph's younger brothers and sisters. This led to romance and Ralph and Rosalind were married on April 18, 1924.

In June 1924, the young married couple returned to Wyoming where they lived in the cement shack. They used a sheep wagon cook stove and hauled water from a spring. The cement shack was later used as a granary and play house for children. It still stands but is not in





Ralph Haeefe, 21 years old, on his way to Wyoming.

use.

The Haeefe family enjoyed many good times and good friends despite the fact that they traveled by team and buggy and lived 52 miles from the nearest town. Every Sunday they attended church at Verse which was five miles east. Verse was also where the kids attended school and Ralph drove a school bus. Later their son, Duane, also drove the bus to the Coal Mine School on Antelope Creek. Baseball games, box socials, dances, school programs and card parties were sources of entertainment. To this day, you would be entertained with a card game at any of the Haeefe homes. The family put up ice in the winter and milked cows, raised chickens, etc. so there was always a freezer of ice cream and delicious food available. On Tuesdays and Fridays, Ralph would deliver cream and milk to Verse to sell. He picked up supplies then, as the trip to Douglas was made only once a year. Ralph sheared sheep around the country for extra income. They raised hogs, turkeys, horses, cattle, later sheep and did some farming.

In 1940, the Haeefe family added on to their log

house. With the help of their neighbors, they soon had a comfortable country home, with running water and power supplied by a windcharger.

Rosalind and Ralph were blessed with seven children. First born, daughter Harriet, was ready to enter high school in 1938. She worked for her room and board and attended Douglas High School. She passed a Civil Service test and worked in the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Harriet married Felix Smith and they make their home in Whittier, California. They have three sons and seven grandchildren.

Duane, was also educated in Converse County. He served two years in the navy and the South Pacific and later attended auctioneer school. Duane tells "that he met his wife, Chloe Waggoner at a dance at Dry Creek". She is the daughter of cattleman Joe Waggoner of Jay Em, Wyoming. Duane built a new home close to the original homestead. They have four children. The oldest son, Harold, is married to Cheri Pope of Arvada, Colorado and now has Duane and Chloe's only grandchild, Tyler Duane. Harold operates the Haeefe place south of Douglas, which was originally the Bill Eastman place. Sandi, the only daughter, loves the ranch life and helps Duane on the ranch. Twin boys, Roger and Rodney are nearby to lend a hand if needed, but each have other interests. Roger recently finished a meat cutting school and Rod is a welder.

In 1951, Duane purchased his Uncle Charlie's place and in 1963, bought the holdings from his dad and mother. The outfit consists of the original homesteads of Ralph, Charlie and Joe Haeefe, Holly Swope and Elmer Johnson. Duane's youngsters attended country schools until Harold was ready for high school in 1968. Duane and Chloe purchased a home in Douglas to be with their family through those years. They presently occupy both the ranch and the home in Douglas.

Frances, the third, has dedicated her life to raising her five daughters. She lives in Reno, Nevada now where she met and married Virgil Short. Frances enjoys nine grandsons.

Ralph and Rosalind endured a loss when their son, Harold, suffered a ruptured appendix and passed away in 1940.

Robert, married a local girl. Georgia Marburger, and farm a ranch south of Douglas. Their children, Bill and Thea live at home, while Karma is married to Kellie Glouse and has two daughters.

Dale attended the University of Wyoming and received a degree in agriculture. He works at Pacific Power Plant in Glenrock and lives west of Douglas. He is married to Zora Olds and has two daughters.

When youngest, Sharon, was ready for high school, Rosalind moved to a home in Douglas to be with her. Sharon is making her home in Durango, Colorado with husband, Stan Gill, and two daughters.

Ralph joined Rosalind in town in 1965 and worked as water commissioner. Ralph passed away August 1, 1967. Rosalind was honored as Wyoming Mother of the Year in 1973. Rosalind passed away, suddenly, August 31, 1973. She was loved and missed by many.

Sandi Haeefe



## Hageman, Art and Mabel Family

I (Mabel) was born January 7, 1906, the third child in a family of four to Bert and Anna Sanford. I had one sister, Eva the oldest; a brother Claude, 2nd; myself, 3rd; and Charles, 4th. We were all born at my grandparents' ranch at Beaver, Wyoming. My parents lived in a log house that my father built. It was located on my mother's homestead claim on Doggie Creek in the Upper LaPrele Community. As a child, I was raised on this ranch and attended school there. In 1911, my parents moved to a small farm near Roseburg, Oregon and I attended my first year of school there in 1911-1912. My first teacher, Ethel Senters Wright is still living (March 28, 1984). She is about 94 years old. I went to see her about six years ago-a lovely little lady.

My parents moved back to Wyoming in 1912 to our former home and I spent my childhood and growing-up years there until I finished high school in Glenrock, Wyoming, graduating May 14, 1925. In June 1926 I decided to teach school and went to summer school at Laramie, Wyoming. In September 1926, I started teaching my first term of school at Happy Hollow School about 15 miles northeast of Douglas, Wyoming. I had eight pupils and five grades.

In November of 1926, I met Art Hageman. Art was

born June 7, 1904 in Unionville, Michigan, the fourth child in a family of nine, to German-born parents Henry and Frieda Hageman. Art spent his childhood on his parent's farm near Unionville, Michigan with the family, and when he was fifteen his parents sold the farm and moved to Wyoming to a homestead claim 22 miles northeast of Douglas, Wyoming in the Walker Creek Community. He lived there for ten years doing the farming and helping his father on the ranch. In 1926, he filed on a homestead of 320 acres four miles from his father's place.

On December 22, 1928, Art and I were married in Douglas by Rev. Ledbetter. I was still teaching school-my third term. After school was out in May, we moved to the dry farm which was our home for 23 years. Art proved up on the homestead in 1929. We had good years for a while, then came the depression in the 30's and the dust storm days. During the depression there were several dry years-no rain and crops failed, prices were low-eggs sold for 5¢ per dozen, the butter fat in cream was 8¢ per pound, shelled corn was around 50¢ a bushel. Art worked out for wages for 50¢ to \$1.00 a day. The wind and dust were terrible. There were days and days we never saw the sun as the air was so full of dust, the wind blew so hard and so much, that the soil was blown from the grass and sagebrush and they were blown away. The livestock and poultry suffered from sand being blown in their eyes. Every night I had to grease their eyes with



Art Hageman Sr. family, 1951. Top row: L. to r. Lorraine, Art Jr. and Norma. Middle row: Bill, Jim and Joanne. Bottom row: Mabel, Doris and Art Hageman Sr.

vaseline or lard so they could open them the next morning. I don't recall how long the dust storms lasted, but it was for at least one summer during the 30's.

Then came the 40's and the second World War. Times were really hard then-work was scarce, prices were still low. President Roosevelt provided many government programs for helping the people. There were work units such as WPA and CCC Camps, which gave many men and teenage boys an opportunity to work. The WPA included building dikes for livestock water, home improvement projects and many others. Art worked on many of these work units. During the war, we were rationed on food such as flour, sugar, coffee, rice, meat, clothes, gas and tires. The government delivered commodities by truck to each rural home once a month. We would get rice, cornmeal, canned goods, meat, vegetables, milk, powdered milk, beans, etc. and enough fresh meat for two days. We made mattresses-they furnished the material (cotton and ticking)-we also made quilts, the material being furnished. There were ten or twelve families that would go to the community hall to work on the mattresses and everyone helped each other until we had all the mattresses completed.

The men in the neighborhood would all go together and mine their own coal. There was a large vein of coal in the community and the men would take their horses and fresnos and scrapers and move the dirt off the coal, which would take about two weeks, then they would start removing the coal. They would fill all the wagons before anyone started home-it was usually around 10:00 at night when they would get home. Art also hauled wood from Walker Creek with the team and wagon. Usually, the whole family would help gather wood. We would take a picnic lunch and spend the whole day, which everyone enjoyed.

Living on a dry farm, we had no running water in the house, no electricity, no gas for heat or cooking. Art hauled water for drinking and cooking for several years from a well on another place about two miles from where we lived. He hauled the water in large wooden barrels with a team and wagon. Later, my father and Art dug a well just a few feet from the house-they found water 22 ft. down-it was real good, soft water. We used a bucket with a rope tied to it that was let down in the well to bring the water up. We used this method of getting water out of the well for several years, then we had the well drilled deeper by drillers and had a pump and windmill installed so we didn't have to use the bucket system anymore to get water. For livestock water, we had dikes and reservoirs, which were filled with rain water.

For lights, we used the kerosene lamps and a gas lantern. For ironing clothes, I used the old-fashioned flat irons that were heated on the cook stove. We used wood and coal both for heating and cooking. Since we had no running water in the house, we had to heat water on the stove for laundry and taking baths in the galvanized wash tub.

We raised a few hogs for our own use; also had chickens, geese, turkeys, and ducks. We had about ten milk cows and sold cream to the Judevine Creamery in Douglas. We also raised a garden every year-Art planted several acres of corn, wheat, and oats-he sold some of the corn and used the rest for feed for livestock. He did all the

farming with horses. For transportation, we had an old car, or used the team and wagon.

Our home was a small three room frame house that Art had bought and moved to the homestead when he proved up on the claim. It was quite crowded, but provided shelter for the family.

Our recreation was school programs, dances, Home-makers Club, baseball games and other community affairs. We also attended rural Sunday School and church at Walker Creek School House.

We have seven children. The three oldest ones were born at my parents' (Sanford) ranch west of Douglas, Wyoming. The four youngest were born at our dry farm home 22 miles northeast of Douglas, Wyoming. The children are: Norma Jean, born April 18, 1930-after graduating from Douglas High School she taught three years in rural schools in Niobrara County. She married Frank Burrell and they had three children, Jeanne, James and Janet and five grandchildren. They owned and operated the Douglas Dairy for 15 years. Frank is employed by Converse County. They make their home in Douglas.

Lorraine Ellen, born July 14, 1931, taught twelve years in rural schools. She married Richard Broyles and they ranched for several years near Gillette. They had three children, the oldest one, a boy, William, died in infancy and Kathleen and Marilyn. She and her family live on their ranch northeast of Lusk, Wyoming where they raise cattle.

Arthur, Jr., born August 17, 1933, was in the U. S. Army and served time in Korea in 1956 to 1958. He married Linda Thomas and they had three children, Teresa, Michael and Ray. They have one granddaughter. He has had several different jobs in Wyoming. Linda is employed by the Douglas School District. They make their home in Douglas.

William (Bill), born in 1936, was in the U.S. Army from 1957 to 1959 and spent nine months in Germany. He married Judy McIntosh and they had three children, William Jr. (Billy), Danny and Leslie Ann (died in infancy). Bill worked throughout Wyoming for many years for Mtn. Bell Telephone Co. and then moved to a ranch near Lingle, Wyoming. They live on the ranch near Lingle where they raise cattle.

Joanne, born April 14, 1940, graduated from Douglas, High School in May 1958 and married Lloyd Herrod. They have five children, Sherri, Gary, David, Catherine and Caroline. Lloyd is self-employed servicing swimming pools. They live near Sonoma, California.

James, born March 26, 1942, was in the U. S. Army during 1964 to 1966 and spent time in Vietnam for five months during the beginning of the Vietnam War. He never married and works for the State Highway Department. He lives in Douglas and also has a log cabin he built in the mountains.

Doris Elaine, born July 14, 1944, graduated from high school in 1962 and she married Dick Rohrer. They have two children, Steven and Shawn Marie. Dick has his own jewelry store and they live in Evansville, Wyoming.

Our children went to rural school at Walker Creek until time for high school in Douglas. Art drove the school bus to Walker Creek School for several years. The bus route was discontinued, and our younger children were still in grade school; so we moved to Douglas in 1953

where they continued school.

We bought property in town and Art had employment in Douglas. Art was employed by Porter's Blacksmith Shop for several years, then worked at various garages and as a filling station attendant. His greatest love and hobby was repairing and doing mechanical work on cars. He passed away while at work from a heart attack at B & B Enco Station while working on a truck on January 21, 1974. He is buried in Douglas Cemetery.

I still live in our home in Douglas, enjoying my many hobbies. I was honored for 50 years of Extension Homemakers work at the National Homemakers meeting at Laramie, Wyoming in 1983. I enjoy my 17 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Even though there were many hard times while living on the dry farm and raising my family, I feel I have had a very fulfilling life and enjoyed it all.

Mabel Sanford Hageman

## Hageman, Henry and Freda Family

(Conrad) Henry (August) Hagemann was born on December 5, 1867 at Hohenhausen-Lippe-Detmold, Deutschland (Germany). He was the son of Conrad Heinrich Hagemann and Christine Florentine (Ernstmeier) Hagemann, who were also both born at Hohenhausen-Lippe-Detmold, Deutschland in the 1830s. Henry came with his brother, Fred, to the United States when they were both young men. They made their way to Baron County in northern Wisconsin. Henry bought 200 acres of timberland and made a farm out of it. He later sold it, doubling the original price. In 1901, he moved to Michigan where he bought a farm in Tuscola County. He improved this farm by more than doubling the yield of corn per acre. He sold this place in 1907, and bought another farm near Unionville, Michigan where he lived until 1918 when he came to Wyoming. Being an aggressive and adventurous individual, he saw the possibilities of using homestead land in Wyoming for himself and his sons for extensive farming.



1940, L. to R. Freda, Curt, Arnold, Juanita, Art, Martha, Elizabeth and Carl Hageman.



Carl Hageman, 1967, in Rural Fire District truck.

Henry was married on July 3, 1897 at Cumberland, Wisconsin to Miss Frieda (Freda) Gretta Lu'ebke. (At this time Henry changed the spelling of his name from Hagemann to Hageman). Freda was born on March 28, 1879 at Stettin, Deutschland (Germany) which was in the northern part, near the East Sea, bordering Poland (now Szczecin, Germany). Freda was eight years old when her mother died, and at the age of 16 she left Germany and came to the United States to live with a sister and family. She came on the first voyage of the German ship, Kaiser-Wilhelm. She met Henry at Cumberland, Wisconsin where they were married, and their first child, Elsie, was born on January 5, 1899 but died nine days later. Their second child, Curtis Ernest Henry (Curt) was born at Rice Lake, Wisconsin January 20, 1900. After the family moved to Unionville, Michigan, seven more children were born. Juanita Louise Lydia, February 9, 1903; Arthur Ernest (Art), June 7, 1904; Henry William, March 12, 1907 (died at age six months); Karl Friedrich (Carl), January 17, 1910; Martha Frieda, October 14, 1913; Elizabeth Margaret, March 12, 1916; and Arnold Richard, August 18, 1918.

Henry and his oldest son, Curt came to Wyoming in 1918 to acquire the homestead land, build a house and establish a home for the rest of the family. Henry returned to Michigan late that year to sell his farm there and bring the family to Wyoming. In February 1919, they arrived in Douglas on the train. They were met by Curt with a team of horses and buckboard to travel the last leg of their journey, approximately 21 miles northeast of Douglas to their new home in the Walker Creek community. Among the things that were new and different to Freda were sagebrush, wide-open spaces, wind (with sand and tumbleweeds blowing) and the dry climate. She said she actually thought some of the Wyoming winds would demolish their home and literally blow them away. But she gradually became accustomed to all the new things, and being a very stern, religious and ultra-conservative German woman, she was able to cope better than most with the adversities, and find something each day to thank God for. She raised her big family with this same faith and stern determination, and was a good and respected neighbor and friend to everyone. Lack of means and distances between neighbors' homes prevented very much community activity. However, she

organized the first Walker Creek Sunday School under the American Sunday School Union in the early 1920's. This Sunday School is still active today with some people coming as far as 30 miles to attend services at the old one-room Walker Creek School House. The Hageman children attended the rural school and as they reached high school age, they lived with various families in Douglas and worked for their room and board in order to go to school.

Henry, with the help of his sons, was one of the more successful dry farmers in the area. In 1925, he had a yield of 46 bushels of oats, 26 bushels of wheat and 14 bushels of beans per acre. The year before, however, he had the misfortune to lose nearly all his fine grain field to a devastating prairie fire. For a time, the fire also came dangerously close to the new barn and other farm buildings. Members of the family vividly remember how their dad turned and raised his hands, saying "Lord, save my barn". At this moment, the wind did change, and the buildings were spared from the fire. While many of Henry's neighbors gave up farming and moved away, he stayed with it, and was able to make a modest living. He was also interested in affairs of community and state. He acquired a few mineral rights in 1925 on land that was given up as farm land by some of his neighbors. These mineral rights have proven to be a worthwhile investment, only in the past few years, as lease property to oil companies interested in developing Converse County's resources. Henry was an unsuccessful Democratic candidate for State Representative from Converse County in 1926. On February 3, 1928, Henry died of a heart attack, leaving Freda a widow for her remaining 47 years. Freda continued to live on the farm until the early 1960's. She was the rural news correspondent from the Walker Creek community for many years. She later moved into Douglas and after suffering several strokes, she was a resident of Michael Manor Nursing Home in Douglas for the last nine years of her life. She passed away on December 9, 1974, at the age of 95.

Of Henry and Freda's large family, Curt, the oldest son, lived as a bachelor on a Walker Creek homestead for a number of years. He served in the U. S. Army in the Pacific in World War II. At the age of 53, he married Louise Lampman, Douglas elementary teacher. They moved to a farm in the Torrington, Wyoming area where he passed away of a heart attack in 1971, leaving his widow as his only heir.

Juanita, the oldest daughter, was a country school teacher for a time. She married Converse County dry farmer, Raymond Beaver, (now deceased) originally from Nebraska. They farmed in the Walker Creek community for many years. Juanita is now a resident of Irwin Towers in Douglas. They were the parents of three children: George Beaver of Casper, employed at Dave Johnston Power Plant in Glenrock, Don Beaver, a power company employee in California and Ramona Baker, deceased.

The second son, Arthur, worked with his father, Henry, on the farm instead of going to high school. In 1926, he acquired a relinquished homestead of 320 acres about four miles from his father's place. Later, he obtained another 320 acres of land from his father, giving him 640 acres. In 1928, Arthur married country school

teacher Mabel Sanford. They lived on this 640 acre dry farm (my childhood home) for 25 years, raising a family of seven children in a three-room house. The homestead was recently purchased by their son, Bill.

Carl, Henry and Freda's third son, continued to farm and live on the original homestead for many years until he passed away of a heart attack on May 9, 1978. He married Marie Edwards, daughter of neighboring homesteaders (see Edwards story).

Martha, second daughter of Henry and Freda, married Don Porter, son of neighboring homesteaders (see Porter story).

Elizabeth, the youngest daughter, married Earl R. Johnson of Douglas, originally from Missouri. He died of a heart attack at their home in Casper in 1971. They had lived in Laramie and Douglas for a number of years, then moved to Casper where Earl was a Certified Public Accountant, one time mayor of Casper, and owner of the Gladstone Hotel in Casper. Their children are: Richard, Casper attorney; Barbara Amadio, married Charles Amadio, both are public school teachers at Lander, Wyoming; Neal, Certified Public Accountant at Casper, Wyoming, married Mary of Casper. In June of 1975, Elizabeth was remarried to Harold McFarland of Casper. She passed away of cancer on October 12, 1977.

Arnold, the youngest son, graduated from the University of Wyoming, and served with the U. S. Army in Germany and France in World War II. He lived in the Hawk Springs, Wyoming area where he farmed for several years. He now lives in Torrington, Wyoming where he is a real estate broker and continues some farming interests. He is married to Jean Kuntz. Their children are: Richard, construction worker; Charlotte, wife of Henry Klein, farmers at Wheatland, Wyoming; Roger, self-employed with a tree farm at Fort Collins, Colorado; Rodney, employed by Internal Revenue Service in Arizona; and Joe, attorney at Laramie, Wyoming.

Norma Hageman Burrell

## Hakalo, John G. and Lisa Family

My mother and father, John G. Hakalo and Lisa Wilhelmina Rislakeus Hakalo, came to Glenrock from Finland in the late 1800's. There were quite a few Finnish families here then. Father came in 1891. I, Edith, do not know if his three brothers, Matthew, Ezra and Victor came with him or whether they were already in America. Matthew settled in Brookline, Massachusetts, Ezra came to Red Lodge, Montana and Victor in Ohio. Mother came in 1894. It took Father three years to earn enough money to send for her and their two children, Hilda (seven), and John (five).

I often marvelled at how she ever made the long journey with two small children, not speaking a word of English. She said that everyone was very kind to her and helped her along the way. She often told of the train crew stopping the train on the plains of Nebraska to go hunting for prairie chickens, rabbits and deer. There was no passenger train from Omaha to Glenrock, only a freight.

Father came first to Hanna, Wyoming where he worked in the coal mine there and then came on to Glenrock. He built a log house in Happy Hollow, as it is





John G. Hakalo family: L. to R. John O., Hilda, John G., Lydia, Lisa and Baby Bill.

still called, near Deer Creek and Mother boarded some of the single miners and did their laundry on a wash board.

It is a wonder she survived the hard work while bearing children, never taking more than two days off after giving birth. Six children were born in Glenrock. They were: Lydia, born 1895; William, October 28, 1897; Fanne M., December 25, 1898; Olive, July 18, 1902; two others, a boy and a girl were stillborn. Matthew E. was born May 23, 1904 at Big Muddy, west of Glenrock, where Father worked in the mine there for awhile. Lydia died of mastoiditis at the age of four.

At one time there was an epidemic of typhoid fever and Mother and John both contracted it. Mother lost all of her hair, but it soon grew back. Mother sent one of the children for Dr. Rudd (Rugg), but he was out of town, so they got Mrs. Kimball from the Kimball Hotel. She was knowledgeable about medicine, and she did what she could. When she went back uptown, she put a padlock on the door of the doctor's office and when he returned, he had to go to her for the key and got a good dressing down for leaving town and leaving such sick patients.

I don't know the date, but later Father filed on a homestead at the foot of Mormon Canyon, south of town. It took him quite awhile to prove up on it. He would walk out there and clear the brush and trees, mostly by hand. Then he saved enough to buy a team of horses. He built a sod-roofed house of logs with three rooms. I do not remember much about it, although I was born there on September 6, 1908 with only Father and a neighbor from town, Mrs. Sarvey, to help.

There was a one-room building north of where we lived — I am not sure, but I think Father built it as it was used for a school house for Bill, Olive, Matt and John Lakso and his sister, Susie, who lived farther up the canyon. I

can recall going with them one day to visit school. Father took us in a sled drawn by horses through the snow and I was so excited being allowed to go with them. The teacher was a man, Mr. Brinker. His wife taught a school east of us and he rode over from there every day on horseback. There couldn't have been school there more than one or two years.

Father decided to build a house there as it was closer to the mouth of the canyon and he used the school house for the kitchen. He built a two-room log house onto this with an upstairs, reached by an outside stairway. I grew up there with Olive and Matt and had a happy childhood. We didn't have much in the way of material things, but always had plenty to eat. Father always had a bag of pink or white peppermints in his pocket when he came from town.

We had school there at the ranch one winter with Adelyna Goff Smith as the teacher. She must have found me a nuisance as I was always sneaking over to the school and pestering her. I wanted to learn to read so badly and everyone told me that I would when I was six years old and went to school. All I heard was the "six year old" and on my sixth birthday I got up very early and ran for a book and was bitterly disappointed that I couldn't read a word!

Later, Mother would move into town every fall with the three of us so Olive, Matt and later I, could go to school. My older sisters and brothers; Hilda, John, and Bill had left home to go to work or school elsewhere. Dad took in a cow so we would have milk. I remember going with Olive and Matt to take buckets of milk in the evenings to a couple of families up town. I recall walking on the wooden sidewalks.

My first grade teacher was Helen Nevin from Denver, who later married William Walkinshaw and they lived on the VR Ranch on Deer Creek — he first as foreman and later as manager. In 1931 I went to this ranch and taught her three boys for three years, before marrying William Booker, whose father had been manager of the ranch before Walkinshaw. We lived on the lower VR for three years, but that is another story.

I recall many a cold trip from town to the ranch for Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Dad would come in a sled filled with straw and stones heated and wrapped in old blankets to keep us warm. It was only seven miles but seemed farther. Matthew did not go to high school, but stayed home to help father on the ranch. Olive graduated from high school in Glenrock. I went there through the sixth grade and then went to Douglas and stayed with my sister, Fanne Knittle and graduated from the Douglas High School.

Matthew's oldest son, Matthew Orville, lives on the home ranch now. He married Lois Mason from north of Douglas.

My mother died on October 20, 1929 and father on September 30, 1939. Both mother and father taught themselves to read English and could speak it fairly well. Father loved to read western books and magazines. He would never read aloud to me. He said I would laugh at him, but he understood most of the stories and news items and could talk about them.

Hilda married Clifford Smith, son of a pioneer family in Glenrock. They lived in Glenrock and had two children,



Ernest of Casper and Ruth Parker of Cambridge, Nebraska.

John and Bill were both in World War I, Bill at Fort Douglas near Salt Lake City, Utah. He married a Utah girl and lived for a short time in Glenrock, then went back to Utah where he lived the rest of his life. They had three daughters.

John was in the navy on a transport ship and married an English girl, Bertha Bibby from Liverpool. They had one daughter, Roberta Jean Morton, who lives in Casper. Bertha died in 1934. He later married Jessie Grant.

Fanne married Thomas R. Knittle who was County Surveyor in Douglas for many years and later was drainage engineer for the Bureau of Reclamation at Pavillion and Riverton. They retired to California first and then to Sun City, Arizona. They had five children, the oldest, Tommy, died March 9, 1926, and is buried in Douglas; twins, Donald and Dorothy (McLarty). Dorothy lives in Lubbock, Texas, and Don in Seabrook, Texas; Joanne (Harrison) of Saratoga, California, and Mary (Watt) of Riverton.

Olive married Harry Crosley and they lived most of their lives in Glenrock. They had three boys: Clyde and Jimmy, both deceased and David who lives in Aurora, Colorado.

Matthew married Charlotte Vincent on the stage of the old Columbia Theater in Casper on April 1, 1926, as a publicity promotion. They received many gifts and a tour of Casper and the Midwest oil fields. They had four children: Matthew Orville, Maxine (Baughn), Robert, and Barbara (Neddenriep) who lives in Minden, Nevada.

I am the only one left in my immediate family.

Edith Hakalo Mecham

## Hakalo, John O. and Jesse

John Oscar Hakalo was born in Ispkyro, Finland on December 27, 1889. He was the son of John Gustave and Lisa Wilhelmina (Rislakeus) Hakalo.

When John was a teenager, the family lived for a time at Lockett where he drove a horse and cart to take the mail from the depot to the post office. His very first job was riding the horse that pulled the plow for the crippled school teacher on the farm now owned by the Brubakers. His pay was fifty cents. As he grew older, he worked on various ranches in the community, but when he was nineteen, he went up into the second range of mountains to be night boiler man at the Elkhorn copper mine. One day he heard Mrs. Heller and Mrs. Olson (the wives of the owners) talking about what an enormous appetite he had. He was so embarrassed that he quit his job and went back to town.

Many of the young men worked for the VR ranch and so did John. The log bunkhouse was so bothered with bedbugs that the boys, on sunny Sundays, took their bedding out and layed it on a big ant hill, and the ants cleaned it. At that time, the VR had cattle only, and all butter, milk and eggs came from town.

When World War I started, quite a few Glenrock boys went into the service, John and Bill Lythgoe served together in the navy. John was a fireman and shoveled coal on the troop transport *Plattensburg* for twenty-two

crossings of the Atlantic. They shoveled the coal into wheelbarrows, pushed it to the furnace and dumped it into the firebox. When the seas were rough, they pushed uphill or sat down and pulled back. He was only sea sick once, and sea sick troops turned slightly green when the nice, healthy firemen came to the mess with heaped plates. Unfortunately, when he took his only deep-sea fishing trip, he was sick the whole day! And he loved to fish.

While in Liverpool during the war, he met his future wife, Bertha Bibby. When the war ended, she and her parents came to her sister's in Tacoma, Washington, and John and his mother joined them there for the wedding. They made their home in Parkerton, and John worked for Ohio Oil Company. After 26 years, he took early retirement because of ill health, and his retirement check was \$23.09 a month. This was in 1945.

John and Bertha had one little girl, Roberta Jean. Bertha died in 1934, and the following year on March 15, 1935, John married Jessie Grant, daughter of Walter and Cora Grant. When Ohio Oil Company withdrew from the Muddy Field, John was transferred to the Lance Creek Field. At first, he and the other fellows lived together and batched, but gradually houses became available. We had three rooms — and a bath.

In the eight and one-half years we lived in Lance Creek, we helped start a PTA, an Odd Fellows and a Rebekah Lodge, and John served one term on the school board. Jessie was a part-time school nurse.

On their return from the service, John and Lloyd Huxtable took up homesteads. They leased the Howard Jackson place between them and raised hay and potatoes. The potatoes grew so large that no one wanted to buy them. When John took early retirement, he wanted to try the ranch life. We bought the Victor Lakso place at the head of Mormon Canyon to go with his homestead and the Andrew Naggadai place and moved up there, but John was not able to do the work so after one year, the ranch was sold to Ralph and Leonard Hiser. We moved to Casper, John went to the Veteran's Hospital and I went to work. When he improved, he went to work for Morrison-Knudsen at Boysen dam.

When John became 65, he wanted to find a little acreage. After making several trips around the west, we settled in Grants Pass, Oregon. We had a lovely little place with a creek running between the house and the barn, but John was sick in Oregon. After selling the place and living in town until school was out, we came back to Glenrock. We had a house built for us on South Second which is now owned by Bill Croft. John went fishing and enjoyed being back in Wyoming. He told the fellows here about the big salmon he caught in Oregon, just as he had told the fellows in Oregon about the wonderful fishing and hunting in Wyoming. He had a little Ford pickup with a canopy on it to hold his gear, but his driving habits deteriorated. One day he took Ernest Jones on a trip and when they returned Ernest got out and said, "John, you have just lost a customer. I will never ride with you again!"

Our children were grown and away from home by this time. Roberta Jean was born April 18, 1933 in the midst of the big snow storm; Marian Susan on September 10, 1941; and when they wanted a baby brother, John Mer-

ritt on December 4, 1945. Susan lives in Hollywood, California with her husband, William Chisholm. She has two grown children, Marian Eileen and Roger Alvin, who is married. Roberta lives in Casper. She married Eugene R. Morton in 1955, and they have five children: Patricia Lynn who is married to Paul Rhodes; Ann Louise who is married to Stephen Jeffrey Price, and they have two children, Emily Christine and Christopher Michael; Michael Stuart, Mark Stephen and Rebecca Joy who are still at home. John and Lynda have three children, Aaron Scott, Jessica Leanne and John Wayne.

In about 1962, John decided he would like to go back to Finland and see what he could find of his family. He flew over and came back by ship, and he said that was the nicest trip of his life. He found four cousins on his mother's side in Finland, and he really enjoyed visiting them. He went fishing on the Kermi River where there was 24 hours of daylight, but he caught no fish as nets had been put at the mouth of the river by commercial fishermen.

John's biggest interest in life, besides sports, was the Odd Fellows Lodge. He was a member for more than fifty years and seldom missed a meeting. He became Grand Master of Wyoming and was Grand Representative of the Sovereign Grand Lodge session in Des Moines, Iowa in 1941. He received the Decoration of Chivalry for his work in the order and for helping start the lodges in Lance Creek.

On January 27, 1965, John suffered a massive stroke, and he is buried in the Glenrock cemetery.

Jessie Hakalo

## Hall, Cloyd and Minta

Cloyd Hall was born on November 23, 1876 at Elliptsburg, Pennsylvania, the son of William T. and Allena Kell Hall.

The family moved to Friend, Nebraska when he was a small child, later moving to Fairview, Nebraska where he grew to manhood.



L. to R. Jim Bowers and Cloyd Hall.

On October 24, 1906 he was united in marriage to Minta LaRue at Stockville, Nebraska. Minta was born at Stockville on August 14, 1886.

They moved to Paoli, Colorado in 1910 where they lived on a farm.

Robert, the oldest of the Hall children, was born in Ingham, Nebraska in 1907 and died in 1977. The other four were born in Paoli. They were: Blanche (born 1910, died 1983), Cloyd Jr. (born 1913), Laurence (born 1915) and Ruth (born 1918, died 1979).

On November 23, 1917 Cloyd homesteaded north of Douglas in the Dry Creek community. He moved his family there in April 1919.

Leaving Robert on the homestead, Cloyd and Minta moved to Douglas in 1937. He worked at various government jobs including the POW Camp at Douglas where he was seriously injured.

Minta died July 29, 1963; Cloyd in April 1968.

Robert married Violet Moore of Bayard, Nebraska. They had six children.

Blanche married Kenneth F. Sylvester on June 13, 1933. They have one daughter, Shirley (Williams). Kenneth worked for Pacific Power and Light Company for many years. Blanche died on Nov. 1, 1983.

Laurence married Phyllis Porter in 1952.

Shirley Sylvester Williams

## Hall, William and Elsie

William C. Hall, born and reared to the ranching industry, was the owner of a ranch property located 16 miles northeast of Douglas in Converse County, Wyoming. Mr. Hall's residence in Wyoming began on March 22, 1916 when he settled in Converse County. A month later he homesteaded 320 acres, gradually increasing his holdings to their present extent.

William C. Hall was born to Edward C. Hall and Elizabeth A. Hall on March 9, 1893. He was educated in the high school of St. Edwards, Nebraska. Hall was also a director of the First National Bank of Douglas, which he helped organize. He was a former Democratic State Committeeman and served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1964.

Mr. Hall and Elsie M. Virden, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Virden were married on December 15, 1928 in Denver, Colorado. Elsie M. Virden was born November 2, 1910 at Ada, Oklahoma. When she was five, the family moved to the Ozarks. The family moved later to Prescott, Arkansas, where she started the first grade. She lived in and around Prescott until she married. Elsie resides in Whittier, California.

Mr. and Mrs. Hall were the parents of eight daughters; Mary Lou (Hopkins) Hovda, Billie Mae Lindberg, Doris Irene Dennis, Alice Fay Alkire, Evelyn Grace Hall, Edna Christine Reese, Mildred Jean Sparks and Carolyn Marie Templar. They had 21 grandchildren.

William C. Hall passed away on March 12, 1977 of a heart attack at his ranch. He was preceded in death by his parents and four grandchildren.

Betty L. Hovda

## Hamilton, Scott and Millie

Winfred Scott Hamilton was born in October 1848 in New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, the son of William R. and Anna Hamilton. William R. was a native of Scotland.

Scott lived in Pennsylvania until 1878 when he moved to Columbus, Nebraska. In 1879 he came to Wyoming where he jumped a claim of William E. Guthrie on LaBonte Creek at the mouth of Indian or Wilson Creek.

In 1885 he returned to Pennsylvania where he married Millie Q. Marshall. They returned to Wyoming in 1887 where they lived on Scott's homestead. They built a fine two-story cement house, one of the finest at that time on LaBonte. A water right was acquired in 1890 for 193 acres out of LaBonte Creek and a big irrigation canal was built. A fine apple orchard was also planted.

Scott's brother, William F., also came to Converse County.

Scott died on August 13, 1919; Millie in 1936.

C.D. Zimmerman and his Diamond Dot outfit acquired the place in the late 1920's. They operated it until Fred Manning bought it in 1944. Richard Pexton has most of the place in 1985.

John R. Pexton

## Hamilton, W. F. and Mary Family

William Findley Hamilton was born on January 12, 1850 in New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, the son of W.R. and Anna (Hamilton) Hamilton.

W. F. attended college in Scio, Ohio, after which he returned home and was employed by his father. At intervals he also taught school until 1879, when he came west to Cheyenne because of his health. He entered the employment of Hay and Thomas where he was engaged in sheep husbandry.

On October 24, 1883 he married Mary Vincent, daughter of Rev. G. C. Vincent, minister of the Presbyterian Church in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. Their children were Martha (Caley), Artie B. (born March 30, 1888, died March 4, 1965), George R. (born September 14, 1890, died May 2, 1918), William (born May 10, 1891, died October 31, 1932) and James H. (born January 10, 1893, died March 19, 1931).

The Hamiltons moved to Fort Laramie in 1883 where W. F. was in charge of the government farm there. In 1886 they moved to Douglas where Mr. Hamilton was a representative of Henry G. Hay. He located and plotted 80 acres of land joining the townsite on the south which was known as the Hamilton Addition. He built the first brick house in central Wyoming. It still stands at 623 South Fourth Street.

In 1889 W. F. became postmaster of Douglas, a position he held until 1892.

He homesteaded on what was known as the 86 Homestead located where McKinley or Wilson, Wyoming is now. He is credited as being the first person to bring sheep across the Platte River. In 1894 he sold his belongings on the Platte to Dr. J. M. Wilson and DeForest Richards. It was to be their headquarters for their wide spread Platte Valley Sheep Company.

By 1896 the family had moved back to Douglas where

they bought John Coffey's house at 211 South Fifth Street. It was to stay in the family until Artie LeBar died.

Mr. Hamilton became involved in the LaPrele Ditch and Reservoir Company along with B. J. Erwin and Dr. J. M. Wilson. He purchased the Brenning Ranch with 600 acres of irrigated land. W. F. and his sons owned the ranch where the Chamberlain brothers live today and owned at one time the Six Mile Ranch west of Douglas. He had an interest, along with B. J. Erwin and John LeBar, in the Hamilton Sheep Company. The company was incorporated in 1908 with a capital of \$50,000.

Mary V. died on March 2, 1907; William F. on June 10, 1926.

Artie married John Depue LeBar on May 3, 1908. John, the son of Hiram and Elizabeth Heller LeBar, was born August 25, 1882 in Shawnee, Pennsylvania.

John D. Sr. received his franchise as a Ford dealer in 1913. The Ford headquarters in Douglas stayed in the LeBar name for 53 years.

Two sons, James W. (born May 31, 1916, died October 21, 1942) and John Jr., and one daughter, Dae (Nielsen) were born to John and Artie.

John D. Sr. died November 11, 1949 and Artie on March 4, 1965.

John R. Pexton

## Hammond, George and Nellie

George Hammond, son of Milt and Clara Belle Newell Hammond was born in a dugout on LaBonte Creek on March 16, 1893.

On November 6, 1915, George and Nellie Newell, daughter of Gus and Elsie Newell, were married in Douglas with W. K. Weaver as minister and Mrs. W. K. Weaver as witness.

The couple had three children: Darr (born November 11, 1916, died October 6, 1983), Ardith (born February 24, 1924, died March 1948), and a son dying in early infancy in 1926.

Nellie was an accomplished wood carver and was known throughout the west for her work. Some of the better known works are: the Wyoming State Seal (made of cedar) hanging in the Governors Mansion in Cheyenne, a model of Buffalo Bill's Stage Coach, an Indian on a horse that was one of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt's prized possessions and many others.

Darr went to school at the Gray Rocks School near Esterbrook with Mrs. German as one of his teachers. Other students were from the Crabb and Donald families.

The family lived at one time on the Archie Hamner ranch on Horseshoe Creek which they had purchased from Bollns in 1935. Shortly after that they moved to another part of the state.

Nellie died on July 24, 1967.

John R. Pexton



# Hammond, Harve and Sarah

James Harvey "Harve" Hammond was born at Linn County, Iowa on February 23, 1850. His mother died when he was two years old and his father married again. He had five sisters, one brother and two half brothers.

Sarah was born at Smith County, Kansas on January 26, 1855 to Levi and Ann McNealy. She and Harve were married at her parents' home on January 18, 1877.

They made their home in Kansas for a time and then in Missouri where Harve had a blacksmith shop.

The Missouri climate didn't favor the family well and after much sickness, malaria and quinsy, and the death of their ten-year-old son, Levi, Sarah and Harve decided their children would be better off back in Kansas. Sarah, with the help of her oldest son Calvin, took the family and traveled to her parents' farm by wagon. Harve sold his business and followed them there a year and a half later.

They made their home at Clay Center for two or three years and Harve hauled freight from St. Louis to Denver. He told many times about the terrible grasshopper infestation of Kansas. How dark the sky would be, how they fought the "Hoppers", and how they ate everything including the fence posts. Once, when crossing Kansas, a small group of Indians followed them for miles, until they were ready to camp. One of the braver ones came to the camp and asked for "yum-yum". One of the men who knew what he was saying said, "he is asking for sweet." Granddad opened a barrel of sugar and filled everything they had that would hold sugar, and they were happy and went on their way.

Harve moved his family to Dawes County, Nebraska and once again set up a blacksmith shop. After awhile he started hauling freight into Wyoming. After many trips West, and at the urging of his half brother, Milt, he filed on a homestead south of Douglas. In 1901 he moved the family to the Wagonhound Creek home. Several members of the family took out homesteads and built their homes there. A post office was established and called "Hammond" and Sarah was appointed postmistress.

Harve worked to prove up on his homestead, developed some irrigation on parts of it. He also helped the other members of his family in developing theirs. They had the trials and tribulations that were the lot of all homesteaders. Harve had a threshing machine and threshed for many of the places on Wagonhound, LaBonte and Horseshoe Creeks. He talked of those times fondly.

In 1908 he sold his homestead to his son Cal and he and Sarah moved into Douglas with their three younger daughters, Anna, Clara, and Chloe, so that the girls might attend high school. They built a house on Sixth Street, now owned and occupied by Hazel Strock, daughter of Milt Hammond. In talking to Hazel, she told that she stayed with "Uncle Harve and Aunt Sarah" when two of her children were born in that house. Two children of Mabel's (a daughter of Harve and Sarah) were born there and also Clara's daughter Ida. Harve and Sarah raised their granddaughter Ida Malone.

Sarah died January 20, 1925, while she and Harve were at the home of their daughter, Clara, in Ogden, Utah. Her funeral was held in the house on Sixth Street in Douglas as was the custom at that time.

After Sarah's death Harve made his home with Clara for a time and then came back to Wyoming and lived with his daughter, Anna, and her husband, Jack Kirwan, until his death December 20, 1938.

He and Sarah are buried in Douglas Park Cemetery.

They were good and loving people. My grandmother, Sarah, I only know through my mother, Mabel and my aunts. Mama, in talking of her mother, Sarah, the things she had said and done, quoting her often. I came to admire her and felt love for her. My granddad, Harve, I did love. He was blind the last nine years of his life and I spent many hours reading to him. He had been an avid reader. He was also an excellent conversationalist. I loved listening to him and being with him.

Harve and Sarah had nine children and they are as follows:

Calvin W. — born March 18, 1878. He married Mary "Goldie" George on October 9, 1907, a neighboring rancher's daughter. They homesteaded on Wagonhound. Calvin died on May 23, 1916 at the age of 38 of an infected tooth and Goldie moved to Douglas to raise their children, Bob, Grace (Barry), Gladys (Hazen); and Cal, the youngest, made his home with his cousin, Gordon Fitzhugh.

Gertie — born August 6, 1879. She married Joe Francisco on July 27, 1898. They had twelve children who grew to adulthood: Clyde, Merle, twins Ruth (Scheurmann) and Ruby (Carlson), Jessie, Tony, Jack, Robert, Sarah, Ben, Betty and Verne. They also homesteaded, later moved into Douglas, and then on to Farmington, New Mexico where Joe died June 22, 1933. Gertie finished raising her family there and then moved to Ogden, Utah where she died February 12, 1948.

Levi Harrison — born June 18, 1881. Levi died on July 20, 1891.

Frederick — born March 28, 1883. He married Ruby Moody on February 3, 1910. They also homesteaded and had two children, Freda and Fred. Fred went to Canada and died there of unknown circumstances. Ruby later moved to California with her children.

Mabel — born August 26, 1885. She married John D. Smith on March 21, 1904. John was a cowboy for the Saul Company. He later homesteaded and carried the mail horseback from the Fitzhugh Ranch to Marshall. They were the parents of five daughters, Maude (Ryan), Myra (Loomer), Gertrude (Churchill), Joan (Cundall) and Betty (Bishop). John and Mabel separated in 1927. Mabel married Milton Copenhaver on October 5, 1940. He died in April 1943, and Mabel died on December 28, 1963 while at the home of her daughter, Gertrude, in Denver.

Cyrus M. — born on September 23, 1886 and died on July 4, 1888.

Anna and Clara - twins — born on January 17, 1890. Anna married Jack Kirwan on April 11, 1915, well-known saddlemaker in Douglas. Anna homesteaded and was a schoolteacher. She and Jack had no children, but they were like a second mother and father to many of their nieces and nephews. Anna died in May 1940 from an infected leg that was amputated. Jack died at Lusk, where he had started another saddleshop, from a heart attack in the fall of 1944.

Clara married Max Malone on September 9, 1908. They had one daughter, Ida (Scanlon). Clara moved to Ogden, Utah where she owned a hotel and later married

Vane Morgan. Clara died on July 16, 1955. Vane had preceded her in death.

Chloe — born on February 13, 1893. She married George Brow on August 6, 1912. They homesteaded in the Wagonhound area. They were parents of twelve children growing to maturity. George Jr., Ruby (Halloway), Jack, Sue (Falk), Jean, Loss, Betty, Valerie, Ida (Jackson), Shirley (Bryson), Barbara (Read), and David. Chloe and George remained on their homestead and eventually acquired the homesteads of the other Hammond family members. Chloe taught the rural school (Benway), her children and others attended. In the mid 40's George had a stroke and was no longer able to ranch. Their son, Jack, took over the operation and Chloe and George purchased property in Douglas and moved to town. George died shortly afterward and Chloe in 1960. Their ranch is now owned by the Middletons.

Several other members of the family came to Wyoming to homestead also. Sarah Hammond Dawes and her husband, Ed, the parents of Maud Dawes, an early day County Superintendent of Schools in Converse County. Kate was married to Henry Dean who operated a butcher shop on Second Street in Douglas. Nan Marshall, whose husband had a sawmill in the Cold Springs area. A half brother, Milt, who homesteaded on Wagonhound Creek.

Joan Smith Cundall

## Hammond, Millard and Clara

Millard "Milt" Hammond was born November 13, 1856 in Jackson County, Missouri.

At the early age of 15, Milt left home and became a bullwhacker. He freighted into Oklahoma and Texas.

In 1872, the trail herds beckoned and, he trailed cattle from Texas to Fort Kearney, Nebraska. After helping on more cattle drives from 1872 to 1876, he went to the Black Hills of South Dakota to prospect. Having no luck in the gold fields, he then went to Fort Benton, Montana where he outfitted a wagon train. With two six-mule teams, he freighted into Canada and western Montana. Later he helped survey the line for the Canadian Pacific Railroad in 1881.

Coming to Wyoming in the late 1880s Milt freighted lumber from the mills near Esterbrook into Douglas.

While working in the Esterbrook area he met and married Clara Belle Newell, the daughter of George and Adelia Newell. They were married by Justice of the Peace, H.R. Mewis in Douglas on August 14, 1892 with V. S. and Mary Morton as their witnesses.

Finding work at the Guthrie Ranch on LaBonte, he worked there as a cowboy.

The first two children, George and Hazel were born in a dugout, in which Milt and Clara Belle made their home during the first years on the Guthrie Ranch. George was born on March 16, 1893, and Hazel on December 30, 1893.

The Hammonds lived for awhile at Dr. Wilson's Platte Valley Ranch where Milt was foreman for two years. The family then moved to the Barry Ranch on LaPrele Creek in order to be near a school. George and Hazel went one year to the Beaver School which was taught by their cousin, Maud Dawes.

The family then moved to Wagonhound Creek where

Milt filed on a homestead. The homestead is now owned by George Wills.

Three more sons were born. One died in infancy and is buried on the ranch on Wagonhound Creek. Cecil, born December 15, 1904 died December 20, 1965, and Edward, born 1908.

Milt passed away in 1944 and Clara Belle on October 9, 1941. They are both buried at the Springhill Cemetery near Esterbrook.

John R. Pexton

## Hamner Family

In 1886, Charles Hamner brought his wife, Hulda and sons Walter, Archie and two other sons (names unknown) to the Esterbrook area. The men cut ties on contract for the new railroad that the Colorado and Southern was building from Cheyenne to Orin Junction to intersect the Fremont, Elkhorn, and Missouri Valley Railroad. An excerpt from Guy Newell Sr.'s diary has this to say about the Hamners. "And, oh, such huge men, there wasn't any of them underweight of two hundred fifty-three pounds and the elder was just as broad as he was long, just as well jump over him as to walk around."

Archie Hamner was born in Long Lake, New York on August 19, 1866. His parents were Charles and Hulda Hamner.

In 1889 Archie married Mary E. "Mame" Newell. Mary was born May 17, 1864 in Cedar Falls, Iowa to George and Adelia Newell.

Archie had a homestead on Horseshoe Creek. He built a spacious two-story house that still stands. The house is being remodeled in 1984 by Dr. Kirby Kirkland who owns the property. Previous owners are George Bolln, Al Rice, Robert Sturgeon and Art Fawcett.

Mame was renowned throughout the area for her genial hospitality and the meals that she cooked. Her



Archie and Mary "Mame" Hamner.





Archie Hamner Ranch buildings, 1915.

table was always set for several people. The ranch was a gathering place for people of the neighborhood to celebrate everything from the Fourth of July to Christmas.

After selling the holdings in their later years, Archie and Mame returned to New York. The lure of Wyoming beckoned them back, however, as they returned to Glendo where they operated a filling station.

Mary died March 18, 1943 and Archie February 2, 1952.

Walter Hamner also stayed in the area. He was married to JoHanna and died August 24, 1934 at the age of seventy-three.

Vera Dunham

## Hanlin, Lewis and Alice

In early 1919 the government gave a chance to all veterans to prove up on 640 acres of homestead land in a nine month period. Charles Hanlin was greatly interested in this offer and after discussing this over with his brother, Lewis Hanlin, they decided to take a trip to Wyoming and check into the offer. They liked what they found and immediately filed on claims. They returned to Smithfield, Nebraska and made plans for returning to Douglas, Wyoming.

In the fall of 1919 they returned to Wyoming in a Model T Ford pulling a covered wagon mounted on a two wheel axle. Perhaps it was the first trailer to travel the Yellowstone Highway. They were to use this later on, until they got horses to haul lumber, fence posts and many other things. They each built a homestead house with a box car roof. Charles built a one room house and named it Hookum Bull. Lewis built a 20 foot house just across the line from Charles' house. His house was divided into three bedrooms, with the kitchen in the basement.

In June 1920 Lewis returned to Nebraska to get his family. He loaded Alice, his wife, into the front seat of the Ford and filled the back seat with his four children: James (2), Leland (6), Jack (9) and Gladys (14). Douglas was born four years later in Douglas. On the running board of the car Alice put one old hen and twelve baby chicks in a crate.

What a thrill that trip from Nebraska to Wyoming was! Large herds of cattle and sheep were grazing. This was their first look at sheep and mountains and dear old Laramie Peak. In June 1920 they reached Douglas and started north to the homestead. It had been a beautiful spring, lots of rain had filled all the water holes and the grass and wild flowers were everywhere. The kids could hardly wait for the car to stop so they could see inside their new house. Lewis had planted a garden before he came back home for his family. For dinner that day Alice went to the garden and there was lettuce, radishes and green onions. The next morning Lewis went to Douglas for supplies and furniture. Alice heard her mother hen making a fuss so she ran out to see the cause and there was a rattlesnake after the baby chicks.

One afternoon a storm came in with much lightning and thunder. The family hurried down into the basement where the kitchen was. Alice vowed that she was going back to Nebraska as soon as Lewis got home. In a few weeks there was a lightning rod on top of the house. That was all that kept her in Wyoming. What a summer that was for the kids. How they did enjoy it all. They put so many rocks in all their pockets that they could hardly walk. The boys got cactus in their feet and waded in water holes.

There were picnics on Sunday where they met their new neighbors. The famous Walker Creek Picnic, held once a year, was at one time attended by 1000 people. The kids made friends with the McCartney children: Jessie, Minnie, Flora, Albert and Gladys and Lucille Anderson Beaver. It started a friendship that has lasted 64 years. Their neighbors lived within a five mile radius of them. They were the McCartneys, Plesters, Kinders, Septors, Pounds, Whitmarshs, Lyon Thatchers, Gillespies, Andersons, Wilemans and Lores.

Their first school was located at Loretta Walker Wileman's homestead, eight miles from their home. Mable Walker Wileman taught the children of Roy Lewis, George Sheets, Lewis and Lou Hanlin. Later the school building was moved eight miles east between Willow and Lightning Creeks. John Poulson was the teacher in 1925, Gladys Hanlin taught her first term of school here in 1926-27 with Perdita and John Whitmarsh, Orin Septor, Claude Dayton, Harry Pounds and Leland and James Hanlin as her pupils. Stacia Baker taught in 1927-28 with Lucille Meisner teaching in 1928-29, the last year school was held in that location. In 1929 the schools consolidated and the pupils were all sent to Walker Creek School.

Alice died on October 19, 1962.

Gladys married William Swope in 1942. William had homesteaded in 1928 in the Verse Community. He died on June 1, 1975 after a long tenure as custodian at the North Grade School in Douglas.

Jack married Helen Schick in 1934. They have two sons, David and James.

Leland married Laurilla Hall.

James married Virginia Collier in 1946. They had three children. James died on January 19, 1967.

Douglas married Evelyn Bloomquist in 1947. They have two children.

Jack Hanlin

## Hanson, Olaf Helmer

Olaf's parents, Helene Borresdtr and Hans Hanson, came to America from Norway and settled in Pope County, Minn. They owned a grain farm. They had three sons and one daughter.

On Nov. 24, 1896, Olaf's father, Hans Hanson, died as a result of a threshing machine accident. The following article appeared in the *Benson Times*.

"A horrible accident, the worst we believe that we were ever called upon to describe, happened about twelve miles north of here Friday morning in the Township of Rolling Fork, Pope County. Hans B. Hanson, a well-to-do young farmer about 32 years of age, had the threshing machine at his house that morning, and the regular feeder not being present, he took that place himself. About 8 o'clock, and after only a few bundles had passed through, the return elevator, which brings back partly threshed grain to the cylinder, became choked up and he started forward over the cylinder, to clean it. It had been cold and snowy the night before and with snow upon his feet and ice and snow upon the machine, it was but an instant until he slipped and his left foot was drawn into the swiftly revolving cylinder, with its cruel teeth, which only stopped revolving when his leg had been drawn in almost to his hip. The engineer saw him as he started forward and realizing the danger of the step, at once turned and shut down the engine and but for this, the poor man would have gone almost, if not quite, through the machine. The right shoe was torn to pieces but the foot itself was scarcely injured. As soon as the machine was stopped the horrified spectators, commenced to do what they could for him. A man was dispatched to this place for a doctor and they went to work to get him out, which they were unable to do until they had taken the cylinder out, which took about half an hour, when he was taken to his house, about ten rods away. Dr. Scofield accompanied by Dr. Linjer, arrived in due time and after due preparation and consultation, it was decided to amputate the limb, which was done, almost at the hip, but although he had been conscious all the time until the operation and became so again after the effects of the anesthetic wore off, the shock, which naturally followed, was too much for him and he died about four o'clock that afternoon. He was the owner of his farm, which bears evidence of growing prosperity and has considerable upon it in the way of farm property. He leaves a wife and four small children, who have the sympathy of the entire community in their sudden and terrible loss."

Olaf's sister, Minnie, only five years old at the time, remembers how she wouldn't leave her father's side as he lay on the kitchen table, where he died.

Olaf's mother, Helene Borresdtr Hanson, took her four children, ages 5, 3, 1, and a baby, back to Norway to live with her parents, then decided it would be better to return to the farm to rear three boys, rather than in the city.

When Olaf was eight years old his mother died from bleeding ulcers. Olaf and his brother and sister were reared by their Uncle Lars Borreson, while the baby, Stewart, was brought up by another family.

When Olaf was old enough, he decided to take up a homestead in Douglas, Wyoming and settled in Converse

County.

He raised sheep and grew grain. He branded his sheep, before he fenced in his land. He often spoke of his neighbors, and of their dependency on one another in those early days. Olaf never married. When he was unable to work anymore he sold his land. He died May 24, 1975, age 79.

The description of his Converse County land is: Township 37 North, Range 70 West, 6th PM, Section 15: E½, Recorded book 657, Page 347.

Faye Huso

## Hardesty, Harold & Maurine

Harold Franklin Hardesty was born in Elwell, Colorado in 1908, the third of six children of Homer J. and Lenora Fullerton Hardesty. Harold's great-grandfather, James Hardesty, was from Pennsylvania, and his grandfather, John, and father, Homer, were from Iowa. Harold was the first of his family to settle in Converse County, although his grandparents, John Coleman and Mary Fuller Hardesty, had lived at Dayton, Wyoming in the early 1900s, where John farmed and Mary ran a hotel. They left Dayton to homestead at Grover, Colorado. Harold remembers his Uncle Charles (one of John's sons who later became a Methodist minister in Casper, Wyoming) telling of the three-week trip when he was a child from Dayton to Grover in a covered wagon pulled by oxen. Harold's next touch with Wyoming was a trip by train to Douglas in 1924 when he was 16.

It was on that trip that he became fascinated with the West that he found in Douglas. He discovered and was entranced by the colorful old sheepherders who, faithful dogs at their heels, gathered at the Smokehouse Pool Hall a few doors north of the College Inn. Most came to town only twice a year, after lambing and after shipping stock, and they usually stayed at the Converse Hotel, which is still operating today. Harold spent many hours listening to the stories and yarns that these men and other old-timers told about their lives and experiences in the old west of this area. They were a great part of what brought him back three years later.

In 1927, when he was 19, Harold moved to Douglas from Morrill, Nebraska, where he had been a full-time farm hand since the age of 14. Having already gained a man's experience in farming, from hand picking and hoeing to field work with mules and four-horse teams, he contracted in 1928 to farm part of Bill and Sally Edwards' place south of town (now part of the Buzz Philbrick ranch). He lived in a little house for a while, but when the migrant workers arrived, they lived in it, so, for lack of better housing, he moved into an old wooden granary nearby. He laughingly recalls how he once put a pot of beans on low heat on the kerosene stove before he left for the day's work cultivating beets. He returned that evening, hungry and anticipating a hot meal, to find his beans burned to nothing but a pile of ashes and smoke. So much for cooking! Another time he, Bill and Sally Edwards headed for Laramie Peak in a 1928 Model T to do some fishing. One hill was so steep that they had to drive up it backward, for when the gas tank under the seat was lower than the motor, the car would not run; gas

flowed through the lines by gravity rather than by vacuum in those days. Later that day they were peacefully fishing in Friend Creek at the foot of the peak when, suddenly, gunshots from the mountain rang out, kicking up dust all around them. They hightailed it out of there fast, after realizing they had probably gotten too close to someone's private liquor still!

1928 was the year Harold met his future wife, Maurine Bower, daughter of Clyde and Hazel Bower who lived west of Douglas. Maurine was a native of Douglas, born in 1914, and at the time they first met, was a 14 year old visiting friends south of town. They began dating a couple of years later and would be married in 1934. He always said it was her sparkling brown eyes, big smile and perennially sunny nature that made him unable to forget her once they had met.

Since Harold had always been convinced that he'd like to have lived a hundred years earlier, he again spent a great deal of time, from 1927 to 1934, visiting with many of the old-timers and cowboys, most of whom had gotten too old to work by then. However, some still lived as they always had, riding a saddle horse with a pack horse behind from one place to another; this whole area was their "home." Two who often stopped by to visit Harold while he lived south of town were Phil Housiaux and John Hartman. Housiaux told stories of his younger days as a U.S. Marshal, and Hartman passed along stories about Indian battles and Indian attacks on settlers traveling south of town. During these years Harold developed what was to become a life-long interest in and collection of relics of the early Wyoming Indians and settlers. He and Maurine were to spend many long days walking over the prairies, searching for reminders of a long-ago way of life.

He also fully enjoyed the life of the late 1920s and early 1930s. He was very proud of his early version of a hot rod, a 6-cylinder Star Coupe automobile. It was green with black fenders and top, and the exhaust was rigged with a five-tubed whistle and a cut-out, whereby when a chain was pulled there was a sound like a train whistle and a great deal of racket occurred. Maurine remembers sitting in school listening for the sound of Harold's Star coming over the hill, and the teacher chiding her for "daydreaming about that young man again!" Harold recalls that in 1931 he had 27 flat tires in one day while driving a 1930 Chevrolet up to Downey Park. The process was to patch the tire, pump it up by hand and go on, until the next flat. His philosophy of "Never give up, and when you have a job to do, do it!" served him well, for the trip was completed in one day.

From 1932 to 1934 Harold worked at the Morton Ranch. Because of his past experience at breaking and handling teams of horses, he worked with the purebred Belgian workhorses which were raised at the ranch. Their sire was a Belgian named John, who weighed over two thousand pounds. The huge Belgians were still used at that time for raking, bunching, sweeping and stacking hay. Wages were \$25 a month, room and board.

During those same years Maurine had finished normal training at the University of Wyoming and had been teaching for two years. As a rural school teacher, she received room and board from one of the families who had children in school, and her salary was \$75 per

month, a good amount in those days. Transportation to school was to walk, often through sub-zero weather, with frost forming an inch deep on the wool scarf around her face. She taught at two different schools. At one, she was able to catch the train into town on Friday afternoons. The "depot" was a post by the railroad tracks marked "Alberta Station," where the train engineer always stopped on Fridays for the schoolmarm. Two particularly interesting things happened to her while she was teaching. The first was that two huge coyotes habitually guarded a gate on the trail to one of the schools, and she had to habitually yell and stomp and "shoo" them away in order to even get to the school. The second was the time that a parent of one of her pupils, quite inebriated and very irate at the low grade her child had received, attempted to either do away with the teacher, or scare her to death, by chasing her around the schoolyard and through the sagebrush with a dilapidated old car; the dust flew, but the teacher was quick on her feet and managed to elude her tipsy attacker!

When Harold and Maurine married in 1934, they began a period of traveling all around the nation, interspersed with working in Douglas. They always kept home base in Douglas though, no matter where they traveled. That first summer they farmed the Mitchell place at Orin. There they discovered, after kindly feeding some railroad bums, that the bums marked Xs on such places, so their buddies coming down the tracks after them would know just where to stop for food and shelter!

In 1935 Harold began building pipelines nationwide for oil companies, then graduated from the Lincoln Institute of Welding at Cleveland, Ohio in 1938. He returned to Douglas, where he built dirt dams for the Morton Ranch and he became a heavy equipment operator and foreman for Knisely-Moore Construction, a Douglas firm. During World War II he was a welder on defense contracts at Seattle, Washington, and Maurine worked in an office. When they returned to Douglas she became the secretary-bookkeeper for Woodruff Seed Company and Harold opened his own welding shop. He soon decided that construction work was his future so he returned to Knisely-Moore to become a foreman on highway and dam construction sites across Wyoming, South Dakota and Nebraska.

In 1952 Harold and Maurine realized their dream of owning their own construction company. For the next 15 years Harold ran the jobs while Maurine handled the bookkeeping. In 1966, hoping to semi-retire, they purchased the Grain and Storage Company, a feed business which had been in existence in Douglas for over 50 years. They operated the store for the next 13 years, until 1979, when they sold it and retired.

Harold has always enjoyed many hobbies, including working with horses, the complete restoration of five antique autos, and hand-carving diamond willow canes and pictures on old wood. Maurine also enjoyed many diverse activities, including her work with the Girl Scouts, china painting and gardening. She often jokingly called Harold, "Johnny Appleseed," for he still just can't resist growing a little bit of something besides their gorgeous flowers. If you look closely at the flower beds, you will always find something else growing there - perhaps a cantaloupe ripening amid the roses, or a cucum-

ber vine happily climbing an evergreen tree, or a peach seed carefully tucked into the ground, just in case. Of course, no one ever knows just how those seeds got there!

Harold and Maurine celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1984. Then, in July 1985, at age 71, Maurine passed away. Their two daughters are Chris Nachtman of Douglas (born in 1943 at Seattle, Washington) and Sue Westbrook of Spearfish, South Dakota (born in 1950 at Hastings, Nebraska). Their two grandsons are Terry Nachtman of North Palm Beach, Florida, and Shane Westbrook of Spearfish.

Chris H. Nachtman

## Hardy, Mick and Grace Family

Marion G. "Mick" Hardy was born at Thayer, Kansas on March 18, 1895. His parents later moved to a place near Carpenter, Wyoming.

After serving his country in World War I, Mick became associated with his brother, Robert M., in a ranch on Cottonwood Creek near Dwyer Junction, Wyoming. Later the two brothers came to Converse County and homesteaded near Bear Creek, northwest of Douglas.

Robert's wife, Bessie, died on January 7, 1935 and is buried in Douglas. Robert later moved to Miles City, Montana.

On June 20, 1928 I, Grace Elbourne, was united in marriage to M. G. (Mick) Hardy and the following spring we purchased the ranch owned by Harry and Fred Manning. This was to be my home for close to forty years. Memories too numerous to mention come flooding back. There are many ups and downs, years of drought, severe storms and a few floods but we both loved the ranch and through the years built up a reputation herd of Hereford cattle.

A son, Eugene, was born in February of 1930 and a daughter, Donna, in March of 1940.

Schooling was always a problem and I spent nine months in town when Gene entered first grade. Six years following there was a school (North Point) close enough to enable him to ride to and fro. Teachers changed each year but the one I recall best was Pauline Peyton. I still remember the outstanding Christmas pageant she produced with a mere handful of pupils. No fancy home for the teacher in those days. Fred Jenne gave us the use of a very nice sheep wagon which Mick moved to the school house and this was Pauline's home for nine months. I hope Pauline includes the story of her pets, the stove damper, flour bin and her proposal of marriage in her history.

When Gene reached seventh grade he went to Douglas and lived with Lloyd Bruegeman and wife during two school terms. By that time Donna was ready to enter kindergarten and we purchased a home on South Fifth Street. For the next twelve years of school I shuttled back and forth every weekend from ranch to town, and I was a very unhappy person if weather conditions prevented my trip to the ranch on Fridays. Both Gene and Donna graduated with honors and Donna went on to college. Mick was thrown from his horse and seriously injured the year Gene graduated and regardless of the four-year

scholarship which was awarded him, Gene chose to remain at home and we certainly needed his help.

We were just beginning the construction of a new house at the time Pearl Harbor was bombed and in a short time Gene was called into the army. Mick and I struggled on with Donna's help during the summer months. More drought years and storms brought many hardships. In a short time Gene was united in marriage to Joy Falkenburg; and by 1964 Mick's health began to fail, and he passed away on May 16, 1967. The ranch was never home to me after this. Donna was married; and due to her husband's work, they made frequent moves. I was thankful to have the house on South Fifth and this has been my home since Mick's death. He always hoped and felt he would be the first to go and his wish was for me to be active and take part in things I enjoyed.

The Lord has blessed me with very good health and I have been privileged to enjoy several very nice trips. I have no desire to live anywhere but Douglas and I enjoy numerous activities including my yard and garden work in summer.

Many friends and good neighbors are great blessings for which I remain very thankful.

Grace Hardy

## Harp, Dr. W. H.

W. H. Harp was born in Illinois in 1869. He was educated there and received his degree in dentistry. He practiced in Illinois for many years. He served in the Illinois legislature for two years.

He came to Wyoming in 1926 because of failing health and established a ranch in Downey Park where he raised sheep.

After his health improved, he turned the management of his sheep ranch over to his nephew, Lynn Harp, and began practicing his profession again, setting up his office in the Jenne Building in Douglas.

He was married but the couple had no children. He was one of the best known dentists in Wyoming.

Dr. Harp died in November 1936 and is buried in the Douglas Park Cemetery.

Lynn Harp was born in Glenrock on August 3, 1898. His father was a teacher in Glenrock. Lynn died October 11, 1972 in California.

Ruth Grant

## Harris, Ernest G. "Peck"

Peck, as all his friends knew him, was born in Elmira, New York on April 9, 1861. He was one of eight children and received the nickname of Peck when he was a youth for his reputation of being a "Peck's Bad Boy".

He left home at an early age working his way west to Wyoming. Here he prospected, worked as a round-up cook. Then with a team and wagon, Peck freighted supplies from the railroad at Laramie to Fort Fetterman in 1880. In 1882 he found employment with Tom King at the King Ranch in Deer Creek Park. Several years later he homesteaded on the West Fork of Deer Creek and from that time on he was active in the cattle business.

In 1895, Peck took in a young partner, 24-year-old Tom Martin. They ranched together until 1906 when Peck sold his interest in the ranch to Tom. Peck then bought land near the main Deer Creek and he had an additional claim near West Fork. Peck and Tom remained close friends throughout their lives.

It was about 1912, one of many occasions when Peck and Tom gathered steers to ship. They put them in a pasture overnight before driving the steers on to the railroad. During the night there was a thunderstorm and the lightning struck and killed one of the steers in the pasture gate. Peck saddled his horse with the intent of dragging the steer away but the steer was too heavy and the horse couldn't pull it. The horse reared and fell over backwards breaking Peck's hip badly as the horse fell upon him. Dr. Lathrop set the broken bones but the accident left Peck with a stiff leg. He continued in the cattle business undaunted by his handicap. Peck then trained his saddle horses to stand quietly near a rock or a corral fence so he could mount but as he did he cussed and cajoled the steed all the time he was getting on, even though the horse stood with motionless patience through the whole ordeal.

Peck never married but he was proud of his livestock. His family consisted of his two dogs, to which he fed generous plates of pancakes smothered in bacon grease; his saddle horse, which he called "Little Horse"; and his team named Dink and Bob.

After he was crippled up, Peck always carried a sizeable walking stick. About two inches in diameter and instead of having a normal stirrup for his stiff right leg, he had a stirrup tied on a strap which went from the saddle horn to the horse's shoulder to hold his leg comfortably beside the neck of Little Horse.

In the 1930s, (Peck was in his seventies) when the spring of the year would arrive, Peck would ride Little Horse across the mountains from Deer Creek Park to Bates Holes and trap beaver along the way. He would stay at the ranch with us and then go on foot with his walking stick and traps to climb Muddy Mountain and trap the beaver in the streams. He was tough, rugged and hardy; typical of the early western pioneers.

When Peck sold out in Deer Creek park in 1945, he bought a small place on the Muddy at Cow Hollow. His health was beginning to fail at that time. Peck was well-known throughout the area when he passed away at the age of 85 on January 28, 1947. Though he had been one of eight children, he was the last surviving member of the family.

Myron W. Martin

## Harris, Fay and Mary

An early-day resident of Douglas, Wyoming was Fayette Harvey Harris, a young man not yet of age, who hired out at an employment office on Market Street in Denver, Colorado to work on the power house that was being built for the new LaPrele Dam project southwest of Douglas in 1907.

His first job in Converse County was not a long-lasting one, however. He and the boss had an argument after a short ten days on the job. The nature of the argument was not disclosed, but Fay said "It was the



Big Muddy Oil Field: Fay Harris on the right.

only time I had the timekeeper hand me my pay with a check in his right hand and a gun in his left hand!"

The ways of the west probably seemed a little rough about that time to a lad who was born in Kansas and lived most of his early life in Michigan. Fayette Harvey Harris was born January 8, 1888 in Merriam, Johnson County, Kansas to Harvey Harris and Ellen Patrick. The first son born to Harvey and Ellen, John D. was born October 14, 1886 and died March 9, 1887 before Fay was born. His younger brother, Wilford Charles, was born December 22, 1890 and his mother lost her life the day after giving birth to his sister, Belle, born December 25, 1893. An aunt, Isabelle Wilson, came from Michigan to take Belle home with her and she was raised as their daughter. Harvey kept the two boys with him until he was able to sell the farm and then moved to Plymouth, Michigan where he opened a meat market on Mills Street. Fay's school days were in Wayne, Michigan where he finished his sophomore year, along with working for his dad in the meat market. Even though Fay learned the valuable trade of meat cutting, he tired of his dad's feeling that "boy power was cheaper than man power," so he decided to take an offer of a long-time friend in Wayne, a livestock feeder-buyer, who was moving his operation to Longmont, Colorado. This was Fay's chance to go west!!! He had his first try at being a cowboy that winter (even broke some mules for farm work). From there he went to Diamondville, Wyoming where a cousin, Mabel Stellwagon, was teaching school. He was able to land a job in the coal mines and worked there for about three years. With \$100 in his pocket and the "world by the tail" he thought he would visit home and stop in Denver on the way to see what it was like! Well, that \$100 didn't last too long in Denver. Next thing he knew he was plunking down \$2 at the unemployment office on Market Street and he and ten or twelve other men "shipped out" on a train bound for Douglas, Wyoming and their new job.

After that job ended with such short notice he went to digging ditches for \$1 a day which later turned into ranch work and even a try at farming.

Many a landmark in Converse County felt the touch of Fay's laboring hands. He helped dig the basement of the LaBonte Hotel in 1913 with a team and wheel scraper, poured the first bucket of cement into the footing of the U.S. Post Office, helped build Carey's dam with a team





U.S. Survey Camp: L. to r. Fay Harris, camp cook; Wm. H. Clark, U.S. Surveyor; Tommy Lyons; Harry Manning and Carl Manning.

and worked for the General Land Office on the U.S. Survey crew that re-surveyed all the originals in Converse County.

World War I took many a man from Converse County including Fay. He was drafted in 1918 and became a Sergeant in the U.S. Army. His last assignment was in the Machine Gun Company of the 44th Infantry.

Shortly after coming home from the war he went to work for the Texas Company building a new refinery in Casper. He also worked in the Big Muddy Oil Field between Douglas and Casper. In fact, he had a chance to invest in the first well drilled in this field, but he had horses he would not let go hungry through the winter, so let the opportunity go by.

Fay homesteaded in 1922 in the northern part of the county, however, he said of himself, "I wasn't much of a dry farmer," but try he did.

Again the "call of the wild" came and he "saddled up" with the first dude outfit in Wyoming, headquartered at Brooks Lake near Dubois. Their work started by taking 172 head of saddle and pack horses from Casper to Yellowstone Park. It was a most wonderful trip, the highlight of Fay's life, breathing the fresh mountain air, working with the animals he loved, taking in the breathtaking beauty of Wyoming and enjoying the bountiful wildlife of that era. From Brooks Lake they had a 100-mile pack trail over the Continental Divide to Lewis Lake and Yellowstone. They made about 15 miles a day stopping at camps set up along the trail. The dudes were required to go through a three day school to learn to ride those "gentle" horses and then they'd take off, dudes and all. Fay made the trip a couple times then took over holding down one of the camps for the rest of the season.

Many a "bear story" was told from experiences on

this trip but Fay's favorite was when his "boss-man" decided he could rope a young grizzly. This yearling grizzly had been pestering around their camp at Lewis Lake so the boss, who was an excellent roper, climbed aboard his trusty horse and barreled into him. He roped him all right, got him around the neck, and the fight was on! A grizzly is a lot different than a brown bear. A brown bear will fight the rope and try to get away. Not a grizzly. He's "rope broke." When that rope tightens he's gonna come up that rope! The horse was frightened half to death but he was a well-trained horse and scared or not, he worked. There was a lone tree standing in the middle of the park and the boss managed to get the bear wound up tight around that tree. Then they all wondered what they were going to do with him? How were they going to get him loose? They finally took another rope, hooked a hind leg and stretched him out while another cowboy climbed the tree and reached down with a hook to pull the rope loose on the neck. When they dropped that heel rope, that bear took out like greased lightning and they never saw anything of him for three whole days. But come back he did, ornier than ever!!! After hunting was over that fall the men came back through the Big Horns to Tensleep and Casper and from there Fay went to his homestead out north.

Fay sold the homestead in 1927. After selling he ranched a little for other outfits and had the disillusionment of going broke in a partnership and moved back to town. On June 1, 1939 he married Mary Helen Alberts, a widow with three children: Lila, age 13, Henry, age eight and Robert, age four. Robert was so small he could not remember his real father, so Fay legally adopted him and he became Robert Harris. Lila and Hank kept their dad's name, Alberts.

Mary had come to Douglas at the young age of 22 in 1924. She was born to Charles Rudloff and Lilly Belle Mills in Pinckneyville, Perry County, Illinois on February 10, 1902. Her doctor had recommended a drier climate and she had heard stories of Wyoming and "homesteading" so she filed for a homestead and came out by herself on a train and checked in at the LaBonte Hotel. She soon sold the homestead as it was pretty impossible for a young lady to make the necessary improvements by herself. (See Alberts story.)

When World War II started Fay tried to enlist but his age was against him this time. He was however, appointed to serve on the Fire Department Division of the U.S. Prisoner of War Camp at Douglas and served the length of the war. After being discharged from this appointment he was custodian at the LaBonte Hotel for ten years and then custodian at the U.S. Post Office for another ten years. This gave him 15 years of civil service for retirement. After retirement he said, "I became pretty handy with a lawn mower and a rake," and he still worked doing lawns for other folks as long as the doctor would allow it.

Fay left this life on June 26, 1975. He was a laboring man, sometimes working long hours, working shifts that took him away from his family and had little time for entertainment. Some people might say his pleasures were few but he would say his pleasures were many as he enjoyed the beauty of Wyoming's nature, God's creatures he truly loved and the fellowship of the people of Converse County.

Fay had a great memory and every family occasion was blessed by his lively toasts.

Betty Alberts

## Harris, Ike and Jennie

Even though Isaac David Harris was born on July 2, 1872 in Lewistown, Illinois, he had always wanted to come "west" and become a cowboy. His family moved to Seward, Nebraska when he was 11 years old. They came to Fort Sidney and on to the North Platte valley in 1886 northeast of the present town of Scottsbluff. In 1900 they moved to Mitchell and built the first house there. One of his first tasks as a freighter was to help freight lumber from Alliance for the first bridge across the river at Gering. His dream was finalized when he went to Wyoming in 1892 to become one of those "cowboys", returning to Mitchell for the winter months. He loved horses and cattle so was known as a pioneer cowboy, freighter, homesteader, rancher, and a butcher all his life up until his passing on May 2, 1947 at Gering, Nebraska.

Jennie V. Pattison was born near Rockdale in Johnson County, Indiana on Oct. 14, 1878 and at the age of 6 moved with her family to eastern Nebraska, settling in Hamilton County near Aurora and Stockam. It was here my biological mother, Mary, was born. In 1893 the family moved to western Nebraska to a place 6 miles south of Gering. Grandpa had come out earlier to look the situation over and thought it a nice place with many opportunities. Aunt Jennie didn't like the idea much as there were cowboys out here and she was afraid of them. (She later married one). At the age of 16 she began her teaching



Isaac "Ike" Harris

career here in the North Platte valley and also serving as a bookkeeper for her father in the Burton-Pattison hardware store in Gering.

On June 2, 1901 she and Uncle Ike were married. After their marriage in Gering they took what few belongings she had and moved to Mitchell where Uncle Ike was a partner in a meat market, known then as the City Meat Mkt., with Bal Spencer. Here she kept books for the business; also took in boarders, baked bread, and made many a wedding cake. The little money she received from all this she bought a piano. When they sold the market in 1909 and later moved to Wyoming that piano went also.

My folks came to Wyoming in 1910 and homesteaded 60 miles north of Douglas near the now NERCO Coal mine, located on Antelope and bordered the Campbell County line.

I was born Oct. 29, 1911 in Gering and when I was two I came to live at that place we called the K- Ranch on Antelope. The folks had no children of their own so Aunt Jennie asked my mother, Mary Jacobs, wife of Bass Jacobs, if they could adopt us (Geneva Izetta and Clark Pattison Whipple). Papers were drawn up and signed and when my brother Clark, who had been living with my grandparents, was 10 and I was 4 we were considered their adopted children. We were never permitted to call them Mother and Father as our own parents were still living then. The prefix of "Aunt" and "Uncle" has remained since. I feel so lucky to have had parents like these folks who provided us a home with love and security; perhaps better than their own children might have had.

I remember hard times prevailed then. No modern conveniences, no day to day mail service, telephone, not a doctor within 60 miles, and a very few close neighbors. The closest school was at the George Robinson place 8 miles from us. But before they left there they did experience carbide lights and "cold" water piped into the house from a cistern on the hill. Before, we had to haul water from a

spring a quarter of a mile away in 2 barrels on a sled. We put canvas over the barrels and secured that with iron bands to keep the water from sloshing out but seldom did we ever get home with a full one.

Uncle Ike freighted wool to Gillette using several head of horses. It was a good way to break in a new colt or two to the wagon. He would bring back the winter's supply of staples, canned goods, and an occasional piece of stick candy, and around the Fourth of July, he some way found the money to have a few small firecrackers. We always had our own supply of meat whether it was antelope, beef, sage chickens, rabbits, or chickens, and of course our own butter, milk, and eggs.

These people were known for their hospitality and kindness. The door was never locked and many a cowboy riding through would stop overnight and bed down their horse, fix a meal, and sleep in your bed if a bunkhouse wasn't available. They were never too busy to go help someone in need or stay with a neighbor while the man of the house was away on business. After we got the car Uncle Ike took a neighbor to Douglas to a doctor. It was cold at the time so rocks were heated and placed around the woman. No heaters then!

Aunt Jennie taught school at Wright one short term. She had five of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Wright's: Otis, Eunice, Ruth, Willie, and Lester; two of Burt Reno's: Floyd and Everette and a boy named Vernon Dunn. This was in 1911. It was here she received the word I had arrived and my mother needed some names to choose from. She ended up with Geneva. Aunt Jennie stayed in a sheep wagon and it was nothing to wake up on a snowy morning and find a "blanket" of the white stuff called snow where it had sifted through the cracks. She would scoop off the snow with a pie tin and then start a fire in the tiny stove provided near the front of the wagon.

I remember the old log house that was built not too far from Antelope, for we never thought the creek would get as high as it did. It had a sod roof and sometimes when it rained real hard we had to put pans under the drips or sleep in a wet bed or eat on a wet table. It was in this log house we ate, slept, washed clothes, and lived until a frame one-room building was built for us to sleep in and hold that precious piano they brought from Mitchell. It was also known as a schoolroom for one year. As I said, the closest school was 8 miles away and I was too young to ride horseback that far. The folks went to Douglas and got a couple of desks, a blackboard, and some books and Aunt Jennie taught Clark and me. We put on Thanksgiving and Christmas programs. Just the two of us. We had recitations, dialogues, songs, and the works. We invited the closest neighbors, cowboys riding through, or anyone else who would listen to us. This was only for one year as we usually went to Gering and rented a house close to my grandparents.

Horses were the only means of transportation then, later buggies and finally I remember when the new Buick, with side-curtains, arrived at the K- Ranch. That was something great!

Our entertainment was of our own making. In the "frame" house Aunt Jennie would second on the piano and someone would play the harp. I especially remember Charlie Addington, who herded sheep for Lee and Spath and later at the T & Ranch, of course dances, on the

Fourth of July. Later we had dances at Verse and had card parties at many different homes.

One Fourth of July we were planning to go up to the Spracklen ranch and we had our mouths all set for fried chicken. The folks went out to the hen house to get the nice roosters and there lay dead chickens all over the place. The skunks had gotten in and sucked the blood from about 60 roosters and just left them. Can't remember if we had fried chicken or not but we did go on and have "homemade" ice cream and later danced on the open-air pavillion to the fiddler's music.

I can recall so many things but due to the limited space I will mention just one more. This was the flood that happened in the early morning hours of June 2, 1929, the folk's wedding anniversary. This really took a toll on both of them and was a turning point in many of our lives. Rain had fallen way up the creek west and lots of water finally drained into Antelope. Creek beds and meadows were flooded. The home of Bass Jacobs was dashed against a group of trees. My half brother, Charles, got out with the clothes on his back and his new pair of boots, as well as the rest of the family. Coming on down in its path was the Henry Thomas house. Water rushed through the house carrying out things as it rolled along. But as the water proceeded it had to pass through a narrower place and when it hit our place two miles on it took our place in its entirety. Uncle Ike wasn't at home at the time but was down the creek looking for cattle and decided to stay at the Dorr ranch for the night. Next morning he was shocked to set his feet out in water as he got up. He went to saddle up and go home and found his saddle up high in a tree. Coming on home he would see familiar objects as he rode along and was almost afraid to come around the bend for fear of what he would see. Sure enough the place was gone. He sent a telegram to us in Gering not to come. We didn't get it until we got to Douglas but decided to come on out. I saw Aunt Jennie's hair turn white over night and it stayed white until she passed away at 94 years on Dec. 7, 1972 at Scottsbluff.

Uncle Ike built another house, a small frame one, but farther up on the hill. We lived there until ill health, following a stroke, forced him to leave the ranch, and the two of them went to live in Gering, staying with Aunt Jennie's aged father. He passed away Nov. 4, 1936 at 90 years.

Realizing they could never go back to the ranch to live they decided to sell. (We stayed until the sale was final). On Oct. 29, 1938 Mick Hardy bought the ranch.

I met my husband, Lawrence Koch, when we were youngsters. His father, Jake, would come to the coal mine, then known as the Jess Morsch mine, and one day he needed an auger so sent Lawrence down to our place for one. We were only a quarter mile away. He was so bashful that I didn't know if he was going to remember what he came for. Little did I know then he would become my husband and later work at the mine.

I finished school in Gering and later attended college at Chadron State at Chadron, Nebraska. Came back to Wyoming and taught 2 years. One term at the Rhea Tillard ranch and the other one at the Ross Owen school near Bill.

We went to Gering and were married at Scottsbluff on May 17, 1933 and came back to Wyoming to live on the

ranch until 1938. We had two children, Jim and Tom, while living here. We moved back to the North Platte valley and bought an acreage two and a half miles south of Gering. Later, we built on land deeded me by my folks which is about six miles south.

After the children were old enough to leave and look after themselves I decided to go back to teaching. I put in 19 years here in the valley and received my B.S. degree from Chadron State in 1966. Can't say I miss teaching. I do miss the pay check but am thoroughly enjoying my retirement.

We had three more children after moving back. Dick, who is a varsity basketball coach and teacher at Omaha, Nebraska. Paul who is an accountant in Arcadia, California, and Martha Ann Wood who teaches physical education in the elementary schools at Crete, Nebraska. Jim and Tom, I am sure, had some of the "west" instilled in them while living there for they both liked to rodeo. Tom still ropes some but Jim has changed from horses to manhandling those big semi-trucks for the Lockwood Corporation here in Gering and has for 20 years.

Lawrence passed away on August 29, 1965 from a heart attack at the farm. I stayed on for a while but Aunt Jennie needed someone to stay with her so I turned the running of the farm over to Tom, later selling it to him in 1978.

I regret not having a tape recorder when my folks and Lawrence were still alive. I am sure I would have had enough material to have written a book myself but those days in good "Ole" Wyoming are gone forever and all we have left are the fond memories of our childhood days and later years but I treasure them and hold them dear to my heart and I will always call Wyoming MY HOME.

Geneva W. Koch

## Hart, Ben and Adaline Family

Benjamin Hart was born in Ohio on September 12, 1852. He married Harriet Howard, daughter of James and Anna Howard, on September 12, 1877. They came to Wyoming from Iowa in 1880 with Harriet's brother, Bill Howard, and her brother-in-law, Charles Rice. The Harts lived with the Rices on Beaver Creek. They had one daughter, Nona. On November 2, 1881 Harriet died from the effects of childbirth. Ben then returned to Nebraska where he married Adaline Choan, a native of France, born December 1, 1865.

Ben and Adaline had ten children born in Randolph, Nebraska. They are: Nellie (born December 27, 1882), Charles (born January 11, 1885), Emma (born April 11, 1886), Ella (born November 29, 1888), Walter (born November 27, 1889), William (born March 9, 1891), Emanuel (born February 8, 1895), Beulah (born April 12, 1896), Henry (born March 20, 1898), and Clarence (born July 15, 1900).

In 1902 the Hart family moved back to Wyoming, living on the Bun place on Beaver Creek. They had one daughter, Ruth (born in 1902), who died at birth. She is buried on the Bill Leman ranch on Beaver Creek. They

also had twins, Mildred and Willard (born March 25, 1905). Willard is also buried at the Beaver Cemetery, having died at an early age. Earl was the last to be born (April 20, 1908).

Later, needing more room, they moved to the Hank Howard place on Upper LaPrele Creek. Ben and his sons worked at the Dawes sawmill for a while. He homesteaded on Hart Draw, getting his patent in 1914. He received his water rights in 1911. His homestead was southeast of where the Windy Ridge Road starts at the Cold Springs Road.

Ben and Adaline made their home on LaPrele Creek until 1923 when they moved to Douglas. Adaline died in 1937 and Ben on September 6, 1938.

Nellie married Harry Rice. Their children were: Chester (born September 18, 1910) and Laura (Patterson). Nellie later married Charlie Paull. She is living in California.

Emma married Cornelius "Neil" Terry in Randolph, Nebraska on December 21, 1904. They came to Converse County in 1917 and settled on a place southwest of Douglas under the LaPrele Irrigation Project. Neil died in 1957 and Emma on September 23, 1970. Four children were born to them: Marcus, Donald, Verna (Mrs. Don Hildebrand) and Helen (Wilson).

Ella married Fred Howard, son of William and Georgia Howard, on December 20, 1905. They settled on a farm six miles southwest of Douglas on Little Bedtick Creek. Ella was well known for her ability to play the violin. Fred died on September 13, 1943, Ella on November 27, 1966. They had one son, Art, and two daughters, Edith (Wingert) and Blanche (Kremer).

William married Pauline O'Brian in 1950. Bill ranched on various places around Douglas. He died on October 7, 1967. He had a step-daughter, Ila Jean (Hudak).

Beulah married Homer Powell, son of William and Alice Powell. After their marriage they lived on upper LaPrele for eleven years then moved to Sage Creek where they homesteaded and later moved to a place southwest of Douglas where they were neighbors of Beulah's sister, Emma. Homer died December 16, 1965 and Beulah on May 8, 1981. Their eight children were: Dallas, Lorraine, Irma, Morris, Fred, Billy, Bobby and George.

Henry married Etta Plotner Angell on October 10, 1924. They operated the Hart Dairy west of Douglas for many years. On May 1, 1951 he married Jessie Sorbon. They lived on a small place at the west end of the LaPrele Dam Project for many years. Upon his retirement they lived in Yuma, Arizona for seven winters. He died February 25, 1969.

Mildred married Charles Poirot, son of Eugene Poirot. She is living in Roseburg, Oregon.

Earl was married to Mildred Townsend Arndt.

John R. Pexton,  
from information given by Mildred Poirot

## Hart, Homer and Ida

Homer Ellsworth Hart was born July 2, 1895 in Van Wert, Ohio to Charles and Frances Taylor Hart.

In World War I he entered the U.S. Army and served as a mule skinner and as a truck driver in France in "The Great War." After returning from the war he worked on farms in Iowa where he met his future wife, Ida. He left Iowa to go further west because he was troubled with an asthmatic condition. When first arriving in Converse County in 1924 or 1925, he was hired by the Ogalalla Ranch where he broke horses for a year and a half before homesteading on the Pine Ridge, near the Natrona County line at the head of Antelope Creek. During the first three or four years of living in Wyoming he did return to Iowa for a visit.

On the 6th of June in 1927, Ida May Montgomery arrived in Douglas by train from her home in Brooklyn, Iowa where she was met by her soon to be husband. They were married by the Baptist minister in Douglas on June 7, 1927 and left immediately in his Star touring car for the homestead. The roads were very muddy and it took them three days to make the trip, undoubtedly stopping at ranches along the way where they would have been invited to stay the night.

In a few months his homestead was "proved up." Because he was a veteran he received credit for his time in the service and thus it did not take as long to "prove" his homestead. They then moved over to Ida's homestead. In the fall she began teaching school on a neighboring ranch, riding horseback daily, even when pregnant with her first child. Her first child, a boy named Roland, was born in a maternity home in Douglas in November 1929.

The Hart family, which in 1933 consisted of two small boys, Roland, 4-years-old, Richard, 3-years-old, and a 6-week-old baby girl, Helena, moved to Ardmore, South Dakota. They had, by this time, lost their homesteads for back taxes during the depression. Because grass was hard to find in the drought and dust bowl days in Wyoming, they loaded their possessions and family into their International truck and trailed the cattle east in search of better times.

In May 1936 they returned to Converse County where they ranched in the Walker Creek area until 1943. Their fourth child and second daughter, Carol was born at Douglas in October 1937. In the fall of 1943, the family moved into Douglas to enable the older children to attend high school.

The family lived on the old Daniels' place, a few miles west of Douglas, for 10 years. During this time and soon after World War II they got their first electricity, indoor plumbing and their first telephone. Homer raised cattle and hauled livestock for Douglas area ranchers during this period.

In January 1954 they bought a home on South Adams in Douglas where they lived the rest of their lives. Homer drove a rural mail route for 25 years, retiring at the age of 74. Ida returned to teaching in Douglas for two years, in the fall of 1955, and later taught at the Walker Creek School until she retired in 1968. Homer died April 21, 1972 at the age of 77 years. Ida passed away February 25, 1974 at the age of 72 years.

Roland W. Hart

## Hawley, Robert and Elsie

Robert D. Hawley was born on April 27, 1889 in Edgar, Nebraska, the son of Robert E. and Crene Johnson Hawley. The Hawley family had business interests in the ice and canning industry in Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska.

Robert graduated from the University of Nebraska with a degree in law. He came to Douglas in July 1912 where he practiced law independently until November 1912, at which time he became associated with Judge Harvey. Their law firm of Harvey and Hawley later took in another partner, Joe Garst. Hawley served as County Attorney from 1914 to 1918.

On November 28, 1914 Robert married Elsie Cross, daughter of George H. Sr. and Lea Cross. One son, Robert C., was born.

Robert D. died on September 30, 1931, Elsie on October 27, 1946.

John R. Pexton

## Heaton, Al and Lillian

Alvarius Heaton was born on November 6, 1856 in Racine, Wisconsin, the son of Thomas and Theresa Hennesey Heaton.

He married Lillian Mardsen in 1883 in Sabula, Iowa. Lillian was born January 26, 1863 in Geneva, Illinois, the daughter of Samuel and Mary Jane Mardsen. Their children are: Mrs. Charles Anthens, Lois (Powell, Ditzler), born January 23, 1897, and Clarence.

The Heatons came to Douglas in 1904. They built a house on the corner of Fifth and Walnut. (The house was bought by Converse County and moved in 1983.) It was not only used for a family home but also served as a community funeral parlor because Al was a mortician for two years after they arrived in Douglas.

Al sold his funeral business in 1906 to C. H. Hofmann as he didn't have time to practice his trade of plumbing.

The Heatons started the Warm Springs swimming pool south of Douglas (north of the present site of the Jackalope Plunge). They also lived at the site until it was sold to George Smull.

Lillian died on November 19, 1925; Al on July 1, 1937.

Lois married George Powell in 1917. They owned and operated a men's clothing and dry cleaning plant in Glenrock. They had one son, Robert. Upon Mr. Powell's death, Lois married Raymond Ditzler, an agent for the Northwestern Railroad in Douglas. Lois is remembered as a long time organist and music teacher. Mr. Ditzler died on March 11, 1967; Lois on November 16, 1984.

John R. Pexton

## Henderson, Earl

Earl McKinley Henderson, tenth child of Joseph Alexander and Laura Bennett Henderson, was born July 20, 1894 at Coin, Iowa. At an early age, he moved with his parents to Taylor County to rural areas of Gravity and Sharpsburg. He attended rural schools in Taylor County. He served in the Army with Company D, 351st Infantry,





Earl and Susie Henderson 1927.

88th Division during WWI. He left France May 9, 1919 arriving at his home in Sharpsburg, Iowa June 7, 1919. The following five years he homesteaded in Wyoming, returning to Taylor County, Iowa in 1925.

Earl met Susie Maye Fearnot in 1925 at Sharpsburg, Iowa. They were married January 26, 1928 at the Walter Henderson home in Creston, Iowa. Susie was born at Marco, Indiana, January 7, 1902, daughter of Ira William and Dorcas Whitworth Fearnot. Susie came to Osceola, Iowa on a vacation with her uncle, Charles Whitworth, during the fall of 1923. She chose to remain in Iowa doing domestic work for the Charles Lepley family near Sharpsburg. Earl and Susie made their early homes on farms in Taylor County.

Their first child, Veryla Lou, was born near Sharpsburg on December 21, 1930. The family moved to Lenox, February 1, 1931, to a home on East Temple Street where their second child, Melvin Earl, was born. The Hendersons moved to 308 East Ohio Street October 1, 1936. Earl continued doing farm work until his retirement because of his health. Earl passed away July 31, 1966 at the Veterans Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska.

Melvin Earl Henderson, born April 23, 1934, attended the Lenox School. He never married. For a time he worked for Hale's Shows of Tomorrow, later being employed in trucking. He resides in Kansas City, Missouri.

Earl was a charter member of the Sharpsburg American Legion Post. Susie was an active Auxiliary member. Earl received a citation from President Franklin Roosevelt for his work with the Boy Scouts.

Susie Henderson still resides in her home. She keeps busy with hobbies of oil painting, quilting, dressing dolls and genealogy.

Susie Henderson

## Henley, George and Melissa Family

In the early spring of 1920, five of the seven sons of George and Melissa Henley ventured into Wyoming drawn by the prospect of homesteading and by the anticipation of beginning livestock operations. Four of the young men filed on land about 15 miles northeast of Bill, Wyoming. The fifth was too young to do so at the time. The Henley Brothers holdings came to be known as the HB and the land on which they homesteaded the "Henley Hills or Henley Knobs".

The love which the brothers held for the land was certainly inherited. Three generations of Henleys before them had been actively engaged in some sort of agricultural endeavor. Their great grandfather, Joseph Henley, had owned a plantation on the Arkansas River near the town of Branch, Arkansas. Joseph was a staunch supporter of Abraham Lincoln and freed more than 20 slaves during the Civil War. These blacks remained with Joseph until he sold the plantation just after the war ended. The main farm buildings were burned by the Confederates in 1864. Three men of the Henley family gave their lives fighting for the belief that "all men were created equal".

Little Berry Flander Henley was the son of Joseph Henley. He married Nancy Jennings and to this union nine children were born, the last of whom was George Washington Henley. George was born in Shannon County, Missouri, near the town of Summersville in the year 1866. He grew to manhood there. In the spring of 1886, he took a job with a cattle buyer from the Red River in Texas. He worked for the buyer for two years, saving his wages so that he might return to Summersville and marry his childhood sweetheart, Melissa Elizabeth Robinson. Melissa was born in 1871 near Summersville. Her family owned a farm there for a time, but relocated near Fort Smith later on.

George and Melissa were married in Summersville in 1888. George filed on 160 acres of land where he and Melissa built their first home. To this couple were born seven sons and one daughter. They were Jesse Oscar, Jasper Cleveland, Benjamin Franklin, Louchen N., Goldie M., Simon Peter, Christopher Columbus, and Roy Flander.

After the birth of Christopher in 1909, George sold the farm and moved to Branch, Arkansas where he bought a farm on the Arkansas River near the site of the plantation which had belonged to his great grandfather, Joseph. George's sister, Mary Ann, lived with George and Melissa to help with the children and the housework.

In 1914, Christopher, aged five and one-half years, was accidentally killed while playing on some farm machinery. Shortly after the death of their son, George and Melissa sold the farm in Arkansas and returned to Missouri. They located on a farm between Summersville and Hartshorn, Missouri. George raised grain and livestock. It became George's practice to buy a farm, clear brush, raise a good crop and sell at a profit. Thus the family would move every year or two.

After World War I, Roy, Jasper, and Frank Henley returned to Missouri where the family lived, but shortly the entire family moved to Scottsbluff, Nebraska where George had bought one of the newly developed farms in a

government-sponsored reclamation project. The project was to furnish irrigation water to the farmers via canals at cheap rates. George had 320 acres in this project, but the venture was a failure due to the fact that the canals, dug in sandy soil, would not hold water. In addition, when the land on either side of the canal was plowed for planting, the wind would blow the canals full of sand. There was no future for the farmers under these conditions. George then traded this farm for one near Joplin, Missouri. It consisted of 160 acres of farm land plus 640 acres of timber claim. This venture, too, was disastrous for the Henley family. There was a thirty-two thousand dollar lien against the place. The lien had not been recorded, but it was legal. George moved his family back to Summersville. Financially, George was in very bad shape. He managed to salvage two fine spans of Missouri mules, two wagons and some household furnishings.

George heard of the silver and lead-mining booms around Cardin and Picher, Oklahoma where good Missouri mules were at a premium. Since he owned good mules, George loaded his family and possessions into two covered wagons and set out for Oklahoma. The trip took two weeks. George was able to sell the mules, wagons and equipment for a good price, and in the spring of 1922, he bought a new Model T Ford in which the family traveled to Douglas, Wyoming.

The older Henley brothers, Oscar, Jasper, Louchen and Frank, were already established between the dry fork of the Cheyenne River and Antelope Creek on their

homesteads. Goldie was employed by the LeBar family of Douglas.

When the family arrived in Douglas, they were joined by Goldie who would act as guide for her family as they made their journey to the Cheyenne River. Only rough trails crossed the virgin prairie. Upon reaching the river, they found it to be in flood stage, and had to wait three hours before crossing. Their older sons awaited them on the other side of the river with a team and wagon.

Eventually the family was reunited and settled down on the land to work towards the realization of a dream they all shared — establishing their cattle ranch.

The eldest of the Henley sons, Oscar, was killed in a haying accident only a few days after the George Henleys arrived. He left his wife, Georgia, four daughters and an infant son to face the hardships of homesteading alone. The rest of the family helped Oscar's widow as much as they were able, of course, but all were struggling to wrest a meager living from their land. In 1925, two years after her husband's death, Georgia, in loneliness and despair, sold her homestead and moved to Douglas. About a year later, she married a man named VanDeventer.

The Henley families seemed to be plagued by misfortune. In October of 1933, Simon died from infection caused by a ruptured appendix. The following June, George, Melissa and Louchen were involved in an automobile accident which took the life of George. Melissa and Louchen were badly injured, but recovered.

After the death of George, the ranching business of



Insets: J. Oscar Henley and B. Franklin Henley. Standing: Goldie Henley, Jasper C. Henley, Louchen N. Henley. Front row: Mary Ann Henley, Roy F. Henley, George W. Henley, Simon P. Henley, Melissa Henley.

the Henleys rapidly fell apart. There was a severe drought over most of the country. Times were hard, credit was difficult to obtain, and the future of the homesteaders gloomy indeed. Faced with the problem of no feed for the stock for the coming winter, the Henley brothers disposed of their stock, selling to the government for \$12.50 per head. At the same time, there was a rumor that the government was going to pay the homesteaders a top price for their land in order to make a special Thunder Basin Reserve in the area. Most of the homesteaders signed up for the land value appraisal after being told that the government would pay a generous price. This resulted in the homesteaders trading off everything they needed to make their living, anticipating selling their land for enough capital to make a new home elsewhere.

The actual dollar-appraisal for a 640 acre homestead, house, barn, corrals and four miles of fence ranged from a low \$300 (for those who had not completed their proving up) to a high of \$5,000. The average price paid was \$1,100. It was a meager return for the years of hard work and capital outlay which had been made by the homesteaders.

Some of the ranchers in the area who could find financial backing, took advantage of this opportunity to acquire more land, and bought directly from the homesteaders. In some cases they paid more than the Thunder Basin Project officials had offered them. So the Henley family sold their holdings, and their dreams to become ranchers were not to be realized.

The family of Henley went their separate ways. Oscar and Christopher were deceased. The second son, Jasper, married Harriet Olson from the Teapot Dome area, they had two daughters.

Benjamin married Clara Beaty of Midwest, Wyoming, to them were born three sons and two daughters.

Louchen, the fourth son, never married. He was appointed executor of the estate for his mother, Melissa. After her death in 1947, Louchen worked as a gardener and park caretaker for the City of Casper.

Goldie, the only daughter of George and Melissa, married Charles Kenneth Wyatt of Douglas. They had two sons, and are living in Clinton, Missouri.

Simon Peter was employed by the Ohio Oil Company until the refinery at Salt Creek was closed. He was never married.

Roy Flander, the youngest child, was married to Marie E. Ferbrache. To this union two children were born. Their girl died at the age of four. In 1944 Marie and Roy were divorced and in 1945, he married Grayce Lillian Roatch. They have one child and make their home in Barstow, California.

Roy Henley

## Henry, Mike & Catherine Family

One of the most colorful chapters in Wyoming history is the story of Mike Henry and the famous "88" Ranch. Located on 30,000 acres in Converse County, the Henry place is still owned and operated by descendants of its pioneer settlers. Although the original ranchland remains as part of the present operation, the headquarters



Mike Henry

have been moved three miles north of their earliest site on Brown Spring Creek to a location on the Cheyenne River.

Michael Henry was born to Thomas and Mary Pendergast Henry in Athlone, Ireland on September 20, 1840 and immigrated to America as a young child. After graduating from a military academy in New York in 1855 he began his army career serving on America's western frontiers under Generals Harney, Sumpter and Johnson. Mike spent three years at Fort Laramie, Dakota Territory, before being assigned to a California post. While he was stationed in California he met Miss Catherine Maher, also an Irish immigrant. The two were married on December 15, 1859 at Eureka, California.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Mike returned to the east with his company where he fought with the Union Army against the Confederacy, and Catherine stayed in New York awaiting his return from war.

In July of 1863, after successful campaigns at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, Sergeant Henry's regiment was returned to the western borders to patrol the emigrant trails. The western movement was gaining momentum. Continuous travel over the Bozeman Road violated the Indian treaties and aroused the Sioux and Cheyenne to make war on wagon trains going north to the gold fields of Montana. The army was dispatched from Fort Laramie to investigate these skirmishes until protective forts could be established along the Bozeman. One such encounter, involving Mike Henry, took place in a luxurious valley nourished by Spring Creek and overlooked by a sentinel of jagged rock...the very spot where he would later locate his ranch.

On July 13, 1864, Colonel W. O. Collins, Commander at Fort Laramie, ordered two companies of the Eleventh Ohio Cavalry to the site of a reported massacre and kidnapping. According to Josiah S. Kelly, the husband of one of the kidnap victims, he and his wife, Fanny, and their adopted daughter, Mary, were traveling with the Larimer wagon train on July 12 when it was detained by Indians. The warriors tormented the small party of travelers, numbering 11. After killing four members of the wagon train they captured two women and their two small children. Mr. Kelly was one of only three who escaped, and was invited to join the two army regiments in pursuit of the war party.

Mr. Kelly led the soldiers to the Boxelder Creek area where the attack took place. Under the command of Captains Marshall and Sherman the men were assigned to small squads and ordered to search the area for the women and children. One of the patrols discovered the body of little Mary Kelly who had been killed by her captors. Mike Henry and Josiah Kelly were in another patrol being commanded by Lieutenant John R. Brown. They crossed the Platte and were following Indian sign north, from the river. They reached Spring Creek about dark and were preparing to camp when they were attacked by Indians. Mike Henry and Mr. Kelly were both spared in the battle, but a young civilian horse wrangler was killed and Lieutenant Brown was mortally wounded. Years later Mike recalled the anguish of the herder's screams and the futile attempts to save Lieutenant Brown's life. The Indians scattered and escaped into the darkness. No sign of the three remaining kidnap victims was found and the search was abandoned.

A reward was advertised for the return of Fanny Kelly, Sarah Larimer and the little boy, and through covert maneuvers by the army, Mrs. Kelly was ransomed at Fort Sully five months after her kidnapping. For months the Sioux moved her from village to village until they finally ransomed her to the Blackfeet in December 1864. The Blackfoot Tribe, in turn, traded her to the army at Fort Sully for three horses and sugar, flour and coffee equivalent to the value of 19 ponies.

The fate of Sarah Larimer was noted 22 years later when an item appeared in "Bill Barlow's Budget" announcing that she had been awarded an undisclosed amount of money in a lawsuit she had filed against the United States government for her capture by Indians.

Spring Creek was renamed Brown's Spring Creek in memory of the brave young lieutenant who gave his life there. Despite the violence that had taken place, Mike Henry was overcome by the beauty of the scenic oasis where the Bozeman Road cut through the rich grassland of forbidden Indian hunting grounds, and it remained locked in his heart for the next 14 years.

Mike Henry remained in military service until 1871, but the state of the army was a sorry one, and taking his pay in script, Mike and his family left the army life and took up farming in Kansas. But the haunting memory of a stream-fed meadow in the Powder River Country of Wyoming was not forgotten, and in 1874 Mike re-enlisted. By this time Fort Fetterman had been built, Wyoming had been granted territorial status and the territory was accessible by rail, so Catherine and the children joined Mike at Fort Laramie where he was stationed for the last time.

When Sergeant Henry was discharged in 1877 he immediately began to build a log house on land he had purchased and homesteaded just west of the meadows on Brown's Spring Creek. His family remained at Fort Laramie during the construction of the buildings. On March 8, 1878 a son, Will, was born at the fort and in June, Mike, Catherine and their six children climbed into a wagon and started their journey across the North Platte River to the ranch. The first night of the trip was spent at Fort Fetterman and John, the oldest boy in the family, wrote later of the excitement of their trip. He, his two older sisters, Elizabeth and Agnes, his younger brother Edward, younger sister, Grace Theresa, and his baby brother, Will, along with their parents, would be the first family to settle on the land north of the river. It was early the second morning when they crossed the river by ferry. Arriving at the ranch in the lingering light of the June evening, they were embraced by green meadows where a playful stream strummed the tall grass blades in a welcome song before it joined the shimmering water of a large pond near the house.

With the Indian wars over and the Bozeman open to travel the "88" added a new dimension to this already busy thoroughfare. Supplies were freighted from Cheyenne in large wooden barrels and crates and the ranch became a prairie oasis for emigrants. A stage station was established at Brown's Spring by the Patrick Brothers' line and Mike provided a blacksmith's shop and parts for wagon repairs. Catherine became the cook, nurse and innkeeper for weary travelers. Building coffins and helping with burials along the trail, the Henry family comforted many on their westward journey. Catherine and the children even made markers for the many gravesites that lay east of the house.

The Indians were friendly now and came frequently to trade. Mike secured an impressive herd of Indian ponies to add to his already famous horse herd. He purchased Morgan breeding stock to improve his herd and for more than four decades Mike Henry's reputation as a horse breeder was acknowledged on two continents. During the years between 1910 and 1914, his herd exceeded 3,000; and the Henry ranch was supplying horses to the Dutch government as well as the United States. An important by-product of this operation was the large number of bucking horses Mike was able to provide as rodeo stock.

Between 1878 and 1883 only two more ranches located in the area, one by an Englishman named Remington and the other by partners named Paxton and Gallagher. There were still no other children so the younger Henry children were tutored by Catherine and Lizzie, who was the oldest, until they were old enough to attend boarding schools in Cheyenne, Kansas and Salt Lake.

When the Henry boys returned from school they took up much of the responsibility for the ranch operation which now included a large flock of sheep in addition to the cattle and horse herds. And when the oil industry opened up in Wyoming, Mike got in on the ground floor. With his sons to look after the ranching interests on the "88" he became active in the energy boom, holding stock in the Big Muddy and the Salt Creek oil fields and presiding as president of the Popo Agie Coal Company of Hudson, Wyoming. The Popo Agie coal mines supplied coal to the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad and the company



was well known for its fair wage and labor practices. Each miner received no less than five dollars per day at a time when the average pay was much less.

During his years in the energy industry Mike was also involved in banking and real estate. His many interests took him all over the state and they resided for a time in Sheridan, Cheyenne, and Casper. However, when Catherine's health failed he took her to California where they stayed until her death in March 1909 at the age of 65. Mike returned to Wyoming but tragedy again struck the family. Mike and Catherine's eldest daughter, Lizzie, and her daughter died in a fire in their home at Joliet, Illinois, and in February 1918, Edward, who was managing the ranch at the time, was shot and killed by a friend and employee, Wesley Wolfe. Edward was 44 at the time of his death.

John Henry, his wife, Cecelia, and their two sons remained in Wyoming as did Agnes and her husband, Frank L. Clark. The Clarks raised six daughters and Agnes lived in Douglas until her death in February 1959. Grace Theresa married Frank Scherck of Casper and they raised three children. Grace was living in California at the time of her death.

William M. Henry was the youngest of the six Henry children and it was he and his wife, Maude, who assumed the responsibility of managing the ranch following Edward's untimely death.

When Michael Henry came to Wyoming in 1855 as a bugler in the United States Army the state was a tiny unsettled segment of Dakota Territory. When he left it on January 25, 1924, Wyoming was one of the great ranching and energy capitols of the world and the "88" was one of the most influential ranching operations in Converse County.

Mike Henry was one of Wyoming's most resourceful and hard working pioneers. He dedicated 22 years of military service to his adopted country and for the remainder of his life he epitomized the values he had fought for. Mike's undying devotion to his wife and children kindled a diversity that enabled him to support them even when livestock prices sagged and economic disaster threatened to wipe out the ranching industry.

When Mike died in 1924 his heirs would have to face some hardships of their own, and they too would find ways and means to keep the ranch going. Will and Maude Henry were determined to rebuild the "88" after the stock market crashed in '29, leaving them with the land but scarcely a head of livestock. And rebuild they did! With the help of their son, William M. Henry, Jr. and his family the ranch grew and prospered, and when Will Henry died in 1962 at the age of 84, Bill and his wife, Pat, were operating the ranch with their three children, William Michael, III, Barbara Ann and Robert Janssen.

Bill and Pat live in Casper where Bill is head of the Life Science Department at Casper College and Pat is an elementary reading specialist in the public school system. Barbara Henry Leininger is a teacher and coach at La Junta, Colorado and Rob is in the construction business. William Michael Henry, III, Mike Henry's great grandson, is the ranch foreman at the "88".

Young William Michael, who goes by his great grandfather's nickname, Mike, married Miss Susan Gustasson in 1976. They have two children, Laurel, born in 1982, and

Garrett, born in 1984. Mike and Susan live on the "88" where they conduct the ranching business and a hunting and guide service. The ranch still runs sheep and cattle, but the famous Henry horse herd has been reduced to about 20 head of good roping stock. The Henry family still gathers at the ranch for brandings and holidays, and Rob comes home during the hunting season to help out, but the everyday ranch chores are now in the capable hands of Mike and Susan Henry, the fourth generation to carry on the Mike Henry ranch at Brown's Spring in Converse County.

Lee Ann Siebken

## Hern, Henry, Faye and Frankie

Henry Hern, born in 1888 in Chadron, Nebraska, grew to manhood there. He came to Wyoming to homestead, taking land on Sand Creek west of Orin, Wyoming near a family named Wolf. He married a daughter of the Wolf family, Faye, and to this union, a daughter, Eleanor, and a son, Clem, (b. January 21, 1914 in Wallace, Idaho) were born.

In 1912, Henry purchased the local store at Orin and moved his family there to live. Their quarters were adjacent to the store. He named his business the Hern Mercantile and he handled a variety of goods; hardware, tires, meats, clothing, yard goods, and other merchantable items. The store also housed the post office with Henry serving as postmaster.

Faye and Henry were divorced in the 1920s. Henry and the children continued to make their home in Orin where the children were educated through the lower grades, later riding the bus into Douglas for their high school education.

In the late 20s Henry married for the second time to Frankie Reed. He sold the store to Leo Trenhom around 1930 and accepted the position of Secretary to the Wyoming State Fair. The family then moved to Douglas where they lived on the fairgrounds.

Frankie Reed was born in 1899 in Harrison, Nebraska, the daughter of Walter and Effie Reed, a member of a family of six children. The Reeds homesteaded on the Cheyenne River. Frankie was educated in the rural schools and later the high school in Niobrara County. After graduation, she attended a normal training college for some months but did not graduate.

The Herns returned to Orin to make their home on the Cakebread place for a while where Henry farmed with the aid of his son, Clem and the Danaher boys, Tom, Dan and Joe. Together, they developed the land into a profitable farm. During this period, the young men played on the Orin baseball team. Joe Danaher eventually married Eleanor Hern.

Frankie and Henry were the parents of one son, Bill.

Once more the Herns moved to Douglas where Henry was engaged in the automobile business with his son, Clem, and Joe Danaher. Henry purchased the two-story building across the street south of the LaBonte Hotel, handling the Chevrolet dealership. Henry died in September 1936, the victim of a heart attack. After his father's death, Clem continued to operate the business.

Frankie was elected to the office of County Super-



intendent of Schools in 1942, a position which she held for twelve years. In 1954 she was defeated in her bid for reelection. Since she had never received her degree in education she was determined to earn the credits she needed. She taught in the Douglas school system, taking correspondence courses and attending summer school until she was eligible in 1958 to receive her degree.

Frankie was well liked and respected in the community, capable and efficient in the capacity of County Superintendent of Schools. She understood the problems of education in the rural areas and believed that "school teachers were born, not made." Many decisions she made while in office were based on this principle.

Henry was a man of compassion and had a great interest in his fellow man and in his community. His advice and counsel were sought after by his neighbors in Orin and later in Douglas.

Frankie died in 1967 and is buried beside her husband in the Douglas cemetery. Clem, who was married to Reba Hayworth for several years, passed away in 1972.

Bill was married to Jackie Howard of Douglas in 1956, and they are the parents of three children, Mike, Bret and Cheri. Bill attended a Baptist Bible college in Watertown, Wisconsin, graduating, but never being ordained as a minister. Jackie and Bill make their home in Cheyenne.

Ruth Grant  
from notes by Earl Gaylord

## Herrick, James L. and Dulla Family

James Leslie "Jim" Herrick was born at Underwood, Iowa, January 6, 1889. His parents were Guy Thomas Herrick and Olive Redfield Herrick, also from Underwood, Iowa.

Jim, being the oldest of thirteen children, had many responsibilities to help keep the large family running sufficiently. His first priority was to saw and haul wood for the big spacious nineteen-room family house. We recall having heard him say, "Times were rough, but we always had a good apple crop so we made plenty of cider with our press."

During World War I, Jim was drafted, serving time in England and France. Fortunately peace was made just before he was to be called for front line duty.

Dulla Hoffa was born August 11, 1900 in Underwood, Iowa, one of a family of seven. She was employed at the Underwood Post Office during her high school days. Underwood was a small and especially quiet town during war time. The spring she graduated, Jim had returned from overseas, and wedding plans were made.

Jim's folks had been planning to move to Wyoming, but were waiting first for Jim to get home. They had their farm sale selling most of the farm equipment. They still had 60-70 hogs that didn't sell, so it was a night to remember as they made three trips to Omaha in those dark hours and finally got the last load there by four a.m. The remaining personal possessions were loaded in an emigrant car on the railroad. This was mainly one milk cow, a team of mules, one mare, farm equipment and household items. So now family and all were railroading out for Campstool, Wyoming. Campstool was close to

Cheyenne, which was known as a cow town in those days.

Jim's oldest brother, Pete, had previously located near Douglas, so Jim took off cross country to look over this area in the Walker Creek community. It was at this time he decided to settle here also. Dulla traveled by the railroad to Cheyenne. Jim met her there and they were married June 30, 1919.

This just so happened to be the last day before prohibition so they were quick to learn they had chosen a very noisy, rough, hot and dusty day for a wedding. After the sound of wedding bells they left Cheyenne. Anxiously, but slowly, they chugged northward on the Burlington Railroad to Douglas. Here they stayed at the Antler Hotel for several days. The dozen little chicks Jim's mother had given them survived the unsettled life real well. By just a bit of luck Bill Sims was driving his Model T Ford out Walker Creek way so the newlyweds rode out to Pete's family ranch with him.

During the time Jim built their one-room house they lived with Pete and Maggie. The two homesteads were five miles apart. The native lumber was hauled from



James and Dulla Herrick.

Douglas by wagon and team which took two days for each trip. The necessary furniture was ordered from Sears, Roebuck & Co. In due time and with much anxiety, it was possible to move to their ranch and begin the new adventurous life on the open prairie.

Needless to say this era of life was extremely primitive and rough. In given time the section was completely fenced. Soil for the first time was broken with a walking plow, the changing off with two work horses and many a day of honest sweat. The work horses' names were Blacky and Roany. Later they did get a saddle horse who answered to Lady. This was the beginning of their determined try in farming.

Most of this community was open range so large herds of wild cows were seen passing through, many to die of starvation or freeze standing still from the long bitter sub-zero weather.

Parenthood began when Douglas Eugene was born July 8, 1920. At about this time the government paid a bonus to the ex-serviceman. Jim used his check to buy a Model T Ford from Carlos Miller.

March 20, 1922, Ralph Dale arrived. This same one-room house seemed to be getting smaller and smaller. Still it was after Orlee June was born June 20, 1923 before a log room was added. Their second daughter, Doris Jean, was born November 4, 1926. No conveniences were available yet. It still meant carrying in wood, water, filling kerosene lamps for light, and the family washing for six was done by hand.

School was held at the Walker Creek Community one-room school house. The teachers would live there just during the school session. Ralph remembers two of his teachers were Gladys Hanlin Swope and Ruth Numrich Whiting. In later years the school district did support a bus (car).

By plowing many a deep rut the mailcarrier most always delivered mail on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

In spite of their hardship, Jim and Dulla bought the section joining them, which was known as the Sourers place. It was their intent that more ground for farming would prove profitable.

The community formed a threshing bee to harvest the small grain. It was hard, hot work, but the best way to thresh the grain for everyone. This also meant extra work for the wives to prepare large meals two times a day. After harvesting was over, they took a wagon load of wheat and some corn to Wheatland. There it was ground into flour, some was coarsely ground for hot cereal and corn was ground for meal.

Jim's Uncle Frank came to live with the family for a short time. When Jim's father came to join the family the third bedroom was added to this little house on the prairie.

Depression and drought in the thirties raised the question many times whether to give up or try to go on. Knowing farming in these years was fruitless, they struggled with the rough decision to raise cattle. They increased the herd as they could and milked 20 morning and night. The paralyzing winter storms piled snow to the top of corral fence posts. Tunnels were dug through the snow to get the cattle to water.

The granary built for grain was now being used to

hang many home cured hams, salt pork and bacon for days of curing. However, one old boar had a strong will to live. Doug recalls when his dad took his old time rifle and placed a bullet into his head. He then went to the house to let it bleed out. When he returned to butcher this critter he found only a trace of blood. Quickly he grabbed his 30-30 this time and followed the path of blood to find the wounded animal had staggered a quarter of a mile away.

It was about this time when they built a large barn for cattle and horses. A nice hen house and machine shed were also built which were good needed improvements.

For diversion to pass long evening hours they held dances in the mow of the big barn. Much preparation went into this to clear all the hay, provide some seats and plenty of lanterns for sufficient lighting. The community was blessed with much musical talent. Some who furnished music were the Lundberg brothers, Felix, Fred and Carl. Buster Goodrich was very instrumental to provide good music and others were Lewis Gillespie and Frank Fero.

During these destitute years of raising cattle the only means to market them was forming a neighborhood cattle drive. Some of the neighbor lads joined into the drive with Doug and Ralph and each, with their saddle horses, drove the cattle to Shawnee where they were loaded on the train.

During the thirties the government provided some work. Reservoirs were built to prevent soil erosion and flooding during flash floods. Jim used a team of horses and fresno but even with Doug's and Ralph's help it was slow progress. So he bought an old Heartpar tractor from Gene Payne Co. Then dikes were made at a much greater speed.

Dulla had decided to learn to drive the old truck they had purchased for ranch work and to use for deliveries to and from Douglas. Just imagine teaching yourself to learn gears, shifting and keeping a large old truck on the narrow trails across country! It did prove helpful at the time Jim became quite ill. She headed that truck to Douglas to get Jim in to see Dr. Hylton.

Regardless of their hard work and different approaches cattle raising hadn't proved to be a success. They bit the dust again and their money was about gone.

Others were raising sheep, and they were apparently doing well. This would be their last hope. Changes were again made so they could get a start with sheep. This meant close watch over the 150 sheep and old ewes they had for a start, so they needed a sheep wagon also. In the beginning Jim stayed with the wagon and flock. Each spring they were all busy with lambing, docking and shearing. Yet the profit was the best yet so things were looking good for the first time.

Now, when after many stressful years, things seemed better, it was war time — World War II. Doug enlisted in the army, serving most of the time in South America. Ralph joined the navy. Now Doris became their shepherd. She was bringing the sheep home one evening when one of those mysterious summer storms came from just nowhere. Lightning hit and killed a lamb that was following close behind Doris. She was struck down also, but the faithful sheep dog hurried home, which was message enough to know something was wrong. It was by God's grace Doris was all right.

Orlee continued to help her mother with housework, gardening and canning. Time went by and the war ended. Doug and Ralph were back to help, but soon all four of their children were married.

Jim's health failed. He had asthma and no longer could continue ranching. They sold the sheep and later sold the ranch to their neighbors, the Walt Dickaus.

Jim enjoyed town life although he was long plagued with ill health. He passed away December 10, 1955. Dulla worked for several years after they moved to town. Because of a handicap with her knees she quit her work, but devoted her time to another large project. From August to December her dining room was a complete disaster while she repaired old toys, dolls and sewed constantly to dress them to look like new. Ralph did welding on toys or bigger jobs for her. For ten years she rejuvenated many, many toys for the Converse County Welfare and made equally as many children so happy on Christmas morning.

Dulla has 14 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren. Doug and his wife, Margie live in Casper. Doug has retired from the Amoco Refinery. Margie is working as a purchasing agent at the Natrona County Hospital where she has been employed for twenty-eight years. Ralph lives here at Douglas and has the Big Horn Taxidermy business. Orlee is widowed and lives with her mother to help out. Doris and her husband, Jack Barclay live in Casper, close to Doug.

Jim and Dulla kept the mineral rights when they sold the ranch. A number of years after Jim's death, oil was drilled on the ranch and Dulla received oil and gas checks since 1976. Dulla died Feb. 13, 1984.

Ruby J. Herrick

## Higgins, Frederick and Eva

Frederick C. "Fred" Higgins first came to Wyoming as a youth of fourteen years in 1886 from his home in Iberia, Missouri. He worked on various ranches, among which was that of John B. Kendrick (former U.S. Senator) near Sheridan, Wyoming. He was a resident of Wyoming until his death in Douglas May 18, 1937.

He married Evangeline H. Webb in Lebanon, Missouri in 1906. She came to Missouri from Jamaica B.W.I., with her widowed father, Thomas Webb, and thirteen other children, several of whom later made their homes in Wyoming.

Fred and Eva came to Douglas a year after their marriage and four of their eight children were born here. During the years they lived in Douglas he worked for Slonaker's Dray and Storage and for Art Riker at his saloon and restaurant, among other places of employment.

From Douglas they moved to the Ogalalla Ranch at Ross. He was Postmaster and managed the store at Ross for LeRoy Moore from 1917 until 1920, during World War I. Two of their children, Martha and Mary, were born at Ross: Martha Edna on July 4, 1917 while the annual dance and party were going on.

Later the family moved to Midwest where Fred supervised the dirt moving crew of men and horses who

## THE FEEDERS' PURINAGRAPH



Frederick C. Higgins on front of "Fedders' Purinagraph," 1928.

built the well sump basins and small roads in the oil field, until the company adopted a pre-depression policy of laying off everyone over forty years of age. Jobs for old men were not available except on large ranches. The family moved to a relative's homestead, where he was able to herd sheep as needed for B. B. Brooks.

During this time, his son recalls that he and his brother shot rabbits to use one winter as their sole source of meat. (Antelope and deer were not in that area as they are now.)

Eva was an efficient and thrifty homemaker and she never relaxed her standards of cleanliness no matter how primitive her home might be. Doing the laundry for a family of seven was no small task, especially since the clothes must be boiled, starched and ironed all by hand and in all kinds of weather.

Eva died June 10, 1962.

One family story recalled by Fred's sons: Snow lay heavy at the fairgrounds one winter, and the inside track was buried under several feet, while the outside track was almost bare. Knowing this, Fred bet a cowboy one hundred dollars that he could run around the track on foot and best the other man on horseback. The rider was required to use the inside track. There were many side bets. Of course, when the race was run, he had little trouble winning, while the cowboy got his horse "bogged down" in the snow.

Fred H. Higgins

## Higgins, John E. and Josephine

John E. Higgins was born in Manatowoc County, Wisconsin, October 21, 1857, a son of John and Nancy Higgins, his father being a native of County Connaught, Ireland, while his mother was reared in the northern part of Ireland. After their marriage, John and Nancy immigrated to America and settled in Wisconsin. When John E. was 15 years of age, he began life for himself, working in the forests of Minnesota and Wisconsin. In the winter of 1880-1881 he drifted west to Livingston, Montana where he contracted ties for the railroad companies. In 1885 he came to Nuttall, across the creek from Glenrock, where he turned his attention to merchandising.

In 1886, he was united in marriage to Josephine Williams, a daughter of Eugene Amoretti and Countess Sacadesan, a member of one of the oldest French families. She was born in Villefranche, France in 1854. Josephine's father came to Lander, Wyoming via South Pass, Wyoming where he had mined the gold fields after coming to San Francisco from South America where he had been a French Minister. Josephine acquired her education in a convent in France.

After the Nuttall mines were sold to a Nebraska company and Glenrock was founded, Higgins moved his mercantile store there.

During the late 1880s he became interested in the sheep and cattle business. He was a partner in the Glenrock Sheep Co., owning 9375 shares, along with Stuart M. Anderson, who owned the same amount, and Dr. and Mrs. Jay Smith having 625 shares. The headquarters of the Glenrock Sheep Co. was two or three miles west of Glenrock on the North Platte River. His other holdings were the Dry Creek Ranch, which lay between Lower Boxelder and Deer Creek and the mountain range on Willow and Duck Creeks, which was known as the GR Ranch.

In 1897 Mr. Higgins plotted and founded the progressive town of Thermopolis, where he also engaged in merchandising. The business interests were known as Higgins and McGrath.

The Higgins Hotel was built in 1916. It was owned and operated by Mr. Higgins until his death in 1926. The Higgins Trust sold it to Dr. Tabor in 1942. Among the owners have been Merle and Mona Dunham and Mr. and Mrs. D. Jack Doll, who today operate the hotel, along with the Paisley Shawl, which is located in the hotel.

Mr. Higgins served as a County Commissioner for eight years and two terms as a state legislator from Converse County.

Josephine died on Jan. 20, 1924 from a head concussion resulting from a car wreck 10 miles east of Casper.

On June 24, 1926 John E. died of natural causes. His will, which was a holographic will, named six nephews and nieces as beneficiaries. They were to receive \$1,000 a year for 50 years. It was further his wish that all property, real and personal, shall belong to the State of Wyoming. The will stated that the state create a trust whose life shall be not less than 50 years. At the end of the 50 years all property was to be distributed in the best interest of the state.

The October 8, 1926 issue of "*The Douglas Budget*" stated, "One peculiarity of the situation is that the state

can not take over and administer the property until some special legislation is enacted, as there is now no provision of law where it can be done. If the estate amounts to a ½ million and earns 4 per cent income it would amount to \$20,000 a year, leaving \$13,000 to the state after the bequests were paid."

In April of 1928 an agreement was made between the executors, Stuart Anderson and Robert D. Carey, to give cash settlements of \$25,000 to all the beneficiaries except Harry Devine, Jr., who chose to receive the \$1,000 per year.

The estate was then appraised and found to be worth \$575,000. After expenses and the five beneficiaries paid off, the net estate in 1929 was worth \$357,477.

The State of Wyoming had court action between the state elected officials and the Board of the University of Wyoming trustees to decide who was going to administer the trust. In a Supreme Court decision of 1932 it was decreed that the Governor and the State Land Board administer the trust. J. C. Underwood was appointed trustee on Nov. 21, 1932.

Most of the lands were sold in 1940. The Boyd Ranch, which lay adjacent to Glenrock on Deer Creek and was acquired by a mortgage default, was sold to the Olin Bros. for \$11,750, the Dry Creek Ranch to James F. Lam for \$8,300 or a little over \$3.00 per acre, the GR Ranch was sold to U. S. Grant and Fred Grant for around \$5.00 per acre and the Town of Glenrock took the Higgins Subdivision for back taxes.

By July 31, 1941, the trust had shrunk to \$48,919 including sale of all the land, livestock and most of the stocks and bonds. All that was left was the Higgins Hotel and the Lincoln Building in Glenrock and some of the oil stock. The hotel was sold for \$1500 soon after, as was the Lincoln Building for \$350. The Trust was now practically worthless and so ended the epoch of John E. and Josephine Higgins.

John R. Pexton

## Hildebrand, Fred W. A. and Mary

The family originated in Boden, State of Hessen, Germany, which is approximately 200 miles southwest of Berlin near the Rhine River. Fred was born March 2, 1859 in Germany and was married to Mary Wood, born July 14, 1862, also in Germany. They were married in about 1880 or 1881 before emigrating to the United States. Two children, Lena, born in 1882, and William, born in 1883, were born in Germany prior to their immigration. The exact date they came to the United States is not known but was in about 1885. Fred Jr. was born in Gladbrook, Iowa in September of 1885 and was their first child born in the United States. The route they took in their emigration is not known but it is assumed they went down the Rhine River and then took a boat to New York. One nephew came to the United States with them but was separated from the family after arriving in New York and it is not known where he settled in this country. I, James Hildebrand, assume, from talking to other people, to emigrate to this country, they needed to be sponsored by someone in this country before they could get an entrance visa, therefore someone connected with the then Fre-

mont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad, sponsored them.

Granddad started working for the railroad in Iowa and as the railroad progressed west they moved west. They moved from Iowa, between 1885 and 1887, and ran the section at Irvine. Needing to get their children to school, they moved to Douglas and then on to Careyhurst in about 1892. He continued working for the railroad until 1906 at which time they began ranching full time. In the time they worked for the railroad 12 children were born to the family, seven boys and five girls.

Lena was born at Boden, Germany in 1882 and died in San Diego, California in 1954. She spent her early years running a candy store in Douglas and the remainder as a housewife. William "Bill" was born at Boden, Germany in 1883 and died at Wenatchee, Washington in 1977. Bill was a rather different type of person and spent some time in life before settling down. He thought, at one time, he wanted to be a bum and would go and live in this manner until he was tired and then would get some new clothes and work for awhile. He worked for the Union Pacific Railroad for a few years and then saw a shepherd and thought this would be the life. No type of work seemed to keep his attention very long, although he was known as a very hard-working man when he did work. He married Wilhelmina Numrich on Jan. 24, 1919, at age 36, and settled into the ranching and farming business after that time along the river north of Careyhurst, then Glenrock, and finally on a fruit farm near Wenatchee, Washington. William died October 20, 1977, Wilhelmina on March 22, 1982.

Fred Jr. was born at Gladbrook, Iowa in 1885 and died at Douglas in 1970. He spent the early years of his life ranching along the north side of the Platte River between Orpha and Careyhurst at the railroad station of Alberta. This station had a section crew who lived in old wooden box cars converted for living space. On Sept. 23, 1916 he married Ada Pexton. They would sell the section workers milk, cream, butter and eggs as there was no store in the area for shopping. This station was closed and moved to Orpha in the late 1920's and was on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, north of the river, at this point. I would ride the train home while going to high school in Douglas and it cost 34 cents. They sold the ranch and moved to Douglas in 1937 and Dad worked at various jobs which included ranch hand, carpentry and painter for several years until a fall, while painting a barn roof, would not permit him to be on his feet all the time. At this time, about 1946, he started working at the pool hall and worked there for about 20 years helping a lot of people that needed financing until they could get back to work or get some type of income. After the pool hall closed he retired and did not work out any more due to his failing health. Ada died in 1984.

Carl was born at Irvine, Wyoming, a station along the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, in 1887 and died at Cheyenne in 1939. He married Zelma Winkler on Jan. 27, 1916. Carl had a ranch about 15 miles west of Bear Creek, Wyoming, now known as the Allemand Ranch. When Carl's health failed, he sold this ranch to Jack and Helen Allemand. Carl, in his younger years, did a considerable amount of rodeo performing, although none of it was professional as known today.

George was born at Irvine in 1889 and died in Douglas in 1982. He was known as the gambler of the family and was never lucky, therefore did not win the big pot. He spent all of his life either ranching for himself or working for others. He spent many years working for Dr. Hylton and working with his racing stock.

Henry J. "Johnny" was born at either Irvine or Douglas in 1891 and died as a result of a tractor accident in 1957. He married Verbel Dull on Sept. 24, 1927. Johnny spent all of his life in the ranching business at the ranch near Alberta, known as the Alberta Land Company, which is seven miles west of Orpha along the Burlington Northern Railroad. Johnny was very active in the Baptist Church of Douglas. Verbel died March 13, 1976.

Mary was born at Careyhurst in 1893 and died at Douglas in 1972. Mary married Dr. E.W. Robertson on January 4, 1922. Earl was a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine who was known as the livestockman's friend. Mary ran the ranch which was north of the Platte River near Careyhurst while Doc did his veterinary work. Doc died on June 13, 1962.

Anna was born in 1895 at Careyhurst and died at Douglas in 1971. She married Glen Pexton on Mar. 20, 1916. He died from appendicitis about six weeks after their marriage. She then married Clarence Marsh on July 14, 1920. He was a photographer. She ran the Goodwin rooms rooming house which also housed the photo shop.

Edward was born at Careyhurst in 1897 and died from childhood disease when a young boy, at about age eight, and is buried at Fort Fetterman Cemetery.

Robert "Bob" was born at Careyhurst in 1899 and died at Douglas in 1974. He married Amelia Numrich on Oct. 15, 1925.

Robert spent all of his life in the ranching business and retired to Douglas to live his latter years. He was a large powerful man in his younger years and loved to wrestle. Clarence O'Brien, a nephew, loved to try and wrestle him and would not leave him alone. One time Robert hung Clarence by his feet on a harness hanger and he nearly died before someone found him to cut him down. Amelia died Nov. 28, 1982.

Augusta was born at Careyhurst in 1901 and died at Douglas in 1964. She was a practical nurse, taking her training in Cheyenne, and spent her life as a housewife and special nurse. Augusta married Stanley Jankovsky on May 5, 1922.

Margaret was born at Careyhurst in 1904 and now lives in Antioch, California. She married Floyd Roush on Sept. 2, 1921. He was an engineer for the Torrington Ditch Company. Margaret is the only one of the children living at this writing. Their daughter, Maxine, was the first girl to graduate from the University of Wyoming School of Civil Engineering. Floyd died Nov. 21, 1959.

Granddad and several of the boys took up homesteads north of the Platte River, north and east of Careyhurst, while still working for the railroad. Granddad would live weekends on his and spend the weeks working for the railroad. If he was needed at the railroad during the weekend one of the children would go to the homestead horseback and get him. At that time there was no bridge across the North Platte River and they would swim their horses across for access to the area north of



the river. As time progressed Granddad purchased land in the area of his and Fred Jr.'s homesteads and thereby gained control of most of the land that was later to fall under the Running Dutchman Canal, which at the time belonged to William Werner. These purchases were made in 1896 from Mr. T. Solmon and W. Boyer, who at that time also had an irrigation ditch which was purchased with the land. Approximately 240 acres were purchased at \$25 per acre, which was a lot of money at that time. The family continued to purchase land along the north side of the now Burlington-Northern Railroad until they controlled about fifteen miles, and about five miles along the south side between the railroad and river. In this strip of land, four sons, Fred Jr., William, Henry, Robert and one daughter, Mary, lived for many years.

The Running Dutchman Ditch, which furnished water to irrigate the farming land along the river bottom, was started by William Werner in the late 1880's, but due to some bad soils along the original ditch line the water would sink and go back to the river, and the Werners abandoned working on the ditch in the 1890's. Granddad looked at the proposed ditch and possible alternate routes and decided he could make it work and purchased the ditch right from the Werner family. He made application to the State in 1903 for the ditch and completed it in 1906. The ditch was 10 miles in length, 16 feet wide at the top, 12 foot at the bottom, and carried two feet of water. In later years a considerable portion of the intake portion of the ditch was abandoned and pumps were used, thereby eliminating about five miles of ditch and several structures.

The original family, in general, remained in the Douglas - Casper area. Horse events were one of the main attractions in the period about the turn of the century from racing to rodeos. The facilities at this time were not as complete as they are today and the riders would have someone to help them hold the horses as they were saddled and then ridden to a standstill. My dad, Fred Jr., and his brother, Carl, worked as a team in these rodeos. Dad would ear the horses down and Carl would ride them.

At one rodeo at Casper, Carl had ridden his horse and was giving the bow at the grandstand when the horse changed his mind and was not ready to stop. Carl, not being prepared, was dislodged and spent a considerable time in the hospital recovering from some painful broken ribs. This did not deter their fun though; as soon as he was healed up they were at it again. George was the roper in the family and spent a considerable time at this profession, although he did not get good enough to make much money. This horse was retired and used at Carl's ranch as a wrangling horse or for children to ride. My dad and I went to help Carl round up some cattle one time when I was about 9 or 10 and I had the pleasure of riding Old Babe. As we were going we saw a coyote that acted as though he was crippled and Uncle Carl said, "You turn him and I will rope him." I took after Mr. Coyote and Babe got his nose right on the coyote's tail and away we went. He would not turn for me and if it had not been for a fence I might still be going. I need not say we did not get Mr. Coyote but I learned not to let Babe chase an animal unless you wanted a fast ride.

A lot of sheep were raised in this era because of the need for wool to make clothing and this was a double pay

animal. If the lamb was lost, normally the wool would bear the cost of running the animal until the next reproduction season. The wool, though, presented quite a problem to get it to the railroad for shipping. I can still remember the freight wagons that ran together to haul the wool. Herman Werner, Mr. Eskew and Carl would get together and bring it in as a group to help each other through the tough times. This method was used up into the late 1920's. The ranchers would load the summer supplies of food items in the wagons and take them back with them to their ranches. At that time they bought flour by the ton, sugar by the 100 weight and coffee in 10 pound cans, also I believe, whole beans and dried fruit. In about 1928 they contracted to truckers to have their wool hauled.

This family, as a whole, is not a close family and did not visit too much with other members of the family except at the birthday of Mother Hildebrand. On July 14 of each year the ones in the area would gather for a little reunion and birthday party. After her death no reunions were held until 1983 at which time they gathered, through the efforts of Albert and Marge Hildebrand, at the Orpha Community and Dance Hall.

There were about 90 members at this gathering. They came from Iowa, to the east, and California, to the west, and most of the locals attended. The oldest and newest were there, including Ada Hildebrand, wife of Fred Hildebrand, Jr., who celebrated her 90th birthday and Linda A. Hildebrand, who was 3 months old and a great-great-granddaughter of Fred Hildebrand, Sr.

Mr. Hildebrand retired from the ranch in about 1916 and moved to Douglas to live, due to bad health, and died in 1927. Mary Hildebrand, his wife, lived with her son, Robert, in the summer and either her daughters, Anna or Mary, the remainder of the time and died in 1954.

For a family of this size tragedies were few. Edward died at a young age from what was believed to be scarlet fever. Henry J. was killed in a tractor accident in 1957 and his son, Donald, was killed by a bull which he was feeding in the corral at his home, and Bryce, grandson of Fred Hildebrand, Jr., died as a result of a gun accident. The remainder of their children lived full lives from 60 to 92 years of age, and all are buried in the Douglas Cemetery except William, Edward, Carl and Margaret.

James H. Hildebrand

## Hinkle, Albert and Elizabeth Meyer, Urba Langehennig

Lena Schnitker Groh, the maternal grandmother of Elizabeth, Urba and Hyba Langehennig, immigrated to America from Germany with her two sisters in the mid 1840's to join her father, her mother and two of her brothers who had settled in northwest Missouri in 1840. The original home of the Schnitker's in what is now Atchison County is still occupied by the descendants of one of her brothers. One of the sisters who accompanied her was married on the crossing which took three months. Another sister was drowned in the Mississippi River before they reached their destination. In 1840 when the

first members of the Schnitker family came to America, Missouri was still a wilderness.

The parents and grandparents of Albert Hinkle emigrated from Germany about the time of the Civil War as did Christopher and Helena Meyer, who settled in eastern Nebraska south of Lincoln, which was, at that time, named Lancaster. It was renamed Lincoln in 1867. Peter Joseph was their seventh child, and their fourth son. Frederick Langehennig also came from Germany at about the age of twelve with his parents. This was about 1850.

Albert's sister Etta Cheeseman preceded him in death.

Frederick and Anna Groh Langehennig had eight girls, four of whom died in infancy. Another sister, Lula, died at the age of 16 in 1893. The three sisters that were living were Elizabeth, Urba and Hyba.

After the wedding of Albert and Elizabeth at the rural home of Elizabeth's parents, in the summer of 1897, the young couple lived for a time in Mound City, Missouri and Weeping Water, Nebraska, before moving to Wyoming.

Albert Hinkle and Elizabeth Langehennig Hinkle arrived in Douglas, Wyoming in the fall of 1909 accompanied by Elizabeth's sister Urba Louise Langehennig. The following spring (1910), Elizabeth's parents Frederick and Anna Groh Langehennig and their youngest daughter, Hyba Leona arrived to spend the summer, bringing with them their grandson, Roy B. Hinkle who was eleven.

Urba Langehennig continued to make her home in Douglas after her parents and sister, Hyba, returned to Missouri. She enjoyed working in a local millinery shop and doing dress making in the family home. Both Urba and Elizabeth were in poor health and it was felt the change of climate would be beneficial. Elizabeth added to the family income by taking in boarders, as she was considered to be an excellent cook. The Hinkles lived at that time in a small house in the 200 block on South Third.

Their neighbors were the Frank Clarks, Hiram Daniels and the Roy Brennings. After more than a year in Douglas they moved to Casper and Lander returning to Douglas permanently about 1912 or 1913.

Urba and Hyba frequently rode horseback with their young nephew, Roy, with horses rented from a livery stable where the LaBonte Hotel was later built. The three ladies also enjoyed daily walks when the weather permitted and remembered the board sidewalks in Douglas at that time. They remembered, too, with some amusement how shocked they had been when ladies in Wyoming rode astride while in Missouri they rode only side saddle.

In the early years in Wyoming the entire family vacationed for two or more weeks each summer in the hills south of Douglas, often taking with them guests from St. Louis, their parents or Albert's sister Etta Cheeseman and her family from Parsons, Kansas. They fished, picnicked and just enjoyed camping in the out-of-doors. Some rode horseback while others of the party stayed with the team and wagon.

For most of his life Albert was employed as a meat cutter and was employed in a local Douglas market. Later, about the years 1915 to 1917 he operated the Center Street Market there. His son, Roy, made deliveries from time to time.

The homestead where Mr. and Mrs. Hinkle lived for a time, as soon as the area north of Douglas was opened for homesteading, (probably 1918 or 1919), was sold in 1942 or 1943 to Mr. and Mrs. Wallis who had rented the property for some years.

Some time prior to the unfortunate death of their son Roy in June of 1917, the Hinkles had been employed at the Careyhurst Ranch about eighteen miles from Douglas. Roy and some of his friends were on one of the Careyhurst lakes when the boating accident occurred.

Sometime during the year of 1928 Mr. and Mrs. Hinkle started a restaurant on Center Street, naming it the "Gem". Two years later in August of 1930 they pur-



Hinkle Meat Market, Al Hinkle on the left.

chased the Wes Wiker house at 214 South 4th Street where they quietly celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in the summer of 1947. The restaurant which they sold in 1936 or 1937 was later known as the "Midget," and was operated by Margaret and Tom Bullene.

On May 12, 1916 Urba Langehennig and Peter Joseph Meyer were married in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Peter Meyer had come west to Douglas from Weeping Water, Nebraska at the urging of some friends, who had moved to Douglas several years earlier. He had, for a time, been employed as a carpenter in Douglas. Two children were born to them, Donald Gregory on March 28, 1917 and Geraldine Agatha on the fifth of January 1919.

Opportunity for employment with the Rock Island Railroad necessitated another move early in the 1920's, to Herrington, Kansas, where the family resided until 1940. After the death of her husband on January 7, 1936, and at the urging of her sister, Elizabeth, Urba again moved to Douglas in the spring of 1942. She and her daughter, Geraldine, purchased some property at 621 South Fifth. Geraldine was employed at that time at the Converse County Courthouse.

Donald was selected for military duty February 1941, and saw service in the European theatre of operations. He served with the First, Third and Seventh Armies as a 635th Anti-Tank Battalion member. He was wounded twice — once in France and once in Germany.

He was employed by Mort Peters at the Converse Lumber Co. and worked there from 1946 until 1979 when he retired. Bill Armstrong and Bill Roberts were the other two managers while he was employed there.

He married Margaret Roediger Johnston January 1, 1953 in Douglas. He adopted her two children, William W. and Lola Marie. In May of that year they moved into the D. C. Fackler house at 338 South Fifth, where Don and Margaret still reside. Lola Marie Rupert presently lives in San Francisco, California with her son Mike and Gina. William "Bill" is still residing in Douglas.

Geraldine married Lawrence Nuoci. Their two children are Gerard "Jerry" Joseph (born 1952) and Gloria Marie (born 1954).

While Hyba Langehennig had lived for a time with the Hinkles in Lander, Wyoming and Weeping Water, Nebraska, she did not make her home permanently in Douglas until 1950, upon her retirement after thirty-six years as postmaster at Nishnabotna, Missouri. She had held the job as postmaster from 1914 and her commission was signed by President Woodrow Wilson.

In the later years after their retirement Albert and Elizabeth Hinkle were always a busy active couple, looking after their apartment house, enjoying a few close friends and their frequent fishing and hunting trips. Their fishing trips were always made more enjoyable because they invited friends or neighbors to go with them. There was always room at their dinner table for an occasional drop-in friend or out-of-town guests.

Urba Meyer enjoyed her large yard and garden, canning and preserving and looking after two apartments. Her large yard contained many kinds of fruits, including raspberries, currants and gooseberries. Urba had a keen sense of humor which was much enjoyed by those who knew her best.

Albert Hinkle died at age 80 on December 3, 1951 and

Elizabeth died on October 12, 1959 at the age of 84. Urba Meyer preceeded her sister in death on March 4, 1957 at the age of 77. After the death of her sister, Elizabeth, Hyba continued to live at 214 South 4th Street. She lived with her niece, Geraldine in Cheyenne for several years, just prior to her death there on December 12th, 1980 at the age of 98. At her request, she is buried in Douglas near her sisters.

Donald and Margaret Meyer  
Geraldine Meyer Nuoci

## Hinton, Lewis and Ina Mae

Lewis N. Hinton was born at Stockville, Nebraska, on September 25, 1908, the son of Irvin and Ida Mae Conklin Hinton. He was the next to the youngest of seven children. His folks had a farm and his dad was also a blacksmith. Lewis learned a lot about his trade of blacksmithing and mechanic work, that he followed most of his life, from helping his father in the blacksmith shop.

Lewie's older brothers, William and Bert and sister, Lenora, came out to Wyoming and filed on homesteads on Indian Creek, south of Orin, in 1917. Lewie's mother, Ida Mae, took sick and died from the influenza that was so prevalent during World War I. His brother, Bert, who was serving in the army, also had the influenza and was very sick but he recovered.

Vera and Bert Hinton were married the 24th of June, 1919. Their daughter, Ruth, was born in Nebraska in June 1920. Roberta was born June 1922; and daughter, June, in June of 1921, all on the homestead. They went back to Nebraska after they proved up on their homestead because of sicknesses and other troubles. They sold their homestead to Lenora "Nora" and her husband Harry Isaac.

In March 1921 when William and Bert visited in Nebraska, Grandpa Hinton drove back with them to the homestead in a Model T. In April of 1921 Lewie, Earl, Vera and Ruth Hinton came out on a train. Bert met them in Glendo and they went out to the homestead in a horse-drawn wagon. They stayed there all summer. Vera and Bert Hinton, and sister, Lenora (Nora), and William Hin-



Earl and Ina Mae Hinton 1935

ton remained there on the homesteads and proved up on them. Their dad and the younger boys, Lewie and Earl, went back to Nebraska.

Nora met Harry Isaac, a widower, who also had a homestead. They were married December 18, 1927, and settled on the Isaac place.

Lewie and Earl came back to Wyoming in 1927. Lewie worked for Dr. Hylton, one of the early doctors of Douglas, on one of his ranches building fence, driving trucks, putting up hay and so on. Then he went to work for Harry Isaac, his brother-in-law, who was the foreman for Zimmerman's Diamond Dot Sheep Company at that time.

Lewie filed on a homestead in 1932 in LaBonte Canyon. His brother, Earl, also filed on a homestead close to there, but they later gave them up.

Earl and Lewie were called back to Stockville, Nebraska in November of 1931 when their dad was very sick. He died about a week later. They remained there until March 1932, when they started back to Wyoming. They had a terrible car accident in Nebraska on the way back. It was a very foggy night and they ran into a big truck with no lights as they were coming over a hill. Then another car rammed into the back of them. Lewie was not seriously injured, but Earl was hurt very badly. His leg was crushed in the car door and he had other severe injuries. The doctor in the hospital where they took Earl said that no way could Earl live, so there wasn't any use sewing him up. But Lewie said, "Like hell will he die! I'll get old Doc Hylton from Douglas to come out and patch him up." So Lewie called Doc Hylton and he came clear out to Scottsbluff and helped set Earl's leg and helped sew up his injuries. Lewie went on to Wyoming when he found Earl was going to live. Earl was months in the hospital but finally did recover enough so he could go on to Wyoming. There he stayed with his sister and family, Nora and Harry Isaac until he was well enough to work again.

Ina Mae Wiggains was born February 19, 1909 in Emerson, Nebraska, the daughter of Tillman Denton and Eveline Jones Wiggains. She was the youngest of five children. She spent her early childhood in Wakefield, Nebraska and then moved to Merna, Nebraska where she graduated from high school in 1928. She went on to Kearney State Teacher's College for two years. She taught school in Merna, Nebraska for one year.

She came out to visit her sister, Ethel Westwick, at Sam Carothers' ranch near Douglas. She decided to move out and got a job teaching at the Matt Carothers' School in 1931-33. In 1934 she started teaching at the White School and taught there through 1939.

When Ina Mae was teaching at White School, she boarded at Harry Isaac's ranch. The Isaacs were putting in modern facilities in their home and Lewie was doing the work on the bathroom. Ina Mae came home from school one night (September of 1934) and little Joe Isaac (about three years old) wanted the teacher to see the new bathroom. Lewie was sitting there putting in the faucets in the bathroom at the time. That was the way they met when Nora introduced them to each other in the bathroom. There was many an eyebrow raised when the question was asked of Lewie and Ina Mae on how they met and the reply was, "In the bathroom!"

The other shearers and workers of the Diamond Dot Sheep Company began to tease Lewie about getting a date with the new school marm. He tried real hard to get a date but Ina Mae was playing hard to get and it was several weeks before he finally got a date. The shearers promised to get them a new stove and a roaster for a wedding present if Lewie could get Ina Mae to say "yes", which she finally did. They were married November 29, 1935 at her sister's place, Vallie and Pierce Bressler's in Gordon, Nebraska. Her little niece, Elaine (Vallie and Pierce's daughter), clapped her hands when the wedding was over and said, "That was lots of fun. Now, Mommie and Daddy, you get married."

Lewie and Ina Mae came back to Douglas to live and lived first at the Edward's place, south of where Frank Pexton's place is now.

On the way back to Wyoming, a black cat was sitting in the road. Lewie stopped the car and said, "I'm not going to start married life with a black cat crossing my path!" The cat stopped, looked, turned, and went back, then they proceeded on their way.

When they set up housekeeping, Lewie's friends of the sheep company came through on their promises and got them the best kitchen stove they could find from the Montgomery Ward Catalog and also a roaster. They kept the stove and used it many years.

They lived at the Edward's place about a year and then moved to the Isaac ranch, where they lived in the bunk house.

Eddie Gibb was hired to manage the Diamond Dot Sheep Company after Harry's untimely and tragic death in 1938.

Ina Mae and Lewie moved to the Foxton place (where the Grant place is now near Esterbrook). Lewie continued to work for the sheep company until school was out in 1939, then moved to town and rented the Hofmann place, south of Douglas. Their first child, a son, Lewis Roy, (called Roy) was born on August 21, 1939 while they were living there.

Their daughter, Judie Mae, was born June 29, 1943, when they lived at the home at 903 South Fourth Street. Lewie built this home himself with the help of Ernie Norton.

Lewie first built sheep wagons for the Florence Lumber Company to sell, then he built his own welder and shop and went into business for himself as a mechanic and welder. Lewie was also an avid gardener and raised vegetables for his own family and sold to many families around town. This was one of his most loved hobbies and he was often reported as being one of the best gardeners in Douglas. He also enjoyed fishing, hunting and sports, especially those ballgames Roy played in.

When Lewie became ill in 1981, he decided to make knives for all of his five granddaughters. Some of the knives have bone handles made of deer antlers. The granddaughters each have their knives in their hope chests except for Beckie Hinton who used one of her knives to cut her wedding cake when she was married to Richard Hensley, September 4, 1982, and now uses them in her kitchen. Besides knives, he made spatulas, meat forks, and splatter covers for Ina Mae and family.

Lewie died on February 13, 1982 at the age of 76.

Lewie and Ina Mae were active members of the

Pioneer Association, as Ina Mae is still. Ina Mae has been an active member of North Platte Homemakers since 1951.

Their son, Lewis Roy, married Loretta (Lorie) Ann Melcher, of Douglas, on September 5, 1961. They have three daughters, Rebecca (Beckie) Ann Hinton Hensley of Casper, Cheryl (Cherie) Lynn, and Deana (Dede) Louise of Glenrock, Wyoming.

Their daughter, Judie, married Jess Langston of Glenrock, Wyoming on September 23, 1961. They have two daughters, Cynthia (Cindie) Mae and Michelle (Shellie) Kae, all of Casper, Wyoming.

Ina Mae has some interesting ancestors on her side of the family: Josiah Bartlett, a doctor, her great-great-grandfather on her mother's side who signed the Declaration of Independence.

Another great-great-grandfather on her father's side was Ute Perkins, who was a private in the Revolutionary War.

Faun D. Cole  
as told by Ina Mae Hinton

## Hiser, Elias and Mary

Elias Hiser was born on July 19, 1869 in Huntington, Indiana. The son of Gottlieb and Christina Hiser, he was one of seven children.

In 1886 Gottlieb moved his family from Huntington, Indiana to Litchfield, Nebraska.

In 1887 Elias hired out to help trail horses to Wyoming. He spent the winter of 1887 in Guernsey. In the spring of 1888 he came to the Douglas area. He worked for the Macey Horse Ranch which was located on Boxelder Creek below the big canyon and above the present Bixby Ranch. Elias served as Deputy Sheriff for two years (1892 and 1893) under Frank Virden. In 1893 he homesteaded on land in upper Boxelder which became the nucleus of a ranch which grew to be over 9,000 acres. The original homestead started with the purchase of Wylie's squatters rights. These were not a legal holding document so Elias then filed on the land as a homestead.

On February 28, 1894 Elias married Mary Clausen. Mary was born in Hamburg, Germany on June 28, 1873. Her mother died when she was six years old. When she was nine she came to the United States to live with her grandmother who lived in Iowa. At the time she and Elias were married she was helping her sister cook for miners at the Inez mines.

On December 7, 1894 the first son, Frank Verdus, was born at the homestead.

Wylie had a small house and a dugout. The Hisers lived in this house until after the birth of their second son, Willard Ulysses, born February 15, 1896.

After Willard was born they moved into a larger house that Elias had been building.

The Hisers continued to add to their land holdings by filing additional homesteads and purchasing adjacent homesteads from others.

As the ranch grew, so did the family. On July 21, 1898 the first daughter, Georgianna Christina, was born; April 20, 1900 a son, Ralph Gottlieb; February 15, 1902 a daughter, Mary Margaret; August 21, 1904 a daughter,

Maud Sophie; July 20, 1906 a son, Elias Edward; June 27, 1908 a son, Robert Jerry.

In the fall of 1909 the Hisers purchased a threshing machine and horsepower from Bill Howard. They threshed for people on LaPrele, Boxelder and Deer Creek.

On May 8, 1910 a daughter, Edna Mae, was welcomed to the family.

In the winter of 1910 Elias started a freighting business. He hauled feed to the Ogalalla Ranch and in the spring he hauled wool to Douglas. He continued to haul wool for the Ogalalla and Morton Ranches until 1921 when the hauling was taken over by trucks.

During the time that he freighted he was known to have the best walking teams in the area. He used small horses weighing 1,000 to 1,200 pounds and many were spoiled saddle horses from Mortons and Careys. He was the only one driving at that time that could make a U-turn in the street with a six-horse string team without getting the lead team on the sidewalk.

In 1912 another daughter was added to the family with the September 4th birth of Louise Bertha.

They purchased a sawmill from Marshalls which was powered with a steam engine. Leonard Bartshe was the first engineer. With the first lumber sawed they built a big new barn on the original homestead.

In 1914 the youngest daughter, Mary Bell, was born on February 16.

In 1918, during the First World War, Willard served 13 months in France as a blacksmith and horseshoer. Frank got as far as the east coast and Ralph was in Douglas to go when the Armistice was signed.

In 1921 Elias turned the threshing over to Frank and Willard to run. In 1926 Willard bought the first tractor to replace the "horsepower." They continued to thresh on Boxelder and Deer Creek until the early 1950s.

In 1921 the Hisers purchased the adjacent ranch from Billy Kimball and moved their family to the larger house there.

Mary took over as Postmistress of the Boxelder Post Office, a job which she continued holding until 1943. When she retired the post office was discontinued.

Elias Hiser died on September 29, 1933 at the age of 64. Mary and three of the boys continued to run the ranch. In 1943 Mary turned the ranch over to the boys and moved to Douglas where she resided until her death on January 19, 1954 at the age of 81.

The Hisers had eleven children, five sons and six daughters. All except one have lived their entire life in Wyoming, five of these in Converse County.

Georgianna Christina married Vance Horton on August 15, 1920. They had six children, Edith, Glenn, Norma, Alva, Lucille and Forrest. Georgianna died on March 29, 1966, Vance in October 1975.

Maud Sophie married Harvey T. Conner on November 28, 1922. They have four children, Alva, Harvey "Bud," John and Roy.

Ralph Gottlieb married Mabel Gonsalves June 25, 1923. They have three children, Leonard, Mildred and Dick. Ralph died on January 24, 1977, Mabel on April 4, 1982.

Mary Margaret married Edward Virden on January 25, 1925. They have two children, Raymond and Edward.



Edward Sr. died on June 17, 1930.

Louise Bertha and Warren Cromwell were married December 3, 1930. They have three children, Dale, Sadie and Selma.

Robert Jerry married Zelma Grant on March 6, 1932. They have three children, Wayne, James and Mary. Robert died May 25, 1984, Zelma in August 1985.

Edna Mae and Walter Davies were married on November 1, 1933. They had five children, Harry, Irwin, Mary Ellen, Melvin and Charles.

Mary Bell married Kenneth Mikesell on May 20, 1937. They have four children, Barbara, Marjorie, Larry and Alice.

Elias Edward (Ed) and Bessie Grant were married on August 19, 1942. They have 16 children, Helen, Joy, Eugene, Patricia, Donna, Hugh, Ramona, Charles, Fred, Wynell, Margaret, Darlene, Bruce, Wanenna, Melissa and Tony.

In 1944 Frank married Florence Srivens who had three children, Eileen, Edna and Charlotte. They had four children, Robert, Frank, Margaret and Joanne.

Willard married Gladys James on June 2, 1948. She had a daughter, Blyth, but they had no children. Willard died on March 16, 1961, Gladys on January 14, 1967.

Leonard Hiser

## Hiteshew, George W. and Mattie

George Washington Hiteshew was born on August 2, 1849 at Tipton, Cedar County, Iowa. His parents were Jacob and Catherine Hiteshew. His wife described him later as having no beard and being a strong and healthy man with blue eyes and medium dark hair.

George Hiteshew came in 1872 to Cheyenne, a town barely five years old. According to Wyoming historian T. A. Larson in *History of Wyoming* page 30, "Before July 1867, Wyoming had been virtually unoccupied Indian country except for transient travel on the trails."

George lived near Cheyenne for nine years before marrying. At the age of 32, Mr. Hiteshew decided it was time to get married. He wrote to his sister in Rockwood, Tennessee, and said he had decided to get married. He gave the description of the type of girl he wanted. He wanted a girl that was in her teens and said if there was one that filled the description, he would come after her. She replied that there was one that filled the description exactly, but if he wanted her he would have to hurry as there were others and one in particular that was trying to get her. George went to Tennessee and spent Christmas with his sister.

Mattie Dayton Hiteshew wrote, "I lived 20 miles from his sister's place. She sent for me to come and spend Christmas with her...We were well acquainted with his sister..."

"My father, Calvin Dayton, immigrated from New York to Crossville, Tennessee in Cumberland County, with an ox team. After landing there, his wife and five children died within four weeks with black diphtheria. He bought a big farm and married my mother, MaLissa Jane Naramore. They had five boys and me. My father died when I was ten. I married George Hiteshew when I was 17 and

came to Cheyenne in January, 1881." (Mattie Dayton Hiteshew)

George Hiteshew and Mattie Dayton were married at four o'clock on the evening of January 5, 1881, by the Justice of the Peace at his sister's home. Mattie said, "He wore a dark gray suit and I wore a white dress. I spent a few days at home before coming West to the ranch 25 miles west of Cheyenne and two miles south of Buford Station."

George and Mattie Hiteshew arrived at Buford Station in the late afternoon on a day in the latter part of January 1881. They walked out to his ranch which was two miles south. His cabin was only 14' by 16'. George had a couple of bachelors living in it while he was gone and according to Mattie, "The place was a terrible mess!" He had no furniture and the bedstead was made of rough lumber nailed up. The mattress was a gunny sack filled with hay. He used old fashioned apple crates for seats and the table was made of rough boards." Their first three of six children were born there: Charles Fielding Hiteshew on December 13, 1881; Clara Hiteshew on December 26, 1882; and Retta Hiteshew on March 5, 1884. "When the children were born, my mother-in-law took care of me", related Mattie.

"We lived there six years and had two family neighbors, Haygoods and Robins", Mattie said.

In 1886, before Wyoming had become a state, George, Mattie and children migrated by team, from Cheyenne to Keeline. The trip took 14 days. The family settled on a ranch, where they used the K brand, six miles north of Keeline on August 8th. There, two more children were born. Ethel was born on September 18, 1889 and Oliver on January 18, 1891. Hazel was born several years later in Manville on October 4, 1901.

In the area, the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad (which soon became a part of the Chicago and Northwestern system) came out of Nebraska to reach Lusk and Douglas in 1886. There were still roving bands of Indians.

In later years Mattie wrote, "When we landed there, the country was unsettled and full of Indians. When Retta was two years old, a squaw picked her up and was going to take her away..."



Retta Hiteshew Woody's homestead shack. L. to R.: Donna Dern, Stella Woody, Retta Woody and Bud Dern.



Retta Hiteshew, University of Wyoming graduate, 1905.

Of this same period, Mattie's daughter, Ethel Hiteshew Dern, a younger sister of Retta's, wrote, "The most excitement was when the Indians came through. We were afraid of them. One time Mother took us up on the hill east of the house, but we got back before they had left. One old buck says, 'Fraid, heap afraid.' One time they came and Mother was cooking tomato preserves. Those crazy Indians took that pan of preserves out by the well and ate them. One time they got Retta and were carrying her to their camp. Mother's brother Bill was there and he went and got her. I hid behind the dining room door and was I scared. We had country school out there for a while, Sothmans and us. The Indians would pass the school house, Bill Sothman went out and talked to them. They had a white woman in one wagon and she was sure crying."

The Claus Sothmans were from Germany and neighbors and good friends of George and Mattie Hiteshew. The Sothmans lived in a grout house on what was known as the Sodie Ranch. Mattie Hiteshew became community nurse and widow to the Sothmans and other neighbors. When called upon she would grab her five pound and gallon syrup pails of medicines and be on her way. She delivered Emma Sothman on a blizzarding day in April with the help of young Katie Sothman.

The following was told by Mrs. Emma (Sothman) Pray: "My mother nearly died of Erysipelas when I was about six. I wouldn't stay out of her room so I got it too and nearly died. The doctor had to come from Lusk, 35 miles away. After one visit he stopped at George Hiteshew's and told them I wouldn't live through the night. Mattie H. came over and bathed me in soda water all night and here I am..." Erysipelas is an acute contagious disease of the skin. Eruptions appear as a spreading,

rose-red patch that is slightly raised, owing to swelling of the underlying tissues. The patient feels very feverish and ill and suffers a burning pain and itching in the affected parts.

Emma (Sothman) Pray also recalled, "The Indians use to come to our house when we lived on the ranch and would demand food. They especially wanted sugar, flour and meat. They would wait until the men left the house and come and say, 'Men gone, we want food'. Mother and us kids were scared to death of them. If we saw them coming in time, we kids would run and hide under the barn and leave our mother alone in the house. They would come right in the house and if food was cooking on the stove, they would take the lid off to see what was cooking.

"My mother had a large dog, Prince, she would call in the house and hold onto, or he would attack them. They wanted her to put the dog out, but she knew they would shoot the dog. They came by every once in a while.

"But once, some negro soldiers from Ft. Laramie came by. The dog ran after them and they shot and killed him. That was such a sad experience, we all cried. The soldiers were on horseback."

Art Joss, son of Clara Hiteshew Joss and grandson of George and Mattie Hiteshew, related, "Twice a year George Hiteshew would be gone for two weeks at a time (fall and winter). He went to Cheyenne for supplies. The Indians were fairly friendly but about the time he'd get ready to leave, one would see Indians peeking over the ridge. It was said that they would steal anything that wasn't tacked down when the men folks were gone. Clara would hide under the bed.

The following was told by Mattie Hiteshew, "When the Indians would go through they would stop and ask for milk, they called it 'Suk, Suk'."

Of George and Mattie's ranch house, their daughter Retta (Hiteshew) Woody wrote on the back of a picture of the house, "My father built this house in 1888 on his ranch at Lance Creek, Manville, Wyoming. Here is where I spent my childhood days and lived until I went to Laramie to school." Of the same house, Art and Peggy Joss said, "The house north of Keeline was made of rock and cement and has 13" to 16" walls." (The original house is still part of the present day house owned by George's grandson, Arthur "Art" Joss.) This house along with much of the aforementioned land was in what was Converse County until 1911, when the borders of Converse County were changed and it became Niobrara County. Much of the land owned by George and Mattie Hiteshew, their children and heirs, falls in range 66 and 67 and is therefore in Converse and Niobrara Counties. However, at the time it was all Converse County.

In about 1894 Mattie began moving to Manville, Wyoming, Converse County, for three months during the winter so the children could attend school. This gave them six months schooling with the three they received on the ranch. Charles attended school in Manville as did Retta and Ethel. Mattie said, "Clara attended high school in Omaha, Nebraska." Ethel went to the Grand Island Business and Normal College in Grand Island, Nebraska for two years. It is thought that Charles went there, too.

Retta's formal secondary education was received at the University of Wyoming Prep School from 1899-1902. From 1902-1905, she took Normal Training at the Univer-



George Hiteshew on mess wagon with some of his range riders.

sity of Wyoming. (In 1902 there were 202 students enrolled and in 1905 there were 227 students enrolled at the University of Wyoming.)

Retta received a teacher's First Grade Certificate for Wyoming Public Schools which was good for a period of four years in the county of its issuance in 1905. She later received a Professional Second Class Certificate which entitled the holder to teach in the Public School of the state for life, unless revoked for cause, in 1911.

One of Retta's first teaching jobs was at the Gillespie School in Converse County. It became one of her most memorable jobs when a bull came to the school house and some of the students teased him. Consequently, the teacher and students either spent the rest of the day in the outdoor toilet or on top of the school house while the bull "raised the dickens" in the school house.

Retta deserves a small niche in the history of Wyoming education, not only because she was a "pioneer" teacher, as were her sisters, but because it is safe to assume that she taught under conditions that could seldom be compared. The major part of her teaching career was spent in a wheel chair in Converse, Niobrara, and Platte Counties, since she became paralyzed from the waist down in 1909. Most of the schools were in remote areas which required that she live in the school during the week. She continued to teach until the early 1930's.

When Retta was teaching at the Gillespies, she met a young man by the name of James Monroe Woody. According to an account written by Vic White, his cousin, James was a cleancut man who bore the earmark of refinement, so scarce in those days. He was induced to come west by Vic's father, J. F. White (also known as Sam White), who came to Tie Siding in 1874 from Georgia. James was also from Morganton, Georgia, near the Blue Ridge Mountain. When he first arrived in the country, he worked for the Toltec Livestock Company.

The Toltec Livestock Company, also known as the Bar M Outfit, ran cattle, horses and sheep on their holding. They branched out into a large concern according to an account in *Wyoming's Pioneer Ranches*. Perhaps at one time they had around 75,000 acres of land. L.

L. Laughlin was their manager. Their brand was a bar over M on the left side of cattle, left shoulder on horses and back of sheep. They ran a roundup wagon jointly with Smith and Moore. The summer round-up was for horses and the fall roundup for cattle. Much of the Toltec Livestock Company's land was adjacent to land of the Swan Land and Cattle Company. James rode with the outfit in the summer season and at one time was a foreman.

He worked as a fireman in Grand Junction, Colorado. Also, James worked one summer haying for Ellen Amanda McFarlane Prager's father, John McFarlane, on his ranch in the mountains near Laramie Peak. In 1906 and 1907 his mailing address was Garrett or Rock River, Wyoming. He often shipped cattle out of Orin, Wyoming. According to "Mandy" Prager, Jim Woody also worked at the Howe place after he was married.

Retta Hiteshew and James Monroe Woody were married November 28, 1907 at the Methodist Church in Manville, Wyoming. Sometime during the summer of 1908, James and Retta moved to a ranch owned by her father, seven miles west of Marsland, Nebraska, in Dawes County. They had two children. Stella Mattie Woody was born on July 2, 1908 at the ranch at Marsland and Laura Blanche Woody was born February 11, 1910 (Laura died seven months later.) In 1914, they purchased and settled on a ranch on Horseshoe Creek at Glendo, Wyoming.

Clara M. Hiteshew married Samuel Joss on May 5, 1901, at the Congregational Church in Manville, Wyoming, Converse County. Sam had met Clara at her home. She was about 18 and he was about 29 years of age. It is thought that Sam worked at one time for her father, George Hiteshew. Sam and Clara went to Lost Springs and homesteaded near Horny Hills. Their first child, George Samuel, was reputed to have been born out there in a sheep wagon in February 1902. They had two other children: Blanche Mattie and Arthur Gerald.

Charles Fielding Hiteshew married Lillian Howard on October 1, 1903. They had four children and homesteaded some three miles northeast of Lost Springs. (See story by their daughter Alice Hiteshew Randolph.)

Oliver Hiteshew married Mary Minerva Hatten on

September 12, 1912. They were the parents of four children. Oliver and Mary homesteaded and built a log cabin in 1913. (See story by their daughter Wilma Hiteshew Wright-Mrs. Kenneth Wright.)

Minnie Ethel Hiteshew, better known as Ethel, married Clinton E. Dern. They had two children: Donna Mildred Dern was born November 17, 1912 and Oliver C. Dern, "Bud", was born February 12, 1915. They lived on Twenty-Mile. Young Oliver died January 2, 1928. Donna Mildred Dern married Arthur D. Keller in Hot Springs, South Dakota. They adopted a son, Kenneth. Kenneth now lives with his wife and family in Lusk. Kenneth's father, Art, served in the TEC4 Engineers in World War II. Art died December 5, 1961 and Donna died June 12, 1973.

Hazel MaLissa Hiteshew attended Converse County High School from 1916 to 1920. She was one of 20 members in the graduating class of 1920. Hazel and Florence Musch played the piano duet "Czardas" at the graduating ceremony. Mattie Hiteshew had moved to a house in Douglas which was located on the street behind the LaBonte Hotel so her daughter, Hazel and her grandchildren could attend school. Some of the grandchildren were: Alice Hiteshew, Stella Woody, Donna Dern and Blanche Joss. Hazel substitute taught kindergarten in Douglas. Hazel married more than once, but she never had any children. For the major part of her life she was married to Charles Milhoan and lived in Bossier City, Louisiana.

This has been an attempt to tell the partial history of the Hiteshew families' years in Wyoming since 1872. George and Mattie Hiteshew, their six children and their spouses, and many of their grand-children are no longer part of this life.

Janette Martindale Chambers

Hiteshew graduated from high school and when Retta, his sister, attended college she had Hiteshew on the records but used HitsheW on her signature.)

Elva Hiteshew Costin, a daughter of Katie and "Sherd" Hiteshew and a sister to Juliana Hiteshew Saul, wrote that they (George's parents, Jacob and Catherine Hiteshew) had a very nice farm in Iowa. "Evidently Grandpa Hiteshew (Jacob) was a person who liked to change locations for some reason, as he traded his farm for land in Tennessee, sight unseen. It proved to be a very poor piece of land and just where it was I don't know. Guess they couldn't make a living there so the family migrated to Wyoming. They settled on Lone Pine Creek." In what year we are uncertain. However, we know it was prior to the end of 1881 that Jacob Hiteshew, a Pennsylvania Dutchman, moved with his family to Wyoming.

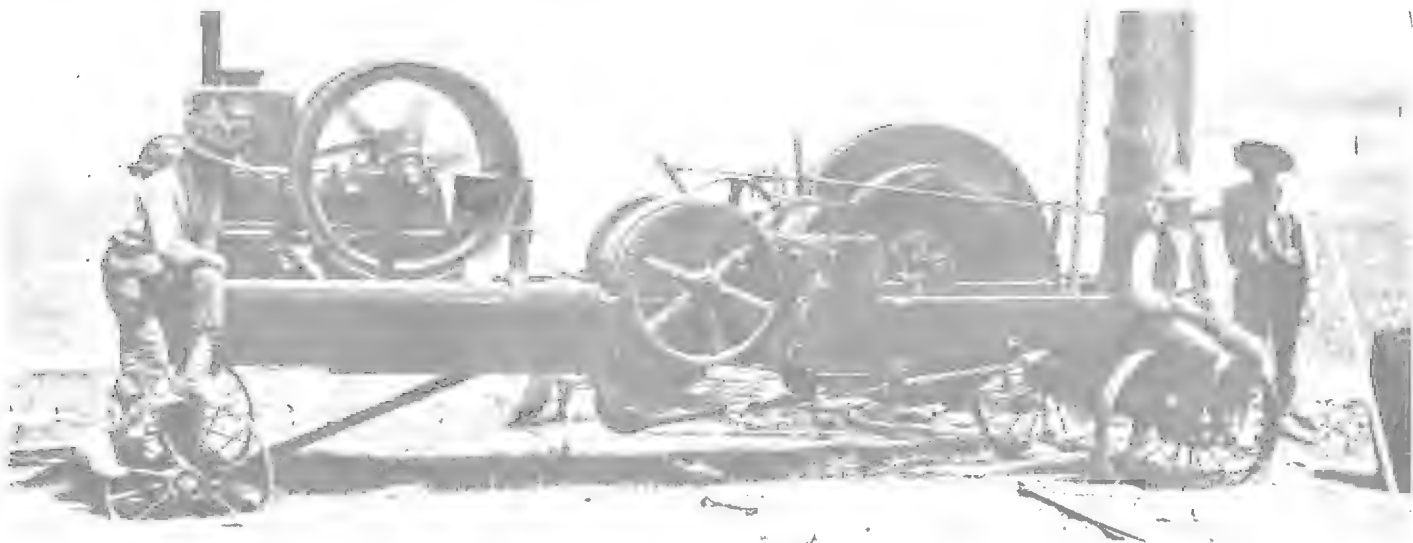
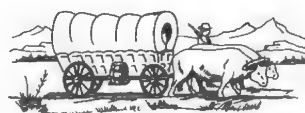
Jacob and Catherine Hiteshew and most of their family apparently came to the Lance Creek area in 1886. They are thought to have had seven children; George Washington Hiteshew, Ulysses Grant Hiteshew (Grant), William Sheridan Hiteshew (Sherd), Joe Hiteshew, "Jake" Hiteshew, Emma Hiteshew and Annie or Anna Hiteshew.

Jacob homesteaded a place approximately three or four miles from Keeline and his son William Sheridan "Sherd" Hiteshew homesteaded a place closer to Keeline, which is where the headwaters of the Lance Creek begins. When Jacob Hiteshew homesteaded the ranch, his boys were all single, except George, and he and Mattie homesteaded the original ranch which has stayed in the family through the years. It is now part of the lands owned by George's grandson, Art Joss.

Janette Martindale Chambers

## Hiteshew, Jacob and Catherine

(This author is using the original spelling of the Hiteshew name. Exactly when the use of the e in Hiteshew was dropped and spelled HitsheW, it is unknown. However, the use of the e was still intact when Charles Fielding



Early drilling rig.



## Hitshe, Charles & Lillian Family

Charles F. Hitshe was born in Wyoming Territory December 13, 1881 at Buford Station west of Cheyenne to George and Mattie Hitshe, ranchers. In 1886, the family moved from Buford by team and wagon to a ranch north of Keeline where George and Mattie lived until they retired to their home in Manville.

Charles married Lillian Howard of Lost Springs in October 1903. She was the daughter of Robert and Prudence Howard who were in the cattle business in the Lost Springs area. Charles and Lillian lived at the Hitshe ranch north of Keeline until 1910, when they homesteaded some three miles northeast of Lost Springs and by planning and hard work increased their holdings. They originally raised sheep but subsequently changed to cattle. In the early spring of 1912 a very severe winter storm killed many sheep in the area and several sheepherders froze to death, including one employed by the Hitshes.

Mr. and Mrs. Hitshe are the parents of four children, Edith (1904), Alice (1905), Charles "Tobie" (1908) and Leonard (1912). When the girls were old enough to go to school the family moved to town and eventually built a home there where they lived until they moved to Douglas in 1940. Charles died in 1968, Lillian in 1971.

Charles Hitshe donated the land and laid out the plot for the town of Lost Springs. At the time there were not enough electors to incorporate so ranchers within a given area were included and the town incorporated in July 1911. The ironic part of this is that when the limits were finally established the Hitshe home was across the street from town.

In the immediate area of Lost Springs there were three homes, all built in the early 1900's, that had hot and cold running water, indoor plumbing including bathrooms and central heating. They were the Charles Bright, Johnny Howard and Charles Hitshe homes. Two

are still there. The Hitshe home was moved to Lusk. To provide hot water, coils were placed in the side of the fire box of the kitchen range for the water to circulate through. Having hot water for the "Saturday night" baths resulted in a very warm kitchen.

For many years Mr. Hitshe carried the rural mail. The early day roads were far different from now, especially in winter months, it often took two days to make the trip to "20-mile" and back. Charles constructed an enclosure on a light wagon, and even installed a small wood burning stove, which made the trek much more comfortable during cold blustery weather.

The first school in the area, a one room building constructed in about 1895 was located about a half mile southwest of Lost Springs on the Bob Howard place. About 1910 another one room school was constructed a short distance west of town. Later the original building was moved to the new school site in the north end of town. When the new building was completed the old one was purchased by the Hitshes, moved to their place across the street and became the combination milk and wash house. Not only did Lillian Hitshe attend school in that building, so did her daughters. The most vivid memories of that old building are the gallons and gallons of milk that went through the hand operated cream separator, and the amount of laundry done each week. One wonders how the present generation would cope with heating the water in a boiler on a wood fired stove, operating the machine and clothes wringers by hand. At that time it was customary to carefully sort the clothes by color and put them through the washer a "load" at a time, boil the whites, then run all through the washer a second time, followed by two rinses and finally hanging on outside lines to dry, even in winter.

With the advent of ice boxes came the need to store ice. Some built ice caves, others above ground storage. In either case ice was harvested during the coldest part of



Roundup on the George Hitshe ranch.





Roundup on the George Hiteshow ranch.

winter and packed in sawdust in the storages. In the Lost Springs area most people obtained the ice from the Platte River which meant leaving home by team and wagon very early, sawing out the blocks of ice, loading them and returning home - a long hard very cold day's work.

Edith Hitsheiw married Roy Condray, formerly of Kansas, in 1922. Except for about four years they lived in the Lost Springs area. Roy drilled water wells in addition to ranching until in the early 1940's when they purchased the Airport Court in Douglas and operated the business until retirement. Roy died in April 1969 and Edith in December 1981. They had four children. Ernest Lee was born in 1925. He married Frances Aldrich of Sheridan, Wyoming and they have two children. "Ernie" was employed in highway construction and water well drilling in Converse County until August 1950 when they moved to Kennewick, Washington where the family now resides. Roberta Condray, born 1929, married Kenneth E. Martin. Roberta lived in the Lost Springs and Douglas areas until about 1974 and now resides in Sundance, Wyoming. They have two children. Robert Condray, born 1935, worked in various jobs in Wyoming until the late 1950s when the family moved to Idaho City, Idaho. He was married to Georgia Lee, and they have seven children. Robert died in 1980. Lenora Condray, born 1937, married Charles McChesney of Douglas. They have four children. Lenora still resides in Douglas.

Alice Hitsheiw moved to Casper in 1923 to complete high school after which she was employed by the Burlington Railroad as secretary. She married Joseph Guy Randolph of Casper. They left Casper in 1941 and worked on various wartime construction projects until 1944 when they were employed by the Hanford Atomic Project in Richland, Washington where they lived until retirement (1962). After living six years in Douglas and six in Arizona, they returned to Richland where Mr. Randolph died in 1976. Alice now lives in Olympia, Washington.

Alice and Joe had two sons. Dr. Philip L. Randolph, a research physicist employed by the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Illinois, was born in Casper, Wyoming (1931). He married Lillian Louise Larson of Spokane, Washington. They have two sons.

Dr. Gerald G. Randolph, a practicing physician in Olympia, Washington, was born in Casper Wyoming (1935). He married Mary Louise Green of Bellevue, Washington and they have three children.

Charles F. "Tobie" Hitsheiw at the age of two and one half, while the family was still living at the homestead, was stricken with spinal meningitis which resulted in a complete loss of hearing. At the age of six he was enrolled in the Nebraska School for the Deaf in Omaha, Nebraska where he completed high school and at the age of 19 married a school mate, Evelyn Fairfield of Valley, Nebraska. They have two children. After graduation Tobie worked for some three years for the School for the Deaf, then returned to Lost Springs, but due to lack of employment in his field-cabinet making and furniture repairing-moved to Casper where he was employed by Cornell's Furniture. When Mr. Cornell sold the business and purchased another in California he arranged for Tobie and family to move there also. Tobie continued to work at the same furniture store until retirement even though the business changed ownership at the time Mr. Cornell was forced to retire due to ill health. They now live in Auburn, California as does their daughter Jean and husband George Shaver who have four children. George is in the carpet laying business. Son, William "Bill", and wife live in Fremont, California. They have three daughters and two sons.

Leonard Hitsheiw married Frances Koseck of Florence, Colorado in 1933. They have three sons, seven grandsons and three great grandsons (note - no girls!). Nothing like perpetuating the Hitsheiw name. Leonard has engaged in various activities, first working in the

strip coal mines north of Lost Springs, then operating heavy equipment for highway construction in Converse and Natrona Counties. He worked out of Cheyenne for five years as heavy equipment repairman for the Worthington Machinery Co. In 1946, Leonard organized the Great Northern Equipment Co. and did seismograph work and drilling for the Standard Oil Co. for eleven years, then drilled water wells throughout Wyoming and Colorado until retirement. The family finally settled in Lander where they presently live. Their three sons and families also live in the Lander area. Melvin operates an automotive repair business in Hudson, Donald is owner-manager of the Sinks Canyon Construction Co. and Claude has a cattle ranch south of Lander.

Mary Alice Hitsheiw Randolph

## Hitsheiw, Oliver and Mary

It is believed that the Hitsheiw heritage began in Holland and then to the U. S. where we will continue from Tipton, Cedar County, Iowa where Jacob and Catherine Hitsheiw lived and several children were born. George Washington Hitsheiw was one of the children and father of Oliver Hitsheiw. (See stories of other Hitsheiw elsewhere in this issue.)

Oliver Hitsheiw was born at the ranch six miles north of Keeline, Converse County, Wyoming on January 13, 1891. He received his elementary education at Manville, Converse County, Wyoming and college at Grand Island, Nebraska. In September 1912 he married Mary Minerva Hatten from Merriman, Cherry County, Nebraska. In 1913, they built a log cabin at the home ranch six miles north of Keeline. The cabin is still standing. There were four children.

When Converse County was divided into Converse and Niobrara Counties this put the Hitsheiw properties into both counties.

Oliver helped his parents to operate the ranch where they raised cattle, sheep, hogs, mules and horses. On one occasion, 700 head of Texas longhorns had just arrived from Texas when a blizzard hit (1912), and afterwards steers were found dead for miles in every direction.

Hogs were also raised. Herds of hogs were driven to Keeline by horseback and shipped to market. On one occasion, July 1923, Oliver and George Hitsheiw shipped 82 head of hogs to Casper. They began trailing the hogs in from the ranch at 7:00 p.m. the night before and arriving in town at 5:00 a.m. without the loss of an animal. One of the jobs of Oliver's children was to keep the hogs out of the cornfields at the ranch.

After the death of his father in 1927, Oliver and his mother continued to operate the ranch. Oliver purchased other lands, some of which were in Converse County in and near Lost Springs.

In past years, friends and neighbors would gather for Fourth of July picnics at the ranch north of Keeline. Also, the Hitsheiw raised large gardens and would give produce to friends and neighbors. Many came to pick chokecherries along the creek.

Some of the employees of the Hitsheiw ranch in past years were: Lewis Lee (1912); Frank Mahnke (1912); "Shorty" Shaw; Clint Dern (1922); Walter Scott; Floyd

Wilkinson "Alkali Pete" (1923); Kenneth Rood (1924); Oscar Rood (1924); William "Bill" Sothman (1925); Lyle Fullerton (1925); Lyle Bacon (1925); J. C. Hout (1925); Donald McDonald (1925); Matt Rogina (1925); Don Hull (1925); Fred Runser (1926); George Fenton (1926); Tom Lee (1926); Homer Hughes (1926); Otis Hughes (1926); LeGrande Lee "Dick" Lee; W. Knittle (1926); O. C. Jones (1923); Bud Kidder (1927); W. Hatfield (1923); C. W. Baughn (1923); Carl Hahn (1923); Roy Condray (1923); Gus Dietchler; R. T. "Curly" Thorton; Lee Swickhamer; William "Bill" Nuttall; Sherman, Kenneth and George Wright; Kenneth Martin; Dale McGuire; Arkansas Jack (1923); Blister (1923); Sideburns (1923); George Syvester; Roy Waggoner; Howard Pebbles; Ed Wilson (1923); Carl Severson; Frank Boardman; \_\_\_\_\_ White; \_\_\_\_\_ Sheperd (1925); A. I. Martin (1921-1923); \_\_\_\_\_ Irvine (1922); George Grant (1922); Buck \_\_\_\_\_ (1922); \_\_\_\_\_ Garhart (1922); Ole Man "Hump" Tipton and son (1924); Harley Wolfe (1922). Many cowboys went by nicknames but they didn't hold true from one area to another. Oliver had the custom of nicknaming the men or nicknames were attached by other hands. Two of the hired girls were: Dorothy "Euche" Baker and Lolo Ruhl Bartos. Many of the employees were residents of Converse and Niobrara Counties.

In 1942-1945 Oliver and Mary moved to California and were employed in the Defense Program. Oliver was employed as a Machinist at the U.S. Navy Supply Depot of Oakland, California and the U.S. Navy Yard at Mare Island, California. Mary was employed as a welder in Shipyard No. 2 at the Permanente Metal Corporation of Richmond, California. The shipyard built Liberty Ships during the war. Oliver and Mary returned from California in 1943 and held a public sale, and then returned to California and resumed their jobs there. They continued to lease the ranches until Oliver's death in 1945. Most of the lands owned by the pioneer Hitsheiw families are still owned and operated by Hitsheiw relatives.

Oliver and Mary were the parents of four children: Ruth Hitsheiw (1914); Harold "Dub" (1917); Wilma Irene (1922); William Oliver "Bump" (1927). Oliver died in 1945 and Mary in 1977.

Ruth Hitsheiw attended school at the Chalk Butte and Manville schools. She married Dale McGuire of Keeline in 1935. They were the parents of two children; James Dale (1935, dec.), who married Betty Joyce Sissel of Torrington and have three children; Leona Margaret (1936), married Alvert Eugene Kirby of Ventura, California and they have three children. Ruth died in 1937.

Harold "Dub" Hitsheiw was born at the ranch home and attended the Chalk Butte and Manville schools. He married Bernice Martin of Harrison, Nebraska in 1939 and they are the parents of ten children; Norman Harold (1940) dec.; Dwane Fullen (1942); Karen Elaine (1943); Karmen Kay (1944) dec.; Kenneth Eugene (1945); Dianne Lynn (1949); Harold Dean (1953) at Douglas; Donna Jean and Debra Joan, twins, (1954) at Douglas; David Allen (1955) at Douglas.

Harold lived in Converse County for several years at Lost Springs and Douglas. Harold "Dub" was sort of a Jack-of-all-trades, working in construction, ranching,

water well drilling, as an oil well driller, roughneck, did landscaping, etc.

Wilma Irene Hitshew was born in 1922 at the ranch. Raised at the ranch and attended elementary school at the Chalk Butte, Keeline, and Manville schools. Graduated from Manville and attended Colorado Women's College in Denver. Taught school at the Eddy and Keeline schools in Niobrara County. Also a 4-H Leader, Director, and voted 4-H Outstanding Woman Leader of Niobrara County in 1967. Wilma married Kenneth Eugene Wright in 1940, and they have one son, Nyle Keith, born at Douglas (1949). Nyle is presently employed by Mountain Bell and living at Worland, Wyoming. He is married to Kerry Lou Lungren of Worland. They have four children.

William Oliver Hitshew was born at the ranch in 1927, the youngest child of Oliver and Mary Hatten Hitshew. At an early age, his father nicknamed him "Bump", a name he is still known by. He lived on the ranch north of Keeline, Wyoming and attended grade school in Keeline and high school in Manville until joining his parents in California in 1942. There he attended Machinist School at Mare Island Shipyard at Vallejo, California. Returning to Wyoming in 1943, he worked on various ranches until being drafted into the military service in August 1945. He was in the Military Police in Germany for 18 months and was discharged in 1947.

Bill and Maybel Thomson were married April 1948 at Douglas, Wyoming. Maybel was the daughter of Rod "Zip" Thomson, who was the first white baby born in Chadron, Nebraska in 1885, and Catherine Gentry Thomson who was born in Auburn, Nebraska in 1910. Maybel lived on the family ranch on Big Lightning in Niobrara County.

Bill and Maybel were the parents of three children: Linda Denise, born 1952 at Douglas; Kirby Oliver born 1954 at Douglas (deceased); and Tracie Catherine born 1962 at Lander, Wyoming (deceased). Linda married Gerald Aldrich and is presently living in Alameda, California. She has two children, David and Dustin.

Bill was engaged in ranching at the home ranch north of Keeline from 1948-1950, moving then to the Thomson Ranch until 1954. Moved to Douglas and operated the Texaco Station on Richards Street for a time. In 1959 the family moved to Crowheart in Fremont County and ranched there until 1966 when he then worked in the oil field and timber for about two years, before getting into highway construction, his present occupation. The family has lived in Riverton since 1966.

In the 1930's Oliver had a patented invention for highway bridge and vehicle reflectors, or markers. Mary also had two patented inventions.

Oliver was a Niobrara County Commissioner in 1933 and 1934. He was elected for a two year term.

Wilma Wright

## Hitshew, Wm. Sheridan "Sherd" and Catherine Family

Catherine "Katie" Hitshew was born in Germany March 16, 1877 to Claus and Margaret Sothman. She died July 21, 1959 in Lusk, Wyoming.

William Sheridan "Sherd" Hitshew, the son of Jacob Hitshew was born October 6, 1864 at Tipton, Iowa. He died September 26, 1949 at Lusk, Wyoming.

Sherd Hitshew left home at the age of 16. He was then living in Tennessee with his parents. He rode the Union Pacific train to the end of its run - Cheyenne, Wyoming. From there he walked with Bill Dayton and Col. Flemming to what is now known as Virginia Dale, Colorado. His brother George Hitshew and family lived there. Sherd helped his brother farm. They raised potatoes which they took to Laramie City to sell. They also took wild meat there to sell.

Sherd's next move was to Buffalo, Wyoming. There he set up a blacksmith shop near the little stream that flows through Buffalo. May 11, 1886 Sherd again joined his brother George who had moved to a location six miles north of Keeline, Wyoming, on Lance Creek.

July 5, 1894 Sherd and a neighbor girl, Katie Sothman, rode horseback into Manville, Wyoming and were married by H.L. Higby. They returned to the home ranch of Jacob Hitshew, four miles north of Keeline, Wyoming. In a few years they purchased the ranch from his father. I believe in 1899.

Sherd was in the sheep business with John Mills for a time, later he sold out and went into the cattle business for himself.

When Sherd moved his family to Manville, so Ida and Stella could enter school, he also built a blacksmith shop. As a hobby he enjoyed doing silver enlay using silver coins. He made and enlaid many silver bits and spurs. He was often called upon to survey land.

In 1910 the Sherd Hitshew family moved to Lusk, Wyoming. A two story house was purchased not far from a new school building that had just been completed to accommodate grades one through 12. Sherd set up a blacksmith shop in Lusk and worked in it during his spare time. The ranch was leased to Knute Dupes as Sherd was appointed marshal of Lusk. When electricity was put in Lusk, Sherd not only acted as marshal but took care of the light plant. He made many trips to and from the plant each day.

Later Sherd and his brother Grant purchased a small brick garage from John Wesley Wolff. They operated the garage and repair shop until Grant decided he wanted to move to Tennessee. So the property was leased.

Sherd and Katie had five children: four daughters and one son.

Ida Catherine Hitshew was born on the ranch, four miles north of Keeline, Converse County, Wyoming, December 26, 1895. She lived there with her parents until she was ready to enter the third grade of school. Up to that time her mother taught her.

A four room log house was built in Manville, Wyoming in order that Ida and Stella could go to school there and associate with other children. The house was not far from the school house. It was a good warm and well built house being of log, then lathed, plastered and wall papered, later the logs were covered with siding and painted white. They lived in this house during the school months and moved back to the ranch each spring.

In 1910 the Sherd Hitshew family purchased a house in Lusk, Wyoming and moved there so the children could further their education. All five of Sherd's children

graduated from the Lusk High School and all five attended the University of Wyoming.

Ida played both the piano and violin. She played marches for the school children to march into and out of the school building.

During the summer months she clerked in the H.C. Snyder Mercantile Store. In the winter months she attended the University of Wyoming. She taught one year at the Lohrer School north of Lusk and one year at Keeline. When she taught at Keeline she lived with her father on the ranch and rode horseback the four miles twice a day. She gave up her school at Keeline to marry.

March 12, 1917 Ida and Oscar Vernon Siegle were married in the Hitsheew home in Lusk. Elva, her sister, played the wedding march and Rev. O. E. Blenkarn performed the wedding ceremony. After a delicious dinner served by Ida's mother the couple left by train for a honeymoon in Salt Lake City and on to Nevada where they made their home. Oscar drove pieces of heavy equipment at the copper mines in the Ely vicinity and Ida taught school. They built a lovely home in Ely, Nevada and lived in it until the passing of Oscar in 1968 and Ida's passing in 1982. Ida was very active in civic affairs and was a 50 year member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. The Siegles had no children.

Stella Margaret Hitsheew was born at the ranch, four miles north of Keeline, Converse County, Wyoming, September 16, 1899. She started to school in Manville, Wyoming and graduated from the Lusk High School in 1914.

In high school she was introduced to both shorthand and typing. These subjects seemed to be her favorites as she was excellent in both. D. E. Goddard, Land Commissioner, often called her from school to help him in his office. Stella attended the University of Wyoming. She worked for County Superintendent of Schools, Amy E. Christian and was later appointed Deputy County Clerk by E. M. Phillips. In 1923 she resigned to marry a young attorney, Harold Irving Bacheller.

Stella and Harold had two children; Jean Elizabeth, born in Lusk and Harold Irving, born in Casper.

Jean married a Casper boy, William "Bill" Desch in Casper. They had two children, Ann and David. After a divorce, Jean married J. E. "Pat" Mitchell and have made their home in Hayward, California.

Harold Irving married a Pinedale girl whom he met while attending law school at the University of Wyoming. Her name, Bertie Luman whose parents have a cattle ranch out of Pinedale, Wyoming.

Bertie and Irving "Bud" Bacheller have four children: Buddy, Chuck, Susan and Linda.

Stella and Harold moved to Casper in 1925 or 1926 where Harold opened a law office. Later they moved to Cheyenne as Harold was appointed Deputy Attorney General with Mr. Kerr. When his term there expired he again returned to Casper to practice law. He passed away in Casper in 1965 or 1966, and was buried in the cemetery in Lusk.

Elva Anita Hitsheew was born at the ranch, four miles north of Keeline, Converse County, Wyoming, October 6, 1902. She attended school in Manville and graduated from the Lusk High School in 1914 at the age of 16. Her parents thought her too young to go to the University of

Wyoming so she took a post graduate course in the Lusk High School. She, like her sister Stella, was very good at typing and shorthand and was often called out of school to do secretarial work for attorneys and oil men who were in Lusk during the oil boom. One summer she worked for Attorney John F. Harkin.

At the age of 17 she entered the University of Wyoming. She did part time work for A. E. Bowman, Director of Extension. Later she accepted a position as his secretary. She was with Mr. Bowman until she married a native boy of Laramie, Jerry T. Costin, August 26, 1924. The following year they moved to California where Jerry was Supervisor of Purity Grocery Stores. Upon retirement they moved to Sun City, Arizona. They had no children.

Juliana Hitsheew was born in Manville, Converse County, Wyoming, February 6, 1906. The family moved to Lusk in 1910 so she attended all twelve grades in the Lusk Schools, graduating in the class of 1923. She attended the University of Wyoming where she received her degree in the Department of Education. Her first school was in the Node Consolidated School - the first five grades. This school started in the spring and dismissed in December for three months. The weather was too severe and the roads too bad to bus the children to school during the winter months.

Juliana did not complete her second year at the Node School. She accepted a position in the Douglas School system - a fifth grade in the Old North Grade School Building. Her mother had gone to school in this building when her parents lived at Keeline.

Juliana taught two years in Douglas and then accepted a position in Thermopolis one year. The following two years she taught the fifth grade in the Lusk School System.

June 6, 1931, Juliana and Veldon Harold Saul were married in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Veldon, known by his many friends as "Pep", was engaged in the jewelry and hardware business with his father Willard A. Saul. Within a few years Veldon purchased the store from his father.

Veldon was a watch maker, repaired jewelry, as well as being a locksmith. He had many hobbies but his first love was for his gun collection which was started by his father and handed down to Veldon. The outstanding gun collection hung in his store many years for all to see and enjoy. The collection consisted of rifles, shot guns, pistols and some Indian artifacts. Veldon won many prizes when shown at various gun shows.

Veldon passed away of a heart attack November 2, 1967. The store closed its doors the following year.

Veldon and Juliana had one son born February 2, 1938 - Richard Harold Saul. He attended all twelve grades in Douglas, graduating from the Douglas High School and from the University of Wyoming with a Masters Degree in the field of science. Richard married Marselle Werre of Sundance, Wyoming. They have two children - Boyd Calvin and David Veldon. Their home is on a small acreage two miles south of Lingle, Wyoming. Richard is one of the bird biologists for the State of Wyoming.

John Wesley Hitsheew was born in Lusk, Niobrara County, Wyoming, July 1, 1912. He attended all twelve grades in the Lusk schools, graduating from the Lusk High School and attended the University of Wyoming. He

taught school north of Lusk one year and one school term at a school north of Lost Springs, Wyoming. He was a hotel clerk in a hotel in Thermopolis where he met Lily Santavicca. They were married in Lusk November 2, 1935. They moved to California where he owned and operated a shoe store known as "The Hiteshew Bootery" in Antioch, California. After selling the store he was a mail carrier for the U.S. Post Office of Walnut Creek, California for ten years. He retired in 1973.

John Wesley served in both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy during World War II.

John Wesley passed away at Antioch, California, of a heart attack, January 4, 1982.

John Wesley and Lily had no children.

Juliana Hitshe Saul

## Hoffman, Harry and Etta

Born in Nuckolls County, Nebraska on November 14, 1893 to Fred and Millie Templin Hoffman, Harry came to Converse County to homestead north of Flattop in 1917. His sister, Lillian, along with her husband, Walter Dickau, homesteaded close by to the north.

After serving in World War I he returned to the homestead. On October 16, 1919 he married Etta Reed, daughter of neighbor Jacob and Nancy Reed. A 12' x 14' homestead shack was their home when they were first married.

During the early years of their marriage a chicken house was built that housed 1000 chickens. A cistern was built using run-off water of the barn to furnish water for the birds. Some of the fowl were slaughtered and sold to restaurants in Douglas, including the LaBonte Hotel. Etta tells about the time when the young chicks contracted a disease. "Dulla Herrick and I worked very hard trying to save them but most of them died. We were very disheartened."

Shirley and Alyce Rankin bought the Hoffman Ranch in 1946. Harry and Etta moved to Douglas. Harry did custom combining for a few years following the wheat crop from Kansas to Montana. He then operated the Texaco service station by the State Fairgrounds.

Harry passed away December 3, 1971.

John Pexton

as told by Etta Reed Hoffman

## Hofmann, C. H. and Effie

C. H. Hofmann came to Wyoming in 1901, to supervise the undertaking department of the F. O. Warren Mercantile Company of Cheyenne.

He was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, on February 6, 1879, the son of William P. and Sophia (Runner) Hofmann. His father was one of the early pioneers of Wyoming, when he homesteaded on land in Thermopolis, Wyoming. William Hofmann later returned to Indiana where he spent his remaining years.

Chris Hofmann attended school in Goshen, Indiana,

and Chicago, Illinois, graduating from Chicago's United States School of Embalming in 1900.

On May 14, 1902, he married Effie Alice Hubbard, the daughter of Joseph Hubbard. She was born in North Judson, Indiana in 1880.

In 1905, Chris and Effie Hofmann and Effie's father, Joseph Hubbard, traveled from Cheyenne to Douglas in a covered wagon. The Hofmanns stopped in front of the Gus Johnson home to water their team of horses; and quoting Esther Bruegeman, from Peg Layton Leonard's book, *West of Yesteryear*, "their acquaintance began at my dad's horse tank! Dad was impressed to discover that the Hofmanns had come to Wyoming in a covered wagon!" said Mrs. Bruegeman. "My folks invited them for supper and to spend the night - and, through their hospitality, the Hofmanns decided to make Douglas their home."

Hofmann started an upholstery business, as well as selling new and used furniture. Being an enterprising young man, he bought the undertaking business from Al Heaton in 1906 and expanded his business and building continuously.

A farm was owned by C. H., south of Douglas by the Platte River bridge.

C. H. Hofmann was the Converse County Coroner for many years and is remembered as one of the most progressive merchants of early Douglas. He died on November 30, 1947. Effie died on March 18, 1930.

Ruth Grant

## Hoge, August Charles and Ida

August Charles Hoge was born in the province of East Prussia on July 13, 1848 and came to the United States in about 1860. He was married in the early 1880's and they were the parents of four children, Albert Lee, (who homesteaded north of Shawnee, Wyoming), Adaline, Frank and Burley M. At one time August worked in a brewery at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, later coming to McCook, Nebraska where he took a homestead and farmed. Here his wife died and is buried. He sold the farm and came to Encampment, Wyoming and worked in the smelter at the copper mines. Here he met Ida Isabelle Snook Combs whose first husband, Ross Combs, had suffocated from an accident and fire at the mine. Ida was born at Haviland, Kansas on July 20, 1877 and was a cook at the mine camp when they met. She had a son Ernest R. Combs.

Ida and August were married in 1904 at Encampment and soon afterwards came to Ft. Laramie, Wyoming where August worked on the construction of the Ft. Laramie Canal driving horses on a wheeler (wheel slip). Their daughter Frances was born at Ft. Laramie on February 4, 1906. From Ft. Laramie they moved to the Rainsford Ranch south of Chugwater where their son Walter Edwin was born on April 13, 1907. It was on the Rainsford Ranch where Ida's son Ernest was bitten by a rattlesnake and died. He is buried at Wheatland, Wyoming.

Moving from the Rainsford Ranch, August then cut ties at Sawmill Canyon and from there moved to Lost Springs, Wyoming and August ran the pump station





Ida and August Hoge

which was located about 1/2 mile west of town, the water being used at the Rosin Mine. The mine had a big steam power plant that generated electricity to operate the mine. They had electric cutting machines for cutting the coal, also electric drills and electric motors to pull the cars from the mine and onto the tippie where the coal was dumped into waiting railroad cars.

Walter remembers standing by the house at the Lost Springs pump station and watching the C & NW rotary snow plow remove snow from the cuts along the track the winter of 1912. In the spring of 1912 the Hoges moved out to the Rosin Mine where August was caretaker when the mine was shut down. The mine started up again in about 1914 but the coal wasn't too good a grade so the mine was discontinued again about 1915. This was when August took a 160 acre homestead 7 1/2 miles north of Lost Springs. August had relinquished his homestead at McCook, Nebraska so was entitled to take 160 acres here plus an additional 320 acres had he wanted it. They built a log house of two rooms on the homestead and later added another two rooms in about 1916, living here until about 1933 when they moved to the Walter Case place about one-half mile north of Lost Springs.

Frances and Walter attended school at the Sunset Mine school which was about one mile north of the Rosin Mine, for two or three years. Their first teacher for two terms was a Mrs. Edith Stark. Their second teacher was Miss Lillian Meinzer for one term. They went two terms to Mrs. Anna Buffington at the school which was about one mile south of their homestead, then one more term at the Spellman school with Miss Lillian Meinzer again their teacher. Frances attended high school in Lusk for several years and boarded at the George Parks home. She then attended her senior year at Lost Springs where she boarded with the William Davies family. She graduated from the Lost Springs High School with the first graduating class from there in 1927. Other graduating classmates were Mildred Bowell, Wayne McGrew, Herbert Rogers and Wilbur F. Wright.

Walter didn't attend school after going through the eighth grade at the Spellman School. From here Walter worked away from home at ranches in and around the Lost Springs area.

Frances taught school at the Jim Stewart school south of Lost Springs. Later that year she met and married Albert Hahn (1928) and they made their home at Mesa, Colorado. Albert and Frances were the parents of two children, Charles and Ida May. Frances and children visited her parents often at Lost Springs. Frances suffered a malignant brain tumor and died in 1966. She is buried at Grand Junction, Colorado.

After living on the Walter Case place for a time, August and Ida moved into Lost Springs and made their home there for many years; they were fondly called Dad and Grandma Hoge by all the children of the community. August lost his eyesight when about 95 years of age and Ida lovingly took care of him until his death May 19, 1948 at the age of almost 100 years. He is buried at Douglas, Wyoming. Ida continued making her home in the Lost Springs area until 1960 when she went to live at the nursing home in Douglas where she died January 16, 1961. She too, is buried at Douglas.

On March 21, 1942 Walter was inducted into the Army at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas and was sent to California for basic training at various camps, then at the Blackstone Air Base in Virginia and at Camp Stewart in Georgia. From there he was sent to New York and on to England and France with the invasion forces, where he served during World War II, returning home in January of 1946 and going back to work at the Otto Bible ranch at Lost Springs.

On June 13, 1955 Walter was married to Bertha L. Wampler at Rapid City, South Dakota. They took a trip through Yellowstone Park and returned to the Otto Bible ranch to make their first home together. Bertha is the daughter of the late Earl and Hattie Freeman, 1914 homesteaders in the Hat Creek area of Niobrara County, Wyoming. Mr. Bible sold the ranch at Lost Springs and bought another in Nebraska where Walter continued to work for him until that ranch sold and Walter and Bertha again made their home in Wyoming on the Groves ranch between Lost Springs and Keeline. From here Walter and Bertha moved to Torrington, Wyoming where Walter worked for a machinery company at Henry, Nebraska and later for the John Deere Farm Equipment Co. at Torrington until he retired. Walter and Bertha still make their home in Torrington where Walter and Bertha keep busy around their small acreage, helping neighbors and working for their church.

Walter E. Hoge

## Holloway, Francis and Lillie

Lillie Fields was born in Beattyville, Kentucky. She married Francis Holloway of Kansas and they moved with their three young daughters to Douglas, Wyoming in the early 1900's. They worked on the Harry Isaac ranch and lived in one of their ranch homes. They also worked for the Soden Ranch and there the fourth daughter, Ruth, was born in 1918.

Mr. Holloway caught the dreaded flu that hit during World War I and died on March 1, 1919 from complica-



Francis Holloway

tions. His remains were sent to Hoisington, Kansas for burial. Lillie was left with four young girls. She moved to the south end of Douglas and took in washings, house cleaning, ironings, etc. It was during this time she married Hank Gwartney. After adding four more children to their marriage, several years passed and Hank got pneumonia and died on November 1, 1930. Again Lillie worked for various households in the community. She met and married Glenn Graves. They loaded a wagon filled with the essentials to make it through the weekend at the homestead and headed out with the team and wagon. Before returning to town for the rest of the belongings, Lillie's home burned to the ground. Everything was destroyed - except the outhouse, so that was loaded on the wagon and taken to the farm.

Sylvia, the oldest of the Holloway girls, went to work for Doctor Hylton at his office and for Mrs. Hylton in the home.

Janettia, the second girl, went through the Douglas schools and met and married Lester Montgomery. He and his family were western musicians around the area. After the birth of LeRoy and a daughter that died at birth, they divorced and Janettia went to Casper to take normal training for teaching. She taught school at Kaycee, Wyoming. She met Herman O'Connor who worked for the ranches there and was also a bronc buster. They married and moved west to Washington State.

Mildred, the third of Lillie's daughters, went through Douglas schools. She was active in the Free Methodist Church with Anna Marsh. She worked for Mrs. Marsh's boarding house in Douglas. Later Mildred also went west and now lives in Washington State.

Ruth was the youngest of the Holloway girls. She was born out on the Soden's ranch near LaPrele Creek. In her teen years she spent some time with an aunt in Cody, Wyoming and returned to Douglas to marry Russell Ashmead, son of Jim and Clara Hull Ashmead.

Jim and Clara Ashmead brought their children Howard and Madeleine to Converse County early in the twentieth century from Iowa. In 1909 they decided to go back to Iowa. Having little money or transportation they made a boat, put it into the Platte River and headed east.

In 1917, after another son, Russell, was born, Jim and Clara Ashmead returned to the Douglas area to home-

stead on upper LaBonte Creek.

After Ruth Holloway and Russell Ashmead were married, Russell worked for the Cross family ranch on Cold Springs Road, drove a truck for Doc Hylton, worked in the oil fields, at the O. P. Skaggs Store and the Northwestern Railroad. He was also with the cavalry in Douglas. Lou Miller, Floyd Hogmire, Roy Bunning and Marty Price were his buddies.

Two sons were born to Russ and Ruth, Kenneth was born on the McCombs ranch north of Douglas and Russell Jr. was born at one of Doc Hylton's rentals on Sixth Street in Douglas.

Russell now lives in Folsom, California and Ruth lives in Oak Harbor, Washington.

Several of Lillie Fields' brothers and sisters also settled and homesteaded about the Douglas area. Before Lillie arrived in the area, her sister, Rebecca Cowles, and husband, Art, came to homestead. They rented a car on a freight train and loaded it with used lumber, hay, hundreds of Osage posts, a couple of horses, some chickens and a cart that Art had used in Nebraska to deliver mail on his route there. The car was side-tracked at Orpha, Wyoming, the closest place to the homestead claim near the LaBonte Creek. Art worked for ranchers in the area and in the Big Muddy oil fields. They built a four-room home with a sandstone fireplace.

Hiram Fields, a brother of Rebecca also homesteaded the area nearby. He built a nice two-story home on his land. Shortly after World War I broke out Hiram went into the service. He was wounded in the war and after his return was unable to homestead and lost his claim.

Brothers Harrison and George also worked in the area.

The Buchanan family had adopted Jesse Fields and they staked a claim. As years passed they moved out of the area and to other states.

Clara Gwartney Wirtz

## Hornbeck, Carl and Edna Family

The family name was Hornback. Six brothers were divided in the Civil War, and three changed the name to Hornbeck. John Franklin Hornbeck married Mollie Elizabeth Bradshaw of Kentucky; they lived near Decatur, Illinois where Carl William was born in 1884. They also had a daughter Olive and a son Cecil. The family moved to a farm near Holdrege, Nebraska.

William Fuqua and Emma Prather Fuqua, both of Missouri, moved to a farm near Lamar, Nebraska where Edna was born in a sod hut in 1891.

Carl Hornbeck and Edna Fuqua were married in 1908 at Holdrege, Nebraska. They moved to a farm near Trenton, Nebraska where I, Beryl Louise, was born in 1909. They then moved to a farm near Holdrege, where Edna Pearl was born in 1912 and Clark Woodrow was born in 1914. In 1920, Dad and several men from Holdrege decided to go to South Dakota for a land drawing, but none of them were lucky. Then Dad, Mom, and her brother Harry Fuqua came to Converse County checking out homesteads. In 1921, the folks and we kids came to live on a homestead 30 miles north of Douglas on the Ross Road.



Edna Hornbeck

As there was no school, we went to Lyman, Nebraska for the winter where Dad found work. He returned during the May 10-12, 1922 blizzard. We camped in a tent where Michael Manor now stands.

Our first house was a one-room dugout, later another room was added. Mother would dig the eyes out of the potatoes; and each day she would spade a hill of ground to plant them. We had potatoes to last all winter. It rained almost every afternoon that year.

Again there was no school, so we moved into Orpha where classes were held in a small house. About Thanksgiving, a new one-room school was finished and I graduated from eighth grade. That building later burned and a two-room school was built in the same place.

On the homestead in the spring, we were busy with gardening; baby chicks; walking the hills; carrying



1925 L. to R.: Ida Lane, Pearl Hornbeck, Beryl Hornbeck and Frances Loyde serving at a football game.

water one-fourth mile from a spring; joining 4-H; and walking ten miles one way to the Hyland-Vollman School for meetings. There was now a school between the Lon Waltons and the folks, called Sage Creek School, which Pearl and Clark attended.

In 1923 Pearl and I were Converse County 4-H Champions with our mother being the leader. We stayed at the 4-H Club Camp on the state fairgrounds in tents. In 1924 I was club champion in sewing, going to the 4-H annual Round-Up at Laramie, along with Curtis Cody, Louie Meinzer and Elward Jagers. Art Hyde, the County Agent took us up through LaBonte Canyon, having a picnic lunch and let us try fishing, coming back home the same way. We had a full week of meetings and fun. Then I won the trip to Chicago given by the Northwestern Railroad and Converse County Girls 4-H, along with Fritz Nielsen winner of the boys 4-H. We left by train on November 27, 1925. It was a wonderful and interesting trip, also a full and busy week.

Pearl and I came to Douglas and worked for our board and room in order to go to high school.

The Ross Road cut the homestead in half, so Dad turned back the east half for another half section to the north, making it one half mile wide and two miles long. In 1924 he put another house, one mile north, at the cross roads of Ross, Badger Coal Mine, and Hyland on Blizzard Heights Divide. One survey map marked it "Hornbeck Flats."

Our sister, Ruby Rosalie, was born in 1926 at Glenrock. Dad worked at the Tank Farm at Glenrock. In 1928 the folks moved to Sand Creek near Orin. Rosalie and Clark attended school in Douglas. Clark finished high school and joined the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933. Dad became a foreman for the C.C.C. and was sent to Moran and Dubois in the summers and returned to Douglas. Then, in 1935, decided to stay and lived in Shoshoni, Wyoming where in a few years Dad was appointed Postmaster, with mother as Assistant Postmaster for ten years. Then they retired and moved to Riverton. Mother died in 1967 and Dad in 1977.

Pearl taught school in 1929-1930 west of the Bear Creek Store and Post Office. There she met Otto Hart and they were married in 1930. Otto came to Converse County when he was 18 years old, working on different ranches; and when he was 21, he filed on a homestead and that was in 1928, near Ross. He lived there until 1932, moving to a farm south of Douglas. Five of their six children were born there: Donna, Frances, Robert, John, and Joan who died in 1936 and was buried in Douglas; and last was Jerry who was born in Riverton. They moved to Shoshoni, Wyoming in 1937.

Clark and his family lived in the Riverton-Lander area and then to Cody where he was working in the tunnel and was killed January 31, 1957. He and Mary Harnden had five children; Beverly, Gerald, Edna Lee, Samuel and Cheryl Diane who died in 1972.

Rosalie moved with the folks to Shoshoni, finishing school there and married Lloyd Clapp, having five children: LeRoy, Judy, Billie, Carla and Lloyd. They all live in the Idaho Falls, Idaho area. She worked several years as a bookkeeper for the Sears store. Then Rosalie married Lynn Field in 1965. Lynn died in 1971.

I married Floyd Turner in 1928.

Beryl L. Turner

## Hornbuckle, Richard Q. "Dick" and Bessie Family

Richard Quay "Dick" Hornbuckle was born on New Years 1893, Callaway County, Missouri; being the great-great-grandson of William L. of North Carolina, of 1748. He moved to Littleton, Colorado with his parents and brother Phil prior to 1900. Phil Hornbuckle, later a tap dancer in Barnum and Bailey Circus, is mentioned in Ralph Moody's book, "Little Britches", setting being Littleton, Colorado in early 1900s. Phil, Dick and Moody, when small children, helped with trail herds, through streets of Littleton.

The death of Dick's mother resulted in his leaving home and going to work at Ray Montague's ranch near Littleton, when about 11 years of age. This young boy, Dick, began breaking horses in Colorado, claiming his ambition was to be a Cowboy in Wyoming. He went to Cheyenne and broke remounts for the U.S. Cavalry, at approximate age of 12 or 13.

When near 15 years of age, Dick, with \$50.00 in his pocket, an old .45 with broken trigger and a saddle; hopped a boxcar to Gillette, Wyoming in 1908. He told of protecting himself on this journey with the old .45.

Upon arriving in Gillette, he took a job freighting for Jake Jenne from Gillette to Sand Creek in northern Converse County. He is believed to have been one of the youngest string team drivers in the west.

Dick then started his cowboy career in earnest. He broke horses and rode with round up wagons for the next decade. Among the many old ranches he worked for in and near Converse County were; Keeline, Reno, Taylor, Knighten, EB, CY, 88, Grieves (Casper), and McGinnis (Lusk).

Dick acquired a reputation as bronc rider not only in Converse County, but all over the West. Dick admitted

being banned from the town of Lusk for six months for riding a bucking bronc through the old refinery there which evidently caused some damage. Dick seemed to have been riding with another cowboy down a street in Torrington when the horse jumped through a plate glass window and fell onto a dance floor occupied by startled dancers.

Dick acquired a famous string of bucking horses while working at the 88 Ranch and would ride and drive the horses from northern Converse County to Cheyenne Frontier Days and other rodeos.

In 1911, 1914, 15, and 16, Dick won the saddle bronc riding championship at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas. He was awarded saddles and spurs which he still retained at the time of his death.

Dick rode broncs and roped steers in many major rodeos throughout the states, and won many championships. He appeared with Wm. F. Cody's (Buffalo Bill) Wild West Show and with Teddy Roosevelt in what is now Madison Square Garden in New York City. Going into the finals in the New York show as high point rider, Dick broke his leg while climbing aboard the bronc in the chute. He had never ridden out of a chute before his New York appearance. Even so, he almost completed the ride, and was so popular with the crowd, that a considerable sum of money was taken up by his admirers. Perhaps this is where he obtained the title, "The Little Daredevil."

Besides the accident at New York City, Dick had the other leg broken twice with horses falling on him, but I have never heard of him being thrown from a bucking horse.

Mrs. Harve Allen told of transporting Dick to Douglas from the Bear Creek area in back of her buckboard to get his leg set by a doctor.

Dick was also a friend of and appeared on shows with Tim McCoy and Will Rogers and with Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show. It was at one of these shows that he rode a bucking horse, equipped with rubber shoes, on the stage of the Denham Theater in Denver.

"Stub" Farlow, an early day bronc rider, and the man purported to be the bronc rider on the Wyoming license plate; was a friend of Dick's. He gave Dick's daughter, Elaine, an old time picture of him riding a bronc. She still has the picture.

Dick was a rodeo director for the "Casper Stampede" in Casper, along with several other towns in Wyoming and adjoining states.

After his retirement from rodeo Dick homesteaded near Sand Creek on what is now known as Hornbuckle Draw. He then joined Billie Marchant on the Curt Sears ranch on Bear Creek; eventually resulted in a partnership with Sears' horse ranch known as the EB Ranch. He later married Curt Sears' daughter Leona. To this union a son was born, Richard Curtis, September 23, 1921 at Douglas, Wyoming. Richard Curtis died in Casper, January 15, 1923 and is interred in the Douglas cemetery.

Curt Sears built a large mansion on Bear Creek with two foot thick walls built of stone shipped from Colorado by rail to Douglas, and then freighted by team and wagon to Bear Creek. Eli Peterson worked on the project. It is rumored that Curt hired "Dutch Henry," local Douglas pugilist, to come to the ranch as a sparring partner but



Dick Hornbuckle



Dutch quit the job in three days. Curt, while recuperating from an appendicitis operation, joined in a horse race with George W. Pike and Billie Marchant on the Bear Creek meadows. Sears' horse stepped in a badger hole and Pike ran over him which resulted in Sears' death.

On January 1, 1927, Dick Hornbuckle was united in marriage to Miss Bessie Turner, a school teacher, in Audubon, Iowa. Since 1919 Bessie had been making annual visits to her brothers' homesteads in the area of the present Hornbuckle ranch.

To this union, three children were born, a son Richard Thomas, while at the stone house on Bear Creek, and twin daughters, Evelyn Ruth and Mary Elaine, after moving to the log cabin on the Cheyenne River, at the present ranch site. This log cabin was built by the Young family, who arrived earlier in a covered wagon. The daughter of the Youngs married Harve Stevens and lived on Sand Creek and their daughter Helen later married Bert Kimball and ranched on Walker Creek.

Dick purchased part of the present ranch site from Youngs and adjoining ranch MSBar from Mrs. Frank Clark, daughter of old Mike Henry. This ranch was originally settled prior to 1883 by an Englishman by the name of Warner and the ranch was referred to as O-O. Warner and Andrews came over together from England prior to 1883 and one settled at the Cheyenne River location and the other at the Duck Creek where Walt and Jeff Reynolds now headquarter. These two ranches along with the Henry 88 Ranch are the only ones shown in the area on the first 1883 survey map. This map also illustrates the wagon trails to the Rock Creek, Fort Custer stage road which followed the old Bozeman Trail.

Malcolm Campbell, famous old time sheriff, tells in his autobiography of Dick, being a very rugged individual himself, spoke of being reprimanded by Malcolm a few times for settling arguments in the old western way; and commented that "One didn't argue with Malcolm".

Dick, with his family continued ranching on the Cheyenne River until the time of his death, January 6, 1959 at the age of 66. He was buried in Douglas Park Cemetery. The many rugged years of living outdoors on the roundups along with the constant pounding of riding a bucking bronc almost every day for a couple decades finally took their toll and he paid the price for realizing his ambition of being a "Cowboy in Wyoming".

Richard Thomas Hornbuckle; great, great, great grandson of William L. Hornbuckle born 1748 in North Carolina and the grandson of Thomas Henry Turner born in Iowa, July 14, 1856, was born in Douglas December 28, 1928, the son of Richard Q. and Bessie Turner Hornbuckle, while his parents still lived at the old Curt Sears Ranch on Bear Creek.

When Richard T. was about a year old the family moved to where Malcolm Campbell had wintered by the old O-O- Bar and eventually to the log cabin at the old Young homestead, where the headquarters still exist on the Cheyenne River. Dick Jr. remembers starting riding at the age of three following his parents and uncle, the late Glen Turner, on wild horse roundups and trail drives, following the Bozeman Trail, to the railroad along the Platte River.

After attending Douglas schools and the University of Wyoming, Dick Jr. returned to ranch with his father on

the Cheyenne River. He became involved in the first uranium boom in Converse County; resulting in the Spook Uranium Mill and a successful ten year mining operation in the 1950's and 1960's known as B and H Mines; with neighbor Roy Baker. Dick Jr. was a pioneer director in the Wyoming Mining Association and later served on the Douglas school board and has been an active crusader to conserve water resources in northern Converse County.

Richard T. Hornbuckle married Rose Taylor in Glenrock in 1949 and to this union three sons were born, Richard Quay, Kirkwood Thomas, and Brent Bary. Dick Jr. and his wife both were pilots, and commuted by air until June 15, 1965 when a tornado destroyed a major portion of the dense growth of trees for a mile along the Cheyenne River and around the ranch headquarters, resulting in disposing of the plane.

Richard T. Hornbuckle married Pearl St. John in Cheyenne May 18, 1968, and they and the three sons and their families carry on the traditions of the family ranching operations along with contracting and other business interests. In 1974 a portion of the late Herman Werner 55 ranch was added to the family operation. A major portion of this had originally been established and operated for years by Carl Judson and his sister Ruth and husband, Les Osburn. Their ranch headquarters was located on Philips Creek named for Portugese Phillips who rode through this area on his ride for help against an Indian attack at Fort Phil Kearney near Story. Also a portion of this 55 ranch had been operated by Wheeler Eskew who had been foreman for one of the coal mines in the early days of Glenrock.

Some of the early 1900s homesteaders whose lands are now included in the Hornbuckle ranch operation were Claude Young, Blink Young, Ray French, Frank Clark, Mike and Dean Harris, Shirley Call, Harvey Benjamin, Clarence Turner, Charles Schmuck, Ada Fleetwood, Elsie Judson, Carl Judson, Fred Stray, Eva Turner, Richard Russell, Charles Secord, and others.

Richard Quay Hornbuckle, third generation Converse County, born October 29, 1950 in Douglas attended Converse County rural schools, NCHS, Casper College, New Mexico State University. Quay married Vicki Lea Forson August 7, 1970, and three children were born; Jackie Michelle, December 1, 1972, Richard Todd, January 8, 1975, both in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Rhonda Danielle was born February 20, 1977 in Casper, Wyoming. Quay worked on ranches near Lusk and Casper before completing his education. Quay worked for Lockheed at White Sands Missile Range and Steers Tank Lines in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and since 1976 has been technical supervisor for Exxon Minerals at their Highland Mine in Converse County. Quay also assists in family ranching operation and participates in local country western bands.

Quay married Jeanie R. Hill, February 12, 1983 at Douglas, Wyoming and they and their children reside at Glenrock, Wyoming.

Kirkwood Thomas Hornbuckle, born August 4, 1953 in Douglas, attended local schools in Converse and Natrona Counties. Kirk worked for various local ranches in Converse County before moving to the family ranch. Janice Kay Garvin, born in Casper May 23, 1958, was



united in marriage with Kirk, August 7, 1976 at Glenrock, Wyoming. A son, Scott Thomas, was born in Douglas January 28, 1979 and a daughter Stacy Colette, February 10, 1982.

They are full time managers at the family ranch on the Cheyenne River, and quite active in rodeo functions, having acquired trophies from this sport, as did Kirk's grandfather. Both Kirk and his wife are members of the Converse County Team Ropers Association.

Brent Bary Hornbuckle was born July 23, 1955 in Douglas and attended school in Converse and Natrona Counties and the university at Laramie. Vicki Ann Lewis, born April 28, 1959 in Eureka, Kansas, was united in marriage with Brent, May 27, 1978 at Glenrock, Wyoming. Two children were born in Douglas, a son, Chadwick Bary, November 20, 1979 and daughter, Chasity Danelle, January 16, 1981.

They reside on the portion of the family ranch near the old Bozeman Trail on Brown Springs which was named for Lt. Brown, killed in an Indian massacre along this creek in 1876. Brent manages Hornbuckle Contracting and also assists in the family ranching. He and his wife also participate in the local roping activities.

Mary Elaine Hornbuckle was born September 19, 1936; twin daughter of Dick Hornbuckle, Sr. Elaine attended Converse County schools, Colorado Women's College in Denver and assisted on the family ranch until her marriage.

When Elaine and her twin sister reached high school age her parents purchased a residence from Mrs. Bill Dorr, the widow of the late Bill Dorr who had a horse ranch near the junction of Antelope Creek and the Cheyenne River in the early 1900s. Dick Sr. purchased the N-A brand from Bill Dorr in 1921 and this brand is still retained in the family operation. The brand now used by Elaine and her family is supposed to have been owned by an old cowboy in eastern Converse County, called Roady Adams, was acquired in 1938. Dick T. Jr. still uses the old original Fitzhugh brand bought from the Fitzhugh Estate in 1938.

Larry Crummer, born July 6, 1934, married Elaine Hornbuckle May 24, 1956 at Douglas, and three children were born, Laurie Laine, Montey Eugene, and Deidre Lyn, all in Douglas, Wyoming.

Elaine, Larry and son, Montey and family operate their ranch near lower LaPrele Creek near Douglas, and also operate a bulk plant and service station in Douglas. Larry has been active in Douglas civic affairs.

Larry, Elaine, Montey and Deidre participate in local western music.

Their ranch was originally homesteaded by the late Judge C.O. Brown, and his brother, Frank, of Douglas, and later purchased by Fred England. Fred disclosed that an unmarked grave exists on the ranch. During the smallpox epidemic in the early 1900s, a lone rider by the name of Smith rode into Douglas with the disease. The town would not allow him to stay so he managed to ride to the area where the grave is now located and the coroner came out from Douglas and buried him where he had fallen in death.

Laurie Laine Crummer, born March 31, 1957, attended schools in Douglas, Chadron State College and the University of Wyoming. Randy Royal married Laurie

at Douglas June 17, 1978 and they reside in Greybull, Wyoming where Randy is a prominent attorney.

Montey Eugene Crummer was born August 9, 1960 at Douglas, attended local schools and worked on local ranches before going into business with his father. Montey married Sharie Lewis in Douglas on May 31, 1980 and they have two daughters, born in Douglas, Callista Lee, January 21, 1982 and Cassie May, December 11, 1983. They reside at the family ranch.

Deidre Lyn Crummer was born in Douglas January 12, 1962. Deidre attended local schools in Douglas; later assisting in the family operation, Deidre is now attending Chadron State College. She married Christopher B. Tedford in August of 1984. They make their home in Casper. Chris Tedford's maternal grandmother was the first white child born at Inez, Wyoming, Converse County. Her name, Inez Veitch, born May 12, 1889. The daughter of Archibald and Agnes Veitch.

Evelyn Ruth Hornbuckle was born September 19, 1936 in Douglas, twin daughter of Dick Hornbuckle Sr. Evelyn was educated at the Converse County schools and Colorado Women's College.

Julius E. Stellmach, born July 29, 1930, married Evelyn September 19, 1955 in Douglas and they have three children, Julie Ann, Randal Kurt, Kirby Michael, born in Minnesota. They have a home in Babbitt, Minnesota and operate a family farm near Foley, Minnesota. Julie Ann Stellmach, born July 25, 1957, married Murray Richard Lubberda at Morrill, Minnesota, October 13, 1979 and they reside at Champlin, Minnesota.

Randal Kurt Stellmach, born October 9, 1958, married Deborah K. Frank at Sauk Rapids, Minnesota on March 4, 1979. They have two children; Kurtis James, born in 1979 and Michael Enoch, born in 1983. Randy is in the service in Korea.

Kirby Michael Stellmach was born February 21, 1964 and assists in the family farm operation at Foley, Minnesota.

It has been noted that each generation of Hornbuckles was mainly involved in farming or ranching, since 1748 in America.

Dick Hornbuckle

## Horr, Charles and Uree Family

A son, Charles, was born to Recellus R. and Alena (Townsend) Horr, May 28, 1864 near Parkersburg, Butler County, Iowa. The paternal grandfather was of old New England heritage. He had moved from Massachusetts to New York where Recellus was born. The maternal grandfather, Nathan Townsend, of English lineage was born in Pennsylvania. The Townsend ancestors migrated from Pennsylvania to Ohio in the early days being among the first to settle in the state.

Charlie was the oldest of five children, there being three brothers: Charlie, Art and Harry and twin sisters, Lena and Irene.

In 1881, after his school life in Iowa ended, Charlie headed west in a covered wagon with the Curtis family for Colorado. He worked a year in ranching on the Cache la Poudre River. Then in March of 1883 he came to

Wyoming and was employed by J. H. Kennedy on the Umbrella Ranch located on the LaPrele Creek. In 1886, while still working for Mr. Kennedy, Charlie purchased the homestead relinquishments of a LaPrele settler named Crazy Horse, which today constitutes the Horr's home ranch. Charlie remained on the Umbrella Ranch from 1883 to 1889. He rode on the roundups from Buffalo, Wyoming to Ogallala, Nebraska. He also trailed beef herds to Cheyenne and Pine Bluffs in the fall where they were loaded on trains and sent to market.

He used to tell of a saying of Mr. Kennedy's that went like this: "Eat dried apples for breakfast, drink water for lunch and let them swell up for supper."

On February 20, 1889 Uree Delphina Adamson became the bride of Charles Horr in Iowa.

Uree was born December 28, 1863 near Iowa Falls, Hardin County, Iowa to Samuel and Lydia Ann (Cobbs) Adamson. Samuel died when Uree was two years old, leaving four small children. Lydia married a second time to John Caldwell.

Uree's parental ancestors came to America with Sir William Penn. Her maternal ancestors were of English descent tracing to the early New England families of Cobb and Hale, also to some of Virginia's "first families."

Approximately two weeks after the wedding the couple returned to Douglas and the next day continued the trip to the ranch on LaPrele Creek.

Charlie and Uree started housekeeping in a one room house, which later was turned into a granary when they built their permanent home. The house has been remodeled several times but the original ranch house built in the early 1900s remains a part of the home that stands today.

Six children were born to this marriage:

Seth A., born January 3, 1891, died at about five months of age and was buried on the ranch.

Bessie Allena was born March 14, 1892 and married Frank Dudley Ferbrache in 1916. They lived on a ranch near her parents. She died on February 14, 1955.

Stewart Cobbs was born August 30, 1894. He never married and lost his life in a hunting accident in 1935.

Ruth Etta, born October 23, 1901, married David Ulysses Roush in 1924. She lived in Grand Island, Nebraska until her death in July 1979.

Ester Louise, born August 5, 1903, married Bill Kirkman in 1934. She is now widowed and lives in Hermosa Beach, California.

Joseph Arthur, born February 18, 1905, married Ruby Chryst in 1936. Both are still living in Converse County, Douglas, Wyoming.

Charlie, looking forward to the children's high school years, built a brick house at 627 South Fifth Street in Douglas which remained the family's town residence from 1919 until after Uree's death in November of 1931. Charley died on November 16, 1950.

Art Horr attended college at the University of Nebraska from 1925 to 1926. During the summer of 1926 he sold books riding a bicycle to farmers and ranchers in eastern Colorado to help pay his way in school. In January of 1927 he and his brother, Stewart, leased the ranch from their father. At this time the operation consisted of 150 head of Hereford cows and 6,000 acres of land with some of the land in hay production. But Art had bigger plans for the ranch and set his goal to someday run 500 head of Hereford cows and have more land to run them on.

In the winter of 1934 and 1935 he and a friend, Stan Lass, had a 150 mile trap line in Converse County.

Art was a member of a band called the "Rhythm



Charles Horr family 1915: l. to r. top row: Ruth, Esther and Arthur. Bottom row: Stewart, Urie, Charles and Bessie.



1937 Art Horr with his catch of five coyotes and one badger

Rompers" playing the accordion. The other members were Stan Lass and Dana Browning. They played at many all night dances for as little as fifty cents a piece.

In 1935 when his brother, Stewart, was killed, Art had to put all of his time into running the ranch.

On May 10, 1936 in Alliance, Nebraska, Miss Ruby Chryst became the bride of Art. Ruby was born May 2, 1914 in Glennwood, Utah to Lee and Dora (Moore) Johnston. She was raised by her aunt and uncle, Percy and Margaret Chryst. There were seven children in her family: Inez, Charlie, Grover, Jimmy, Ruby, Lexie and Hazel.

She had been teaching at the Beaver School now known as the Moss Agate School. She had only dated Art twice when they decided to get married.

Art began expanding his ranch on the LaPrele and from 1937 to 1944 as his cow herd was growing, he decided to look around for more land. His searching took him to Miles City, Montana where he purchased 50,000 acres. In the spring of 1945 he and his family moved to Montana. He ran stock on this ranch as well as the home ranch in Wyoming. Ronald Coe managed the ranch in Wyoming while Art was in Montana. The summer of 1947 they moved back to the home ranch. In 1948 he sold his holdings in Montana and began expanding the home ranch by buying the Doc Hylton place in 1951, some of Roy Combs land in 1955, the Harp land in 1959 and the Rasmussen place in 1960. This made his ranch 30,000 acres where he ran 500 head of cows. His goal had been reached with his wife's help.

Art and Ruby have one daughter, Betty, born December 18, 1936. She became the bride of Donald R.

Sullivan on March 17, 1957. To this marriage one daughter, Tamala "Tami" Jean, was born On May 22, 1958. Don and Betty were later divorced. She now lives in Fort Collins, Colorado and is working in the hospital there as an x-ray technician.

Tami Sullivan became the bride of James B. Nachtman on September 2, 1978. They live 60 miles northeast of Douglas on the family ranch helping his parents. They run a few sheep and cattle of their own. To this marriage one son, John Harvey, was born May 21, 1983.

Art and Ruby had one son, Arthur Charles "Bud", born March 4, 1939.

In the fall of 1969 Art and Ruby moved into town but continued to run the ranch. Art has been an active member of Stock Growers since 1928, serving on the executive board for 30 years. He was active in Farm Bureau, his local school board and he ran for the legislature in the 1950s. He has been on the County Planning Board, City Council and Crime Stoppers Committee.

Bud attended Beaver School and graduated from Douglas High School in 1958. He then went to Casper College. On August 21, 1960 he married Suzanne Johnston, daughter of Harry and Rachel Johnston. They made their home at the Deadwood Ranch working for Art.

In 1973 Bud started leasing parts of the ranch from Art. Bud continued to run the ranch and at one point started raising Simmental cattle and breeding and raising quarter horses. Bud and Suzanne have three children: Lynn Ann, Dean Arthur and Mark Alan.

Bud earned his real estate license in 1978 and worked for Johnston Realty besides running the ranch.

On November 29, 1983 Bud was killed in an airplane accident in Downey Park while checking on the cattle in the mountains.

He served many years helping with the 4-H and FFA. He also served on the Converse County School Board.

Lynn Ann Horr became the bride of Vere Alan Cooper on June 17, 1983. They lived in Buffalo, South Dakota until the death of Lynn's father. Then they moved back to help run the ranch.

To this marriage one son, Joshua, was born October 13, 1984.

Rikki Rae Hamilton married Dean Horr July 7, 1984.

The home ranch is now being run by Suzanne Horr with the help of the fourth generation Dean and Rikki Horr, Vere and Lynn (Horr) Cooper and Mark Horr.

Tami J. Nachtman  
Lynn Cooper

## Horton, David C. "Dave" and Lottie

David C. Horton and Laura "Lottie" Canfield Horton came to Douglas from Ewing, Nebraska around 1906, with their sons, David Vance Horton and Edward Joy Horton, settling on the place about three miles west of Douglas. The large two-story house was located where Myrtle Miles now lives. Grandfather and Grandmother both worked at the Douglas Mercantile. In 1907 Victoria Faye was born.

Dave Horton took a high-spirited team of horses to town against Vance and Lottie's wishes. The team spook-

ed and ran, when frightened, turning the wagon over and killing Dave because he wasn't strong enough to control the team. This happened in late 1915 just west of the old Platte River bridge.

David Vance Horton joined the army from Douglas, Wyoming in 1917. He never got to go overseas because of the flu.

In late 1921 Vance went to Kansas City, Missouri. He worked as a mechanic and a night watchman in a Ford garage.

Georgianna Hiser, daughter of Elias and Mary Pauline Anna K. Hiser of Boxelder, Wyoming, followed Vance to Kansas City where they were married on August 22, 1922.

To this union were born four children while living in Kansas City: Peale Mae, 1923, died 1923 of what we now know as crib death; Edith Victoria, Feb. 2, 1924; Glenn David, Apr. 12, 1926; and Norma Jean, Apr. 16, 1928.

The family moved back to Douglas in March 1932, taking over the Horton home place which had been rented out since about the time Vance went to Kansas City, Missouri.

While on the home place two more children were born: Alva Shirley, Mar. 26, 1935; and Forrest Edward, Jan. 26, 1937.

The place was lost in 1938 due to the depression and resettlement. The family then moved into town where Lucille Irene was born May 14, 1939. Vance was away from home a lot working at anything he could find to do. He ran a Raleigh route for about a year, mined coal at the Taggart Coal Mine out of Glenrock, Wyoming and in 1941 he went to work at Seminole Dam as a power house operator. He later worked at Kortess Dam and Alcova Dam in the same job. He was forced to retire from the Bureau of Reclamation because of his age in late 1964.

He lived in Mills, Wyoming until his death in 1975.

Georgianna died in March 1966.

Alva Horton  
Norma Stewart

## Hoskovec, Stanley J. Sr. and Helen

It is with some difficulty and hesitation that I will attempt to write the events concerning my parents' and family's arrival in Wyoming. Since I was not born until 1927, my sister, Anna Domsalla, helped me considerably in writing this article.

My father, Stanley James Hoskovec, Sr., was a bookkeeper for Cudahy Meat Packing Company in Omaha, Nebraska in the early years of his life. Later he bought into a farm implement business with a partner in Omaha, Nebraska. After several years of association with a partner who was too prone to constantly imbibe in liquor, my father sold his half of the partnership.

With his sister, Emily Smith, and her husband, Stanley S. Smith, a decision was made in the fall of 1917 to come to Wyoming and file on two homesteads. They were initially directed to a parcel of land located about 35 miles northwest of Douglas, and they filed on two sections of land, but bad weather and roads caused them all to go back to Nebraska. In the summer and fall of 1918 they returned to Wyoming and were directed to homesteads

available north of Glenrock, and on this trip they were eligible to apply for three sections as homesteads, as Mr. Smith's widowed mother accompanied them. They cancelled their previous applications and instead took three adjacent sections near the Red Butte — specifically Sections 4 and 9 in T35N R75W and Section 34 T36N R75W.

During the next two years, several trips were made back to Nebraska, shipping back horses, farm machinery and household goods to Glenrock by train. Also during this time three homestead shacks, sheds, fences, corrals, roads and bridges were built, also cellars and a well were dug.

Stanley J. Hoskovec and Helen Pavelka were married in Omaha, Nebraska on January 10, 1917. Helen, my mother, remained in Bladen, Nebraska where son Stanley James Jr. was born on February 17, 1918, and she and young son traveled to Glenrock in late November of 1920. Since it was a very cold winter, a house in Glenrock was rented. It was here that Annastasia was born, later changed to Anna Stazie, on January 7, 1921. Mrs. Hoskovec and children moved to the homestead in June of 1921. Trips to Glenrock were made by wagon and team for all supplies and groceries, but usually Helen and children stayed home. The following children were all delivered by Dr. Leonard Tabor at the ranch near the Red Butte where strip mining for coal by the Dave Johnston Power Plant is now taking place: Emily Helen born on August 10, 1922; James Joseph on March 24, 1927; and William Bernard born on November 19, 1928.

I, James J., was born prematurely and was very small, weighing around four pounds. I caused my parents many anxieties. Several times they rushed me to town thinking I had died, only to be revived. That was not an easy trip over 15 miles of two-rut road in the spring months of 1927, even though my parents owned a Model T Ford by then.

The Smiths moved to Midwest, Wyoming in 1927 or 1928 where Mr. Smith was a baker. "Grandma" Smith returned to Nebraska. My father and mother now had a three-section ranch. As the years passed, my father acquired from other homesteaders who relinquished their homesteads back to the state additional rented land or purchased other homestead land after they were "proved upon", as the homesteaders returned to their native states, primarily Nebraska, deciding Wyoming wasn't really suited to dry land farming as they had anticipated. As the homesteaders left Wyoming, my father purchased their livestock — cattle, sheep, horses, chickens and whatever — a few head at a time. Many times my father said a departing homesteader in a wagon with his family leading a cow or horse would stop by and ask if he could buy their spare animals.

In the mid 1920's, about 1926, my father developed a producing coal mine in Section 16 T36N R75W. He did this to supplement his growing family's income in the winter, by hauling coal to Glenrock and surrounding ranches. Much grief was attached to this mine, as it resulted in jealousy with neighbors who couldn't seem to tolerate his additional income. Although he dug all of the coal by hand and had only one coal car to extract the coal from the mine, he made this mine quite an operation. People with trucks and wagons came from miles around and some of this coal was used in the Wyoming towns of Torrington,

Guernsey, Uva, Orin Junction, Glendo, Glenrock, Douglas, Casper, Wheatland and Lusk, and even into the western Nebraska towns of Scottsbluff, North Platte, Kimball, Bushnell and Gering.

By this time my father had purchased a truck, I believe it was a 1928 model. The Stanley Smith's homestead house was approximately 1/8 mile from my parents' house, and that is where he kept the truck, as a garage was attached to the house. A school teacher, Miss Danis Alsup, lived in this two-room house with attached lean-to garage. Early in the morning hours of a November day in 1928 while still very dark, this house was set afire by an arsonist or arsonists, who wanted to destroy my father's new truck so as to deprive him of his coal income. After the fire was set, a man yelled to the school teacher to get out of the place as it was afire. Terrified, she chose to stay in the house, and the man threw a part of a brick or rock through the window, again ordering her out. At this time, dressed only in a nightgown, she ran out of the burning house to my parents' house, jumping into their bed to awaken them. My father ran up the hill to find the entire premises ablaze. Thinking he could possibly save the truck, he ran into the garage, opened the left truck door, reached into the burning cab and with his hand pushed in the clutch and managed to back the truck manually out of the garage. Just as the truck emerged from the garage it exploded — as the seats had been saturated with gasoline and the gas tank was directly beneath the seats. The truck, the house, and of course, all the teacher's possessions were lost. The banker in Glenrock helped him refinance the purchase of a new truck. The perpetrators of this deed were never caught and prosecuted, even though the teacher recognized one man's voice as that of a neighbor. It was shortly after this that my father's helper at the mine, Roy Carson, was killed by a cave-in.

Another incident I can vividly recall my father telling about occurred in 1933 before the banks were closed by President Roosevelt. My father had a dream that the banks would go broke. He related that dream to my mother and she insisted he go to Glenrock and withdraw their lives' savings of \$2,400, which was a lot of money in those days. Upon her insistence, he went to Glenrock but the banker would not let him withdraw all of his money, just half of it. The next day the banks closed and he lost \$1,200 which he never regained.

The spring of 1933 was terrible with a deep snowstorm which I can recall occurring in April while my folks were in Nebraska seeking medical aid for my sister Emily. Brother Bill, being the youngest, was taken along. The blizzard blew snow into the ranch yard with drifts between 12 and 14 feet high between buildings. I recall seeing our dogs walk up to the top of our two-story barn. Stanley, Anna and I, and our school teacher, Joy Ash, were left to care for the ranch while they were gone. Stanley was only 15 that year but he dug tunnels to the barn, sheds and out-buildings so the cattle could be fed and coal and wood be brought into the house. I remember, as a six-year-old, trying to walk across one of the tunnels he dug after the snow hardened and it collapsed under my weight.

The summer of 1933 was a terribly dry year; although my father was a farmer at heart, all crops fail-

ed. That year all of us went into the fields with our corn knives and cut Russian thistles while they were young, tender and green. We made a huge stack of these thistles, packing them with salt. That winter our cattle survived on thistles.

Shortly after this, my brother, Stanley, convinced my father to go into sheep business. Coal mining and farming were basically dropped, used only to supply family needs, and it seems things went much better.

Stanley Sr. died March 21, 1969, Helen on March 26, 1945.

Yes, our parents were pioneers — striving and praying, working constantly and with much optimism, they succeeded in making the ranch an enjoyable and profitable venture. As all of the pioneers were, my father was a rancher, farmer, blacksmith, carpenter, mechanic, coal miner, shoemaker, toy maker and whatever was necessary; my mother was his helpmate and homemaker.

Our ranch was sold to Pacific Power & Light Company for the stripping of coal, which even today plays a vital role in the life of Converse County and will into the future. I still regret to go there and see how the topography has changed in the course of mining; and though not visible to the naked eye, I can still see our old one-room schoolhouse and the ranch — all pleasant memories of my growing-up years.

James J. Hoskovec

## Housiaux, John and Sylvia Family

Housiauxs brought a proud history to Wyoming when they came in 1869, John, John Jr., Philip and of course, that remarkable woman, Sylvia.

Before his marriage to Sylvia, John entered Wyoming history with his appearance in the U.S. Army at Fort Laramie. Previous sketchy information showed he also served in the Indian territory and in Texas. During the turbulent period of the Civil War, according to army discharge papers, he was a telegrapher and dispatch carrier, often between the War Office and the White House.

John Housiaux's early life, according to sketchy records, was spent in Texas at about the time of admission of Texas to the Union. Sylvia Concepcion Watson was married to John Housiaux January 8, 1850 in Houston, Texas. Sylvia was born December 8, 1836 in Mexico City, Mexico. Within five years of his marriage, John was enlisted with the U.S. Army, probably for protection of the trails from the southwest to California under General Harney. At some time in his military career, he was orderly to General Harney during the Indian campaigns.

The outbreak of the Civil War saw the troops recalled to the eastern U.S. and John became a telegrapher and dispatch bearer for the Lincoln White House and wife Sylvia was head nurse in one of the military hospitals in the capital. At this time, Sylvia performed some nursing capacity in the White House itself, receiving in return, personal gifts from the wife of Abraham Lincoln.

John transferred to the Fifth Cavalry in 1869 and, upon re-enlistment, was sent toward the western Indian





Phil Housiaux

frontier. The family made the journey down the Ohio River in a flatboat, suffering loss of possessions in the overturning of the boat. They completed the journey to Wyoming on the Union Pacific Railroad landing at Camp Carlin and Ft. D.A. Russell near Cheyenne.

In 1871 John left the army to take charge of a stock ranch for Gen. King and other officers near Ft. Sanders. In the great Sioux uprising of 1876 he was a civilian attached to the packtrain of Gen. George Crook.

A son, John, was born at Ft. Kearney, Nebraska on August 24, 1859. Phil was born October 17, 1865, Rose was born May 27, 1867, Frances was born January 2, 1871 in Washington D.C. and Mary Magdalene was born on March 27, 1875 in Cheyenne.

The family spent time in various army posts until the 1880's. In 1885 John filed on a homestead on the upper LaPrele and engaged in stock raising.

Philip worked as a cowboy for several large outfits in the area, among them the Jim Shaw, Douglas-Willian and Guthrie ranches. He was married January 14, 1890 to Mamie O. Dolan. In 1893 they homesteaded on Upper LaPrele where all seven children were born; Mrs. Andrew Johnson, Mrs. Margaret O'Brien Jackson, Philip, Leo and John. Two daughters, Sylvia and Bessie, died in early life. Bessie was married to Bert Jackson and died in 1933.

In 1917 Philip received an appointment as U.S. Marshal on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South

Dakota, remaining there until being transferred to the reservation at Fort Washakie, Wyoming. He was Chief of Police of the Western Navajo Reservation near Tuba City, Arizona from 1924 to 1927. He then returned to Douglas and for the next 15 years he worked for the CY and other ranches in the area.

Philip's wife died in 1941 in South Dakota and Philip died March 25, 1954 in Douglas. His three sons preceded him in death. Death came to John Housiaux Sr. in August 1902 and Sylvia in February 1930.

John Housiaux Jr. married Elzora Phillips in November 1889. Six children were born to them; Victor R., Stanley T., Floyd R. "Jake," John B., Rena and Grace.

John Jr. homesteaded close to his father and brother, Philip, on LaPrele in 1893. By 1915 the homesteads of the family had been sold to the Sullivan family and the remaining Housiaux family members moved to Douglas. John Jr. died in July 1941 after long years of working for the Carmin and Hylton ranches.

Jim Williams

## Howard, Harry

Captain Harry Howard was born February 9, 1844 at Baltimore, Maryland, the son of a wealthy and distinguished old southern family which, prior to the Civil War was one of the large plantation owners of that section.

Coming to Cheyenne, Wyoming in 1867 he worked in a hotel there before coming to Fort Fetterman in 1886. When the new town of Douglas was started Harry was to have the distinction of having the first tent in town.

A metal miner by avocation he located in 1897 at Hazenville, twelve miles southwest of Douglas and in 1899 opened the Oriole Mine near Cold Springs. The Oriole Mine was later sold for \$125,000 to the Miami Copper Company. A fortune was spent in the development of the property. United States Senator Clarence D. Clark was associated with Howard in developing the mine. In 1904 water inundated the mine and it was abandoned. Howard died on August 7, 1930.

John R. Pexton

## Howard, Robert "Bob" and Prudence Family

Robert "Bob" Howard, born in Stanley, England January 8, 1859, and Prudence Fenwick, born in Stanley, April 18, 1859, were married in England in 1879 and immigrated to the United States in 1882. Their first two children were born in England. They settled first in Cable, Illinois then moved to Cimarron, Kansas via wagon and team and lived there five years. In Kansas the family lived in a sod house, and Prudence related many times about having to go out and pick up "cow chips" for stove fuel, a very distasteful task said she. They would perhaps have stayed longer in Kansas had there not been a "herd" law. One day while two of the girls were tending the cattle, one was bitten by a rattlesnake. The other rushed to the house for help but by the time they returned it was too late to save her. So the family moved on by



Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Howard

covered wagon to Glenrock, Wyoming in 1892. In Glenrock the family lived in a "dugout" built in the side of a hill in the area where Glenrock City Park was eventually located. At this time they had six children living, and one more was born in Glenrock. They were; William, born in Stanley, England, July 17, 1880, Belle, born in Cable, Illinois, January 11, 1884, Lillian born in Cable, Illinois, April 10, 1885, Laura, born in Cable, Illinois in 1886, Daisy, born in Cimarron, Kansas on July 10, 1888 and Elizabeth, born in Cimarron, March 10, 1890. Thomason May was born in Glenrock on August 22, 1892 and passed away in Douglas, Wyoming on October 6, 1909. One daughter, born in England, died at the age of seven in Kansas.

Robert Howard worked in the coal mines near Glenrock for four years, then went as "Drover" with a shipment of cattle to Omaha where he purchased cattle and shipped them to Lost Springs, where there was open range. The family then moved to Lost Springs in 1896. There he bought a homestead relinquishment southwest of town and built a log house on the property. Over the years, Bob acquired a great deal more land not only in the Lost Springs area, but around Shawnee and south of Douglas, however the family continued to live in the log house until the children had all grown up and left home. During this time he had continued to be very successful in animal husbandry. In 1920 Mr. and Mrs. Howard moved in to Lost Springs at which time their daughter and son-in-law, Daisy and Cody Shippen, moved to the ranch. Eventually the original property was purchased by their granddaughter Ruth Mason and husband, who lived there until retirement, then moved to Manville where they now reside. While living on the ranch, Ruth and her husband dismantled the old log house.

Except for about three years when they lived in Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. Howard lived the rest of their lives in Lost Springs. He died in 1935 and she in 1945.

William Howard (known as Johnny Bull, a nickname given him because he came from England), was born in Stanley, England, July 17, 1880 and immigrated with his parents to America in 1882. Johnny worked on various

ranches for a few years when he, his father, Robert Howard, and brother-in-law, Charles Bright, entered into a partnership in the cattle business. When the partnership was eventually dissolved he purchased a ranch north of Lost Springs and continued cattle husbandry until ill health forced him to retire. In the meantime, he had acquired a great deal more land, since open range was becoming more scarce as people started homesteading in the area. Many of them stayed only long enough to "prove up", then sold out and left. Dry farming just wasn't very profitable. Johnny's ranch became one of the larger ones in the area.

Mr. Howard married Mabel Bosworth of West Virginia in 1914 at the ranch of friends, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hahn of Keeline. They lived in their home in Lost Springs part of the time, making the ranch their headquarters. After retirement in 1951 they moved to Douglas. There were no children. Mabel died in 1956 and Johnny in 1964.

Johnny Howard and three of his sisters, Belle (Mrs. Charles Bright), Lillian (Mrs. Charles F. Hitshew), and Daisy (Mrs. Cody Shippen) remained in Converse County the rest of their lives. Laura (Mrs. Grant McComb) eventually settled in Glendo. Elizabeth (Mrs. Milton Pratt) moved to Casper in 1916 and remained there the rest of her life.

Mary (Alice) Hitshew Randolph

## Hunter, Ed

George Edward "Ed" Hunter was born September 4, 1874 in Iowa City, Iowa, the son of Colonel and Mrs. George Hunter. At the age of three he came with his family to Laramie, Wyoming. Later the family moved to Fetterman and later still into Douglas. While Edward was still quite young, his mother died, after which his father decided to sell his property in Douglas and take his young son to the country to live. They went to the Lower LaPrele community where George Hunter pitched his tent on the E.C. Smith ranch and engaged in the trapping business. Ed was educated in the Pleasant Valley School which was located on the Smith ranch. Ed developed an enduring love of the great outdoors, enjoying both fishing and hunting during his lifetime. He found employment on various ranches in the valley and worked as a ranch rider for both sheep and cattlemen.

In 1905 he was married to Cora Florence Thayer and to this union three children were born. The family lived in South Dakota for a number of years where Ed was employed as a peace officer. He preferred Wyoming to South Dakota and eventually returned to work at the refinery in Glenrock. He also served as town marshal there.

Cora Hunter died in 1939 after which Ed was united in marriage with Anna Pfiefer. Ed died December 6, 1957.

Emma Williams



Binding grain in the Hyland community.

## Hunter, Tom and Eva

Thomas Berry Hunter was born near Bodarc, Nebraska, August 31, 1896. He was the youngest child of John William and Caroline Dixon Hunter, ranchers in the Hat Creek Valley. Tom's father served as the first judge of that community.

Because of his mother's illness when Tom was an infant, his sister, Abigale, who had a baby the same age, served as wet nurse to both babies. Tom was orphaned when his mother died in 1902 and his father in 1903. His sister, Margaret, took him into her home and became his first teacher.

Much of Tom's childhood was spent with different neighbors. He began to earn his own way at the age of nine, following a walking plow pulled by three horses from three a.m. to dark.

Tom began roping cattle, breaking horses and riding bucking broncs. The latter giving him questionable fame as a rider. His cowboy days were spent on ranches in Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska and Wyoming. Tom never knew a stranger and was quick to make friends wherever he went. He enjoyed relating incidents of his wanderlust and always saw the funny side of them.

An incident happened when Mike Jordan was gathering horses and Tom was driving the grub wagon. The crew went to Ardmore, South Dakota where "Doc" Middleton was running a saloon. Tom was too young to drink so Doc gave him a sack of candy, a rare treat for a wandering boy. Unfortunately Doc had a pet coyote who fancied the candy for himself. Needless to say Tom had a dislike for coyotes. Then to add insult to injury, no beds could be found, so Tom and Mike had to sleep on the pool table.

Tom joined the army, December 2, 1917. His World War I outfit, Company A, 20th Engineers landed on February 17, 1918 for an 18 month stretch in France. Upon returning from the war, Tom homesteaded near the Bob Jordan ranch on Indian Creek, Wyoming. It was here that he brought his bride, Eva Hutchinson Hunter, a teacher whom he had married at Harrison, Nebraska on May 31, 1927. The first visitor to their one room homestead was a large, unfriendly rattlesnake.

Depression years forced both Tom and Eva to work. Tom on nearby ranches and Eva teaching school. At one time Tom dug 999 post holes and set the posts for 10¢ a

post. This was one of his lucky times, for he got paid for an even one thousand. It was here at the homestead that their daughter, Delores was born.

In 1939, Joe Dunn (who was married to Tom's sister, Margaret) and Tom formed a partnership and bought a dairy farm west of Douglas. Later the partnership dissolved and Tom took over as sole owner. Tom developed tick fever which put him in the veterans hospital in Cheyenne. Eva and Delores milked 22 cows by hand morning and night. A neighbor, Clarence Hill would stop by on his way to and from his construction job and help them milk. When Clarence could no longer help, the county agent talked them into getting an automatic milking machine. The summer of Tom's illness, he was still too weak to do anything, so Eva and Delores decided to try to put up the first cutting of hay. The county agent came out and hooked up the mower. Eva mowed, Delores raked and Fred Powell stacked. They also used the help of the German Prisoners of War, who were kept near Douglas. Irrigating became just too much so they let the second cutting go. While on the dairy farm their second daughter, Valerie was born.

After they sold the dairy farm in 1947 they moved into Douglas where Tom worked as a policeman and undertaker's helper. Both Eva and Tom were active in the Douglas community. Tom also served as unit commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They were actively involved in the social life of the LaPrele community. Both were lifetime members of the Wyoming Pioneer Association in Douglas. When school let out in the spring they headed for Oregon, but Tom had heard about a possible job in the oil field west of Casper. Tom got the job and remained with the Pure Oil Company until he retired in 1959.

Upon retirement Tom worked as custodian at the new Poison Spider School where Eva taught. After her retirement they moved to Mills, Wyoming, where Eva still resides. Tom passed away May 22, 1977. He is buried in Memorial Gardens at Casper, Wyoming. Both Delores Hunter Meek and Valerie Hunter Christman live in Casper.

Eva Hunter

## Huntzinger, Charles and Ruth Family

Charles was born September 3, 1892, the son of Thomas J. Huntzinger, a mile east of Thurman, Colorado. In April 1900 the family moved to a place twelve miles northeast of Flagler. Our first school was four miles south and two miles west from our home. The teacher boarded at our house during the week. This teacher later became County Superintendent of Kit Carson County and he told our dad how to get a school nearby. When the school was built we had four school age children and the neighboring sheep ranch had two ready for school. This school house was about 14' square. When the wind blew, the floor went up and down and we couldn't write very well. Each family had to carry their own water. My brother, Sidney, carried our bottle of water and Charles carried the basket or bucket with lunch for all of us. In 1906 we had a teacher who knew music. She tried her best to teach us kids music. Charles was old enough, and that



Eva Hunter



Tom Hunter

is where he got his musical education. She helped Charles with his music and we all learned the notes. We had five months of school that year. A lot of people moved into the country in about 1920 and they needed more room so they made the school twice as big with a coal house on the front.

We had neighbors by the name of Eckert who had a threshing machine. They threshed out west of Thurman and Charles hauled water for the steam engine. It had a big Huber engine with separator - good crops. When they got through threshing they came back to Eckert's ranch and put up a little millet hay. Charles came home awhile, then went with the Jordon boys to Walt Hill, Nebraska to pick corn. This was late October 1913. Before too long, Charles had his thumb sprained so he decided to visit a cousin in Garretson, South Dakota. He had earned a little money picking corn so he went to South Dakota and got work there. There was a lot of building going on, barns and houses. Charles carried lumber about a year. The boss thought he could learn to be a carpenter, which he did. Pretty soon a lot of boys from Dakota, including Charles, went to Luverne, Minnesota to join the National Guard. This was maybe 20 miles away. He trained regularly but still kept his carpenter job.

There was trouble starting in Europe so his unit was sent to Texas. Charles had to quit his carpenter work. It was hot in Texas where he was in the National Guard. The Guard was put in the Army and they were sent to Great Britain first. The British fed them but U.S. paid for it. They were sent to France and Germany. He wasn't close enough to hear the big guns. He built fences and big wooden water pressure tanks with stays. Pretty soon the war was over, new officers from the U.S. arrived, and his unit was sent home. On July 4, 1918 Charles was on the ocean going to France, and on July 4, 1919 he was on the ocean on his way home.

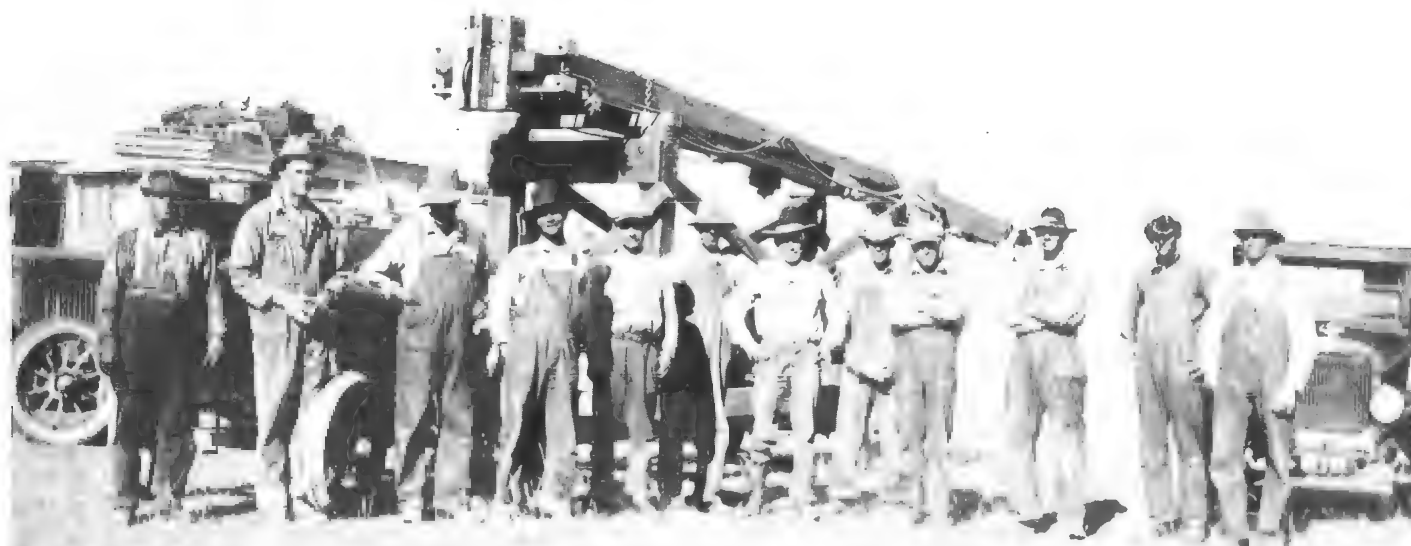
Charles had a big tool box with carpenter tools and it was at our house while he was in the Army. His fiddle was

at home too. It was the latter part of August 1919 when he left and went to Douglas, Wyoming to visit his aunt, Mrs. L.C. Bishop. He got a job right away with Fred Cannon. Charles thought he would start work on Monday and Fred said "you start right now," so he did. He had his carpenter tools and violin with him and that was probably about the first of September. Fred Cannon had a shop and did all kinds of carpenter work. He made furniture and built houses. Charles filed on a homestead 25 miles northwest of Douglas. He worked for Fred Cannon several years.

In the spring of 1920 I, Harvey Huntzinger, went up there. At that time, Charles was working on a water tunnel. They didn't tell me where the tunnel was. I got a job out on that same road and I saw pickups going back and forth with men. They took the men to town to stay overnight. The man I worked for gave me a job of plowing some ground right next to the road so I was about 50' from them and didn't know who they were.

There was another tunnel Charles and I and Teddy Hanson and some more folks helped on. We put a cement floor in that one. It was about 400' long. We used wheelbarrows to wheel the cement. We worked about a week there. I was a new hand. They had a cement mixer outside and dumped it down a chute to the wheelbarrows another guy and I ran. Teddy Hanson and Charles handled the cement after we got it in there. It was just wide enough in there so we could pass once in a while so we could get back out and get some more cement. I think we got \$5 a day and the carpenters maybe \$1 an hour.

Charles, Teddy Hanson and Joe Woodard built Clark Bishop's barn. It was a real barn with a haymow and stalls for eight head of horses. It had a place for a cow and a little blacksmith shop in one corner and a bin for some oats. When they got that finished, Teddy Hanson had some lots for sale up near the South Grade School. Charles and I bought one lot and we built a shack where we batched. The shack was big enough for all the things



Bridge building crew l. to r. unknown, Slim Powell, Archie Bruce, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, Charles Huntzinger, unknown and Harvey Huntzinger.



we needed. I finally dug a cave and fixed it up so we could keep things down there. Then I started working the same places Charles did. We spent quite a bit of time together but we didn't always work on the same job. There were quite a few houses being built and plastering to be done. I got a job with Oscar Fredell, a plasterer. I didn't plaster but I packed a lot of mud. I packed the mud for the South Grade School near where we had our shack. It had ten class rooms, an office and a place for the janitor to live in the basement. Then I worked on other houses with Fredell, some houses in the country and in town.

Charles married Ruth Blomquist, the oldest daughter of Charles and Anna Blomquist on June 3, 1925. Their children are; Carl of Menlo Park, California, Doris Hoff of Bellvue, Colorado, Joyce Maurer and John.

Charles played the violin by ear. He spent many happy hours with his violin giving pleasure to others as well as himself.

The Huntzingers made their home on the hill by the water tank west of Douglas until their deaths. Charles died on April 4, 1962. Ruth died in August 1964.

Harvey Huntzinger

## Huntzinger, Harvey

I, Harvey Huntzinger, was born on January 10, 1899 at Thurman, Colorado, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Huntzinger. I came to Douglas on March 17, 1920 to find work. My brother, Charles Huntzinger, was already there.

A man told me where I could go and file on a homestead. About a year passed before the government recognized my application for a homestead. Then I hauled some lumber out for a shack big enough to live in with tarpaper all around. The roof was what we call a car roof, rounding on top. Charles and another fellow helped one day when we worked on that. Then I built a barn big enough for four head of horses. I finally got some horses and borrowed a plow to plow some ground. I bought a dollar's worth of beans the first year but I didn't get them planted. I had a barrel in the shack where I kept coal. When I went to plant the beans the next year I couldn't find them. I discovered we had mice that packed things around like the rats do. I found that the mice had carried every one of those beans and put them in the coal barrel. I had to separate the beans from the coal when I got ready to plant beans. From that dollar's worth of beans I raised 963 pounds and sold \$61.93 worth of beans.

My homestead was on Lightning Creek and Charles' homestead was seven or eight miles down the creek. The homesteaders didn't have to stay on their land all year and I didn't stay out there much in the winter. We were supposed to have 40 acres of plowed ground. I had a nice spring. I filed a water right on it and Clark Bishop surveyed it. It is named the "Harvey Spring" on the map of Wyoming.

When I came into Douglas from my homestead, I noticed a lot of men working down by the Platte River. This was about October and they were putting the city water line under the river. The water was piped 18 miles from the Hamilton Spring. That was a wood stay pipe

with iron bands all around. When they got to the river it had to be cast iron pipe which weighed 1200 pounds each. Charles and I worked on the water line for some time. About 50 men worked there. The city furnished hip boots and I got the last pair with a belly band to hold the boots up. We got down in the ditch and used a length of gas pipe with caps on both ends to tap the dirt down. They had two Fordson tractors to pump the water out before the dirt was dug out for the pipe. They plugged the river off about half way across. The pipes fit together and a ratchet was used, then the plumbers put on some molten babbitt. When they got half way across they tested the pipe with 80 pounds pressure. They had to watch out for the ice that would come and break out all the work already done. Sometimes they used dynamite to break up the ice so it wouldn't get down to where we were working. There was a big sand bar on the east side of the river so most of the water ran on the west side. When the ice went, we had it all finished, then big sheets of ice went down. A million gallon water tank was being built west of Douglas. The floor, a couple hundred feet across, and one ring around the side was up on saw horses. One morning it was cold and there was frost all over the bottom of it, so another man and I had the job of getting little sticks to make little fires all around under that floor to melt the frost. Then three coats of paint were put on.

On the morning of September 27, 1923 I went out to Teddy Hanson's place before I went out to my homestead. I had some seed grain out there. I told Teddy that it was a strange morning, voices carried from the neighbors. You could hear them talking to members of their family like you were in the same house. He said he didn't like it either. I left Teddy's place to go out to my homestead. It was kind of cloudy and foggy. I went by the way of Fort Fetterman, crossed a bridge across the North Platte River. It was old and shaky. I had two head of Percheron horses hitched to my wagon with seed grain and things to eat. It commenced to rain a little heavier. There was an underpass where the Burlington Railroad went over so I stopped under there and put on some more clothes and covered up the sacks of grain a little better so they wouldn't get wet. It was about nine miles from there out to my homestead. There were gullies where water was running and some was up to the horses bellies. I unhitched the horses and put them in the barn. Then I unloaded the groceries and put the seed grain in the shack where it would stay dry. I went to bed that night and it rained and thundered but no lightning, the earth just shook. By morning it had quit raining. About three days later I went to some neighbors who lived southeast and they had some company who told of the flood that washed out the Burlington railroad tracks on Cole Creek.

After I got everything planted and my horses situated I worked in Douglas for a plumber so I could get some money. Then I went to Glenrock to work with the bridge crew. I went on the railroad, but since the railroad bridge was washed out, the taxi came and took people from the train into Glenrock. We stayed in a rooming house in Glenrock and took lunch out with us to where we were working on the bridges. When the Glenrock bridge was finished, sometime in January, we went out to Deer Creek and built a bridge. We had some little shacks out there that we lived in and cooked in. I remember the time



of year because I had my 25th birthday, January 10th, during that time.

The next bridge was at the Tank Farm where the flood lifted a nearly new bridge and floated it down the river. The Tank Farm was where they built all those tanks to hold the oil from Tea Pot Dome. There were 50 tanks holding millions of gallons of oil. They dug a pit for each tank with a dike big enough to hold the oil in the tank. The river froze over there, so some people from the Tank Farm tested the ice by jumping up and down and then drove their Model Ts or other vehicles across on the ice. There were four rows of piling, each row about 40' apart. We sharpened the end of the timber and put a metal plate on the tip and bands so the timber wouldn't split when the hammer came down. The hammer weighed 2000 pounds and came down about 25'. They had two teams of horses. When the team pulled the block and tackle, that pulled the hammer clear up to the top. When it got up there high enough it tripped two little irons and that let the hammer down and it hit on top of this piling. It would bounce up a few feet, up and down. Another fellow and I had the duty to stay there and if it got out of line we had a couple of sticks we would stick in there to pry the piling back over this way or that way so it was in the middle all the while. One man had the duty to get that block and tackle stretched out there so when the horses hitched onto it they had plenty of room to pull the hammer clear up to the top of this head where the irons were. Sometimes they had to turn the team around on that bridge and sometimes they could turn around on the ground, depending on which way they were going.

The next bridge we worked on, which was at Fort Fetterman, we would have a new pile driver made up in Fred Cannon's carpenter shop. Charles helped build this pile driver, and others who worked on it were Fred Cannon, Bill VanDine and Archie Bruce. It was hauled around with a Fordson tractor. The one we were using had to be taken apart to be moved so this was much better. We first used this new pile driver at Old Fort Fetterman. Slim Powell from the Ford Motor Company ran the new Fordson tractor with a winch on it and a large amount of cable to pull the hammer up. The old bridge was a truss bridge. Archie Bruce was head boss for the bridges.

We started the row of pilings on the north side, about 30' apart. We put a big cap on top of each piling and drove pins down through. Then we laid a lot of timbers across up edgeways and fastened them down to the cap on the piling. Then we got a lot of planks to make a platform for the bridge. Somebody set the 8" nails with a big hammer. Then some boys came with seven to eight pound sledge hammers to drive those nails in. I liked that nail business. It took about three licks to drive one of those nails down if you did it right. It took half a day to lay some planks between those two rows of piling and nail them down. When the bridge was done, Charles' job was to saw and nail all those railings on both sides of the bridge. All this lumber was sawed by hand and we built a lot of bridges. That took a lot of work, one man sawing all those timbers, all hand work.

Someone dug a ditch out north of Douglas to get the water out of the Platte River. They did a lot of work but for some reason the ditch never had a bridge so we put

one there, just one span.

After we were done we built another bridge on the Cheyenne River about 20 or 30 miles down the river. We had to leave a wide space for big trees and things to run under. The next bridge was over a deep gulch or draw. There was no sand or water, but people went down in there with their vehicles, straight down and straight up. We built a bridge there with about three spans of piling.

Next we went to Box Creek. It was a wide creek and had steep banks. When the creek got up a lot of water ran down there. It was a nice place to work, level ground on both sides. There was a homesteader out there and he helped the bridge crew a few days. There was a school up the creek. He said he had a little girl about seven and one day, while he was waiting for her, he looked up the river and saw all this water coming. He rescued her, otherwise she would have drowned.

There was another bridge on the Cheyenne River, a bridge that spanned the whole gulch, maybe 30 or more feet deep. We drove eight pilings on each side and had to get extra long pine. We had to do a lot of digging around there and worked a long time building the side boards to hold the dirt next to the bridge. The whole bridge set on two pedestals, with pilings on both sides. Teamsters piled dirt up at the end of the bridge when we got through building the bridge.

A bridge at Walker Creek, about 35 miles northeast of Douglas, was the last bridge I helped build.

The cook for our bridge crew had come with his family from some place in Iowa. That was back when they had oxen to drive and work. He said the grass in Iowa came up to his chin, when he was about 13 years old. At night, the grass got all wet and the oxen laid down so who ever hunted the oxen in the morning got all wet getting the oxen. His dad sent him after the oxen one morning. It was foggy and wet and he hunted and hunted and got all wet but he couldn't find the oxen. He went back and told his dad he couldn't find the oxen. His dad gave him a skinning and told him "now you go get the oxen and when you get back I'll give you the rest of it." He knew how to drive oxen and people were driving to the Rocky Mountains then with ox trains. I don't know how long he was gone from home but he was 13 years old at that time. Finally he grew up and went back home. He told his dad "Now I came back for the rest of the lickin'." He said his dad turned white.

We had twelve men one time and extras now and then. We had extra teamsters to put the dirt up to the bridges. Our cook, Bill, said, "I am going to quit." We lacked about two weeks of being through. Archie Bruce, our straw boss, said, "Harvey, you are the cook." The cook got the breakfast and I got the dinner. Fred Cannon, who was boss of the whole outfit, came along and looked in the kitchen. I was slicing bread and he said, "How are you getting along?" I said "Pretty good, if there is any kicking being done, I am going to do it." He had a kind of funny smile and you could always tell by his smile when he was tickled. He must have passed the word because there never was a word said. I had the job of cooking for about the last two weeks, until we got through there.

The little shacks we slept in and cooked in were put on trucks when we moved from place to place. There was another boy from Nebraska and myself who didn't have

any vehicles of our own so whenever we moved to another place, we were put on top of the load. Those old trucks were way up in the air and they would lap way over this way and then that way and looked like they would upset. When it was going to raise up and upset on one side we were supposed to rush over there and hold it down and when it got over the other way we rushed over to the other side.

The last time I went back to Douglas was in 1974. My nephew, John Huntzinger, took me out north of Douglas to see that country again. I didn't find my plowed furrow on my homestead but I did find my spring and had a drink of water there.

Harvey Hunzinger  
as told to Doris Huntzinger Hoff

## Hutchison, Thomas P. and Georgie Maud Family

Thomas Payne Hutchison, son of George and Margaret Hutchison, was born near Dayton, Iowa, January 23, 1872. He was a teenager when he moved to Nebraska with his family. His first work in Nebraska was helping to lay the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railway tracks westward from Chadron, Nebraska to Wyoming. Tom worked with the laying of the tracks until they reached Douglas, Wyoming. He operated a pile driver. He arrived in Douglas in 1886 along with the railroad. Tom then worked in the mines at Glenrock for a while and then worked on the bridge across the Platte River at Douglas.

On September 23, 1897 he was united in marriage to



Thomas Payne Hutchison 1924



Maud Powell Hutchison 1951

Georgie Maud Powell, daughter of George and Margaret Powell. Maud was born in an adobe house on LaPrele Creek on September 6, 1879. At that time it was Albany County. She was the first white baby born in this region south of the Platte River.

Maud was one of the first students to attend the Pleasant Valley School. Her father had sawed and donated the lumber for the school and others in the district worked and helped furnish the school. The building is now on the fairgrounds as a mute testimony to the past.

Until Maud was old enough for school she did not have many playmates except a little Indian girl whose father was a driver for Maud's father. (The little girl's name was Ann Hornback I believe.) Maud was a very good student. Her first teacher was Mae Baird, a much loved teacher. Later, Professor Edwards taught the school and Maud told a story about a girlfriend who was visiting her, helping to starch his night shirts in cold starch and then ironed them so stiff they stood by themselves. Both were severely reprimanded for their prank.

Maud Powell and Ida and Jesse Schlichter became very good friends and they rode horseback to many country dances and affairs of entertainment.

Maud was a very good shot with a rifle and her father always had her shoot the chickens' heads off when they wanted chicken for dinner. After finishing country school, Maud came to town to finish her education. During this time, she directed the Methodist Choir as well as singing in it. She received the first scholarship to the University of Wyoming that was given by the County

Commissioners. However, she wasn't able to complete her college education because of hard times.

When Maud and Thomas Hutchison were married they first settled on a ranch on Alkali Creek west of Douglas where Tom built a log house. Maud had a black horse named Billy she had ridden as a girl and she could also hitch him to a two-wheel cart. She would put the babies in a box on the floor of the cart in front of her and go to town with butter, cottage cheese and eggs to make enough money to buy a desk and to help with other expenses.

After Tom settled up on his and Maud's homesteads, they lived in Douglas for a few years where Tom worked at carpentering. He worked on the Unity Temple Building and built a house on North Fifth Street for George and Margaret Powell. He built the house at 332 North Third Street where they lived until the Temple Building was finished and the construction business had slowed down. He then worked on the tunnel carrying water from LaPrele Dam to the ditch and he also worked on drilling rigs in the area. While living in Douglas, Tom was a member of the Fire Hose Company.

The family moved back to the ranch where they lived for a number of years. To them were born five sons and three daughters, the youngest daughter dying when just a few days old. She is buried on the ranch. The sons were Miles M., Richard T., George P., Peter and Charles W. The daughters were Agnes M. and Susie. One son and one daughter are still living; Charles in Broomfield, Colorado and Agnes Wiker of Douglas, Wyoming.

Miles married Lelia Johnston — one son and three daughters

Richard married Wanda Harry — one daughter

George married Verna Hylton — two sons

Peter married Mary McWhinnie — one son and three daughters

Charles married Bernita Price — three sons

Agnes married Wesley K. Wiker — two daughters

Susie married Roland LaPerriere — one son

I, Agnes, was born Thanksgiving evening, November 26, 1903, in the house my father built at 332 North Third Street. I grew up on the ranch of my parents amidst five brothers and one sister. I was the only girl in our immediate neighborhood until my sister was born and the homesteaders came in.

When six years old, I started to school in the building where my mother had gone to school. My first year at school wasn't a good one. My two older brothers took me to school but didn't give the teacher any history, so when the teacher asked me my name I told her Sis or Sister as that was what I was called by everyone, and to my knowledge, I had never heard my given name mentioned. The teacher thought I was being smart, I guess, and she never had any use for me after that. She made school miserable for me and when I began to have nightmares every night I was taken to Dr. Bodine. He looked me over and talked to me, then shook his finger at my mother and told her to take me out of school and never send me back to that teacher. The next year my folks brought us to town to school. I was soon promoted into the second grade. The following year we were brought back to the Pleasant Valley School until I completed the eighth grade.

There were Literary Society meetings at our country school and many spelling bees, mathematics contests, debates and just a lot of good times.

When I was nine years old, my father and mother started taking us to country dances. The first dance I ever went to was at the S.A. Bishop home on LaPrele. The young men would teach the young girls how to dance. Fred Hildebrand taught me to dance. When we went to the Hildebrands we either had to cross the river on ice or ford it. They usually had lanterns out so we could see just where the crossing was.

In the fall of 1918 the folks sent me to town to start high school. I stayed with my grandmother for a while. It was the year of the flu epidemic so school was closed for three months. During the flu epidemic I took care of many people. I wasn't afraid of it so I went from one house to another, where needed. All of my family had the flu except me. The end of World War I also came the fall of 1918. After school started up again in 1919 I rode horseback to school from the Henry Bolln place up the river. I left my school clothes at Mrs. Horton's house each evening and put on the riding skirt to ride home. The horse was left at the livery stable. School started at 8:00 a.m. with 45 minutes for noon and continuing until 5 p.m. at night to make up the three months lost by the flu epidemic.

I had started working in the Superintendent's Office helping Mrs. Albert Urban with the book work. Late in 1921, Mrs. Urban died and since I was familiar with the work, I was hired to be the secretary. At that time the one office did everything. Teachers from many rural schools would come into town on Saturdays and the secretary would take them to the North Grade School to pick up books and other supplies. Saturdays were not days off for office help. I worked for District 17 and the high school until June 1925. We did not have electric typewriters and if we wanted an adding machine we had to rent or borrow one. At that time, a top teacher's salary was \$166.66. The teachers stayed in private homes or in boarding houses, paying \$35 or \$40 a month for board and room. Mrs. W.F. Mecum kept teachers and so did Mrs. Brownfield.

On June 3, 1925 I married Wesley K. Wiker at my parents' home in Douglas.

Tom was a member of IOOF Lodge in Douglas and Maud was a charter member of Mountain Valley Rebekah Lodge #15, a member of Woodbine Chapter #18 Order of Eastern Star and a member of the Auxiliary of the VFW.

Thomas Payne Hutchison died June 4, 1945 and is buried in the Odd Fellows Plot in Douglas Park Cemetery. Maud died March 12, 1952 and is also buried in the Douglas cemetery.

Agnes Hutchison Wiker

## Huxtable, Lloyd & Najma Family

Lloyd S. Huxtable first settled in Platte County in 1910 and moved to Converse County in 1913. The brand of the Huxtable Ranch was "T" one of the oldest brands of the State of Wyoming, and given to Mr. Huxtable by Bill Booker, manager of the VR Ranch. His ranch was homesteaded by Captain White in 1893. Mr. Huxtable



Warren and Lloyd Huxtable

managed the place on shares. When Mr. White died in 1929, Mr. Huxtable bought 900 acres of the ranch and then continued to enlarge and improve on it. He erected nearly all of the buildings which are at present on the place.

Lloyd S. Huxtable was born in Kearney, Nebraska, on December 25, 1889, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Huxtable. His mother's maiden name was Miss Sarah Ison. She was a native of England. His father was born at Niagara Falls, New York. His paternal grand-uncle was a lieutenant in the Civil War. Mr. Huxtable's educational background was the schools of his native state, Nebraska. He worked for various outfits as a cowboy, among them the Swan Land and Cattle Company, VR Ranch, and John Higgins. He then entered the U.S. Army and was sent overseas for a year, being stationed with Veterans Hospital Number Nine. He held grade of corporal when he was discharged at Fort Russell in 1919. He then was employed by U. S. Grant, and later worked for John Higgins until Mr. Higgins' death in 1926, at which time he started in the ranching business for himself.

Mr. Huxtable married Miss Najma Olin, daughter of Erich and Bertha Olin, on September 7, 1921, in Douglas, Wyoming. Mrs. Huxtable was born on May 8, 1893 in Ogallala, Nebraska. Her mother's native country was Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Huxtable have four children: Chester, Charles, Myrtle (now Mrs. Robert Bruce Rawdon), and Howard. Chester served four years in the Engineering Division of the U.S. Air Corps during the first invasion of the Philippines, spending three years in active duty overseas with the grade of corporal when discharged in California. Chester has five children, Joan, Warren, Larry, Rita and William. He resides in Dillon, Montana. Charles also served in World War II with the infantry stationed at Little Rock, Arkansas, and Fort Ord, Oregon. Charles has two children, John and May Kay. He resides in Glenrock, Wyoming. Myrtle's husband Bruce, spent three years during World War II as a member of

the U.S. Navy. Bruce and Myrtle have four children, Robert, Katherine, Richard and Mary A. They make their home in Glenrock, Wyoming. Howard served in the 20th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army stationed in Germany, with a grade of Specialist 3rd Class at discharge. Howard has four children, Howard L., Gary, Dixie and James. Howard now resides on his ranch near Douglas, Wyoming.

Lloyd was a county commissioner for eight years, elected in 1948. His main interest was ranching. Najma has been noted as a fine hunter and trapper, and once bagged a black bear weighing 250 pounds. This feat was written up in a magazine, "Sports Afield". She is a member of the Lutheran Church and now resides in Douglas, Wyoming.

Lloyd died August 26, 1976.

Howard Huxtable

## Hylton, Joseph M.D. and Ara

Joseph Roy Hylton was born on January 30, 1883, in Grenola, Chautauqua County, Kansas, the son of Tazewell Wesley and Mattie Moore Hylton. He had one brother, Floyd, a veterinarian who practiced in Longmont, Colorado, where he lived with his mother, who later died and is buried in the Longmont Cemetery. He was a graduate of Bennett-Loyola Medical School, Chicago, Illinois, class of 1906. Soon after graduation Dr. Hylton came to Glenrock, Wyoming and became associated with Dr. Jay Smith. The following year, or early 1908, Dr. Hylton opened an office in Douglas. He married Ara Louise Davis (born April 11, 1883) a student nurse. From this union three children were born: Roy Hollis Hylton, Helen Louise Hylton (Mrs. John D. Goodloe III, of Atlanta, Georgia), and Janyce Hylton (Mrs. Mike Sullivan of Cheyenne, Wyoming).

Dr. Hylton became well-known and highly regarded throughout the state, his skill and ability as a physician and surgeon even coming to the notice of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota. He was totally dedicated to his profession, worked hard and long hours, always on call no matter what the time of day or night, or the weather. He was often called to make long trips to the country, sometimes a distance of fifty or sixty miles and having to perform emergency surgery right there, on a kitchen table, under a lamp or lantern light. Mrs. Hylton, on many occasions, accompanied the doctor on these trips and assisted him. Such trips for many years were made by horse and buggy.

Dr. Hylton was a real humanitarian, loved and cared for people. He always had time to listen to the complaints, woes, and problems of people, from the lowliest sheepherder to troubled people from all walks of life who were suffering, discouraged, needing advice or reassurance about their problems.

Often, while working with Dr. Hylton, taking dictation or discussing some business matters, he would pause awhile and we would chat. I, Antoinette P. Stoddard, would ask him to talk about his family, parents, his childhood, his hopes and ambitions, and he would tell me that he always wanted to be a doctor and help people. He would tell me, that as a youngster he would follow the local



doctor around, asking him all sorts of questions, asking if he could go along with him and watch him work, treat people, set broken bones, and even watch him operate. He wanted to learn all he could. He said he and his brother, Floyd, when they were teenagers, would go out to farms and buy herniated hogs, then they would operate and repair the hernias, and sell the hogs, earning money for their schooling. They both knew from an early age what they wanted to do, that medicine and surgery was their aim and ambition. Dr. Hylton also had a very keen legal mind and could have been a successful and fine attorney.

Dr. Hylton was interested and active in local and state affairs. He had a wide acquaintance with many political people; governors, senators, people in public office and business. He was a close friend of Governor Ross and Mrs. Nellie Tayloe Ross; also Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney. He served for many years as Democratic State Chairman, and Democratic National Committeeman for Wyoming. He also served as one of the directors of the Federal Land Bank of Omaha, Nebraska.

He worked long and hard with Senator O'Mahoney to have the prisoner of war camp located in Douglas during World War II, which involved numerous long distance telephone calls, letters and telegrams, all at his own expense.

Through a mutual friend, Dr. Glaister H. Ashley (who was head of the Mount Airy Sanitarium, in Denver, Colorado), Dr. Hylton became acquainted with Charles A. Guenther, a petroleum engineer, who came to Douglas about 1916 or 1917 from Chicago, Illinois. They became associated in several business ventures, acquiring oil and gas leases and other properties, until Mr. Guenther's death, September 27, 1923. He perished in the Burlington train wreck, Cole Creek, Lockett, Wyoming.

In addition to his medical practice, Dr. Hylton had a love and appreciation of music, art, paintings, antiques, silver, beautiful china and linens. On his travels away from home he visited museums, art galleries, antique shops. While on a trip to Europe Dr. Hylton attended a seminar on goiter surgery, and visited hospitals in Vienna, Austria, and became acquainted with several well-known physicians and surgeons. Also, he met a fine Austrian artist, Hans Larvin, in Vienna, who later had a showing of his paintings in the Art Institute in Chicago. They corresponded for years until his death during the war. Dr. Hylton was fortunate in acquiring several of Hans Larvin's paintings. He was especially noted for his portraits of Gypsy life.

The Hylton family owned and operated several ranches in Converse and Albany Counties, raising thoroughbred horses (Jockey Club Registration), also quarter horses, cattle, and sheep. The famous "Sir Barton", derby winner, was one of the thoroughbred horses on the Hylton Ranch. His statue is in the Washington Park in Douglas.

August 22, 1946, Dr. Hylton was flown by chartered plane from Douglas to Rochester, Minnesota, to the Mayo Clinic, suffering from what was later diagnosed as a liver ailment. He died in St. Mary's Hospital, August 31, 1946. His body was brought back to Douglas for burial in the Douglas Cemetery.

At this writing Mrs. Hylton, Roy, Helen, and Janyce,

all are deceased. Roy was married twice and had no children. Helen had three children, John (Choppy) Goodloe IV, Susan Goodloe, and Peter Goodloe, all living in Atlanta, Georgia. Janyce Hylton Sullivan had two daughters, Linda Louise Sullivan, and Gay Sullivan.

This history and information is furnished by Antoinette Pecukaitis Stoddard who came to Douglas, May 27, 1918, from Chicago, Illinois, to work for Charles A. Guenther, manager of the Mike Henry Oil Company, and after his death she was employed by Dr. Joseph Roy Hylton as secretary and office manager from September 1923 until Dr. Hylton's death August 31, 1946. Mrs. Stoddard was named executrix of Dr. Hylton's estate and continued to work for the Hylton family until after the estate was settled in 1949. She was closely associated with the Hylton family.

Antoinette P. Stoddard

## Ireton, Robert K. and Elizabeth

Robert Kelly Ireton was born April 5, 1878 at Scotts, Michigan, the son of Samuel Kelly and Altana (Sager) Ireton. Besides his parents Robert had one sister, Mrs. Jessie (Ireton) Selby of Hazel Park, Michigan. Samuel was born at Kalamazoo, Michigan on October 4, 1855, and died November 11, 1913. Altana (Sager) Ireton was born at Kalamazoo, Michigan January 29, 1858 and died May 15, 1936.

Samuel's grandfather, a descendant of Irish blood, married an Irish lady, whose last name was Kelly. From that time the name Kelly has been carried down to the present generation.

Samuel was a carpenter by trade. At one time he ran a tavern on the Missouri River.

Robert Kelly Ireton married Elizabeth Maria



L. to r. Ralph, Fred, James and Ernest Ireton 1970



Bullard on June 8, 1898 at Preston, Missouri. Elizabeth was born at Marshalltown, Minnesota on November 8, 1879. She had one brother, two half brothers and a half sister. To Robert and Elizabeth five sons were born: Ernest, born August 18, 1899 at Lyons, Kansas, James, born August 6, 1901 at Elk Point, South Dakota, Ralph, born October 24, 1905 at Livingston, Montana, Russell, who died when a small child, and Fred, born July 1, 1926 at Mullen, Nebraska.

The family first came to Nebraska in a covered wagon and settled near Mullen. In 1905 they moved on in their covered wagon to Livingston, Montana. In 1913 they returned to Mullen and lived until 1922, when once again the family traveled by covered wagon to Wyoming. The father and his two eldest sons homesteaded on joining land in Converse County, fifty miles north of Douglas. They brought with them cattle, horses, machinery, household furniture and other supplies.

It took about a month to trail their livestock from Mullen, Nebraska to their homestead location in Wyoming. Ralph also took a homestead joining his brother as soon as he became of age.

They lived in a tent the first summer, while Robert and sons built a sod house about 20' X 24'. A few years later two more sod rooms were added on to the main house. In 1940 Robert purchased a frame, six-room house and moved it east of the soddy a few feet. The frame home then became their permanent home.

Robert operated a farm and ranch operation for 26 years. His son, James, made his home with them for many years. They drilled water wells and moved buildings for people who needed a well drilled or a building moved to earn money for many other needed things.

Elizabeth was a member of the Verse Women's Club, and the family attended Sunday School and church, when it was held at Verse or the Dry Creek Hall. Travel in early days depended on the weather and roads.

Robert and Elizabeth celebrated their golden anniversary on June 8, 1948 at their new frame home, with relatives and friends attending. The Verse Women's Club members presented them with a complete set of dinnerware trimmed in gold.

Robert sold their place in the fall of 1948, and moved to Douglas. He died following a short illness on August 27, 1949. Elizabeth continued living in Douglas. She celebrated her 89th birthday on November 8, 1968 at the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Ernest and Opal Ireton, with her family and long-time friends attending. Elizabeth's youngest son, Fred, of Kelso, Washington was unable to attend.

Elizabeth passed away September 2, 1970 at Michael Manor Nursing Home, where she had been a patient for several years. Both Robert and Elizabeth rest in the family plot in the Douglas Park Cemetery.

James Ireton tells about his life in the following story: "I started shearing in 1940, shearing for four or five years with a blade crew. We called ourselves the "Verse" crew. Some of the crew were Lou Steckley, Ralph Haefele and Eddie, Elmer and Arthur Johnson. I also worked at the Antelope Coal Mine for five winters. After my folks moved to Douglas in about 1947, I didn't like living alone so I sold out and moved to Douglas where

I lived with my mother.

"In 1955 I married Ruby Templar (born Feb. 23, 1900). We moved to Casper on an irrigated farm. In August 1980 we moved back to Douglas. On Feb. 17, 1981 Ruby died in Douglas. I married Ellen Dunn later; we live in Douglas at the present time."

Velma Steckley  
Opal Ireton

## Irvine, W. C. "Billy" and Carolyn

W. C. Irvine was born March 3, 1852 at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, the son of Dr. James R. and Jane Morrow Irvine. The Irvines were early settlers in the United States and their family served in every major war from the Indian conflicts through the Revolutionary War to the present.

Mr. Irvine attended school at Carlisle and no doubt attended Dickinson College where their roster of alumni include many Irvines. He was well educated and had a good scholastic background, which served him well throughout his life.

Billy first came West as a boy of 18 in 1870 with a wagon train belonging to Berard, Pipphen, Irvine and Company. It is believed the Irvine of this company was an uncle. He was accompanied on this trip by a friend, Jim Sullivan, Both boys, being adventurous, partook



W. C. Irvine

of all activities, as evidenced by a diary kept by W. C. Irvine, the flyleaf inscription reading: "May 23, 1870. Safe out of Indian Country and very glad of it. W. C. Irvine." However, they were not safely out of Indian territory because on May 25, 1870, he wrote that while out hunting fresh meat, they saw Buffalo being driven by Indians, and on June 1 he wrote that they were told 150 Indians had killed three men at a ranch about 30 miles ahead of them.

It is presumed that Billy returned home after this trip; however, he was back in the West in 1873 and went to the sandhills of Nebraska where he was employed by Bosler Brothers, a company owned by men in Carlisle. Irvine was 21 years old at this time, and evidence of his interest, adaptability, and management is shown by the fact he was made foreman in 1874. It was about this time he branched out with cattle of his own, running 4,000 head north of Fort Fetterman, which herd soon increased to 8,000 head. He formed a partnership with Thomas Lawrence, and later about 1881, helped form the Converse Cattle Company.

In 1876, at Cheyenne, he married Carolyn Sparhawk. According to the newspaper report of the wedding, his address at that time was Ogallala, Nebraska, and he was in partnership at that time with Thomas Lawrence. From that time on, however, he spent his time in Wyoming and became very active in the Stock Growers Association and community and political affairs. He belonged to the select Cheyenne Club, whose members were prominent Wyoming citizens, and managed his ranching interests as well. He became manager for the Ogallala Land and Cattle Company whose headquarters were at Ogallala, Nebraska, but whose herds ranged well into Wyoming, with the Wyoming headquarters at the present day Ross. He was manager of this company at the time of the Johnson County War, and it is probably in connection with

his part in this uprising that his name most often crops up in history books. It is said that he was the organizer behind the group of cattlemen who went into Johnson County with the avowed purpose of wiping out the "rustlers". It is known that he accompanied the group from the time they left Cheyenne to the time they were "captured" at the TA Ranch and taken to Cheyenne for trial. Feelings at that time ran high and it is ironic that his daughter and one of his sons married the children of one of the "rustlers" they set out to eradicate! At the time it must have been a hard pill to swallow.

In 1900 John T. Williams and W. C. Irvine bought the Ogallala Cattle Company and operated as partners. Mr. Williams owned 250 shares, Mr. Irvine 249 shares, and William A. Paxton, one of the former owners and a close friend of Mr. Irvine's, owned one share, which a few years later he gave Mrs. W. C. Irvine. (He also gave Mrs. Irvine his brand, the Spur). Mr. Irvine and his family lived at the Ogallala and about this time, Mr. Irvine built a large home there, always called the "Big House", a rambling structure with six large bedrooms, bath, living room, dining room, and kitchen, complete with butler's pantry. Each room was heated with a round oak coal and wood stove. It is said that Mrs. Irvine employed a Japanese servant, mainly because he made such excellent pound cake. This "Big House" burned to the ground in March 1937 and along with it went many priceless records and accounts of this historic ranch.

Mr. Irvine and Mr. Williams operated this ranch together until Mr. Williams' death in 1914. In 1916 the Williams Estate sold their share of the company to Leroy Moore, who then assumed the management.

W. C. Irvine kept meticulous records of all his transactions, and while many records burned in the fire in 1937, those which remain show he went to great lengths to be honest and above-board in his management. That he



Working sheep on the Pax Irvine ranch.

was a shrewd operator is shown that despite terrible losses from severe winters (18,500 sheep lost during two bad years), the average profit per year came to 19%. He meticulously deducted from his share any pasture or feed used by any of his children's livestock.

In the DOUGLAS BUDGET column "When Douglas was Young" in 1966 was this story: June 24, 1891: "Hon. W. C. Irvine got in on the Monday's train from the toughest trip he has had, so he says, for ten years. He was after a bunch of eleven Ogalalla company horses, brought from Idaho, who had gotten away and were believed to be headed for home. He took the stage from Casper to Riverton, and from there the saddle, finally finding the stock on the Big Sandy. He brought them back as far as Casper alone, a distance of over 100 miles. He was in the saddle eleven days, riding hard all the time and naturally was pretty nearly used up when he got back to Casper. It might be remarked, incidentally, that when Billy goes after anything he usually gets it."

This seems to sum up the general opinion given by old timers that Billy Irvine was not only tenacious but tough. He was a good friend to those he liked but is said to have been unrelenting to those he considered enemies. That he had a deep affection for John T. Williams is shown in the many letters he wrote him, but also his character and traits are shown.

Admittedly, Mr. Irvine was a good manager with his money, but his family said that when anything important came up, he was most generous. During the First World War, he was State Director of War Finance, and he wrote his daughter that he was mailing her children War Savings Certificates and Thrift Stamp Certificates, which he told her to have the children add to whenever they got a nickel or dime, with this advice: "My idea in sending them certificates is to teach them to save and at the same time raise money for the government. You may not think so, but it will teach the children thrift and economy and be of great benefit to them."

Mr. Irvine's love for children and family show up through his correspondence. When his daughter was expecting her first baby, he insisted she go to Chicago for the most modern hospital care there was, and he accompanied her there and stayed the whole time. When his son Robert was injured badly in a fight in Gillette, his concern was evident in the letters he wrote Mr. Williams; and when his son "Mickey" was missing in action in France, he tried every method possible to try to locate him either as a possible prisoner of war or to find the remains. Senator Warren did all he could but nothing was ever found. He and Mrs. Irvine never accepted the fact their son was really dead, and it was possible that this, along with other tragedies such as their daughter's death in 1918, led Mr. Irvine to complete retirement. He moved to Santa Monica, California in 1920 where he died on July 27, 1924. He is buried in Cheyenne.

In the 54 years Mr. Irvine spent in the West, he saw the country develop from a raw frontier to a settled prosperous country. He had a great deal to do with that development. Marie H. Erwin wrote in 1943 in the WYOMING HISTORICAL BLUEBOOK, the following about William C. Irvine: He served as Treasurer of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, in early life he was a Democrat but changed his political affiliation to the

Republican Party. He was appointed State Treasurer to fill a vacancy in that office, serving from September 19, 1903 until January 2, 1905. He was elected to the same office November 1904, serving from January 2, 1905 until January 7, 1907. He served as a member of the Constitutional Convention, and a signer of the Constitution, a State Senator in the Twelfth and Thirteenth State Legislature in 1913 and 1915. He served as a director of the first company that was organized to build the Cheyenne Northern Railroad and was one of the promoters of the Wheatland Irrigation Project.

Quoting from a bulletin put out by the Wyoming Stock Growers Association in 1944: "William C. Irvine was one of the West's outstanding cattlemen of the pioneer days of Wyoming. He was intrepid, was outstanding for law and order and the rights of all honest men in the range cattle wars."

Edna Moore

## Irwin, Charles and Ruth

Charles G. Irwin was born to John and Jessica Irwin on November 20, 1892 in Belvidere, Nebraska. He was educated in the Nebraska public schools. After completing his education he became an operator and agent in western Nebraska for the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. He joined the army during World War I and served with the 355th Infantry, 89th Division in the European Theater.

Charles' father, John, was of English-Scotch ancestry. His parents had operated linen mills in Ulster. When John was seven years old the family emigrated to Wells, Vermont where they engaged in the dairy business, shipping milk to New York City. John trained as a telegrapher in his youth. After his marriage to Jessica he migrated first into Iowa and later into Nebraska.

Jessie was a niece of John Purdue, the founder of Purdue University at Valparaiso, Indiana, as well as being a cousin of Jubal Early, a General in the Confederate Army.

After his discharge from the army, Charles Irwin moved to Wyoming to file on a homestead claim on Lightning Creek. In 1919 he went into partnership with Byard Mills, founding the Irwin-Mills Furniture Business. The business eventually expanded to include hardware and farm implements.

Mr. Irwin was married on October 12, 1920 to Ruth Leman, the daughter of D. W. and Bessie Leman. Bessie Leman was a sister of Byard Mills, Charles' business partner. Ruth received her education in the public schools in Douglas.

In 1947 Mr. Irwin bought the William J. Brown ranch, which had originated in 1919. The property was extensive in acreage, located about 50 miles north and 15 miles east of Douglas and did business under the name of the Irwin Livestock Company.

The Irwins were the parents of two sons, Dennis L. and C. Donald. Dennis married Lucille Edwards, assuming the management of the Irwin Livestock Company and making the ranch their home. Dennis and Lucille had four children, Douglas, Denise, Diana and Terry. Lucille

died in 1979 after which Dennis married Jane Harrop in 1980.

Donald was married to Carolyn Maguire. They are the parents of two children, Anita and Mike.

Charles Irwin continued to operate the Irwin-Mills establishment for many years, eventually handing the management of the store over to his second son, Donald.

Charles Irwin served as Republican Representative to the Wyoming State House for four terms, acting as Speaker during his last term. He was a member of the Wyoming State Senate for eight terms and served as President of that body.

Charles served as a member of the school board, past President of the American Legion. He was one of the prime movers in the erection of a low-rent development for retired citizens. This building bears his name, the Irwin Towers.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Irwin were members of the Episcopal Church. Charles died on May 16, 1984 and is buried in the Douglas Park Cemetery. Mrs. Irwin still makes her home on North Fourth Street in Douglas.

Ruth Grant

## Isaac, Fred and Helen Family

Fred Isaac was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada on January 1, 1881. His mother was a French Canadian and his father, John, was English and Jewish. They went to England for a while, then came back to Chicago where his father, John, worked in a meat market. They later bought a little place near Brush, Colorado. Soon they gave this up and moved to LaJunta, Colorado. Fred came north with a trail herd to Montana when he was about fifteen or sixteen years old. He went to work on ranches around Wheatland and Glendo and eventually was employed as a ranch hand at Tom Bruner's.

Helen Susan Woodruff was born at Dennison, Iowa, April 9, 1879. She had two older brothers; Jay and Robert. Shortly after her mother died in 1900 she came to Wyoming and spent some time with the Tom Bruners. Mrs. Tom (Martha) Bruner was Helen's mother's sister. She met Fred Isaac at Bruners.

Fred Isaac and Helen Susan Woodruff were married Thanksgiving Day in 1908 at a ranch on LaBonte Creek now known as the Eggleston ranch. It was then owned by Tom Bruner and leased by Fred Isaac.

They spent their first years of married life living at the Bruner ranch and at the homestead they proved up on that was located on Sand Creek. They rode horses back and forth about ten miles each way. It is now part of the Clausen Ranch's summer range which is made up of several sections of land Fred and Helen and James and I, Dorothy, bought from people that had homesteaded surrounding sections.

About 1910 Fred Isaac's father, mother, one of his three brothers, Harry, and two of his five sisters, Ruth and Grace, came here and lived on the Foxton place that John Pexton now owns. All the family soon returned to LaJunta except Fred, Harry and their father, John. He had a little chicken ranch on Wagonhound Creek where



Fred Isaac



Helen Woodruff Isaac



he lived until his death in 1917. He wanted to have the chicken ranch "to get away from the 'pups' (people)". He is buried in the Douglas Cemetery.

Fred and Helen lived for a short time on a ranch on Wagonhound Creek that is now owned by Dennis Daly.

In 1912, Fred and Helen traded their farm near Dow City, Iowa to Lewis Darale for the original Kern ranch on LaBonte Creek which they leased to Leechs for a short time. This ranch has been owned by our family for 72 years.

They had a new home built in a beautiful spot on the west side of LaBonte Creek and meadow and moved into it, but after having several wells drilled and finding no good water, they moved to the east side of the creek into the original house that John Kern had built about 1890.

Fred died August 6, 1935. Pneumonia was the cause of death. A neighbor of his said: "I never knew a more honest man than Fred Isaac nor a better neighbor. He was a good husband and father, and in his passing, Converse County has lost a splendid citizen."

Mother, Helen, died in 1954. She and I had many good years together.

Two children were born to Fred and Helen Isaac: Dorothy in 1920 and John in 1921. John served in the navy overseas in the second World War. He came home and graduated from college. John and his wife, Ginger, live in Fremont, Ohio. He is the engineer for a gas processing plant there. They have two children - Belinda and Michael.

Dorothy graduated from high school as salutatorian, attended college and taught school for eight years. In 1947 she married James Clausen and moved back onto the ranch on LaBonte and into the original house which is now about 100 years old. A few years ago, we moved into a nice home built in 1973 where we still live. We had two sons, Fred and Robert.

Fred married Sharon Davies and has two adopted sons. They have two daughters, Christina and Anita. He is an oil well consultant and owns Bumper to Bumper Parts Store. He owns his home in Douglas.

Robert is married to Kellie Naron. They have three children; Aaron, AuBrie and Aiden. He ranches here with us and has a backhoe business. He is president of Converse County Farm Bureau.

James and Dorothy have been very active in their community. Both have held offices in Farm Bureau. Dorothy has held many offices in the Homemakers Club, both in club and county. She was also a state chairman for about four years. In 1984 she was awarded the Quealy Award.

Both are very active in church. James is a Deacon in the First Southern Baptist Church.

Dorothy Isaac Clausen



L. to R.: Elizabeth Isaac, Opal Watson, Ida Mae Isaac and Lucille Edwards 1935

James and Elizabeth Shaw.

Irene was born on September 29, 1886 in Fort Laramie. She graduated from Saint Martin Academy in Sturgis, South Dakota. Later, she taught school in the LaBonte area.

Harry and Irene had two children, Elizabeth (born on July 14, 1921) and James (born on September 4, 1926.) James died in a fire in Douglas on February 16, 1932. Irene died from the effect of giving birth to her son, James, on September 9, 1926.

In 1927 Harry married Lenora Hinton. They had two children, Ida Mae (born on March 14, 1929) and Joe (born on November 16, 1931.)

The Isaacs lived for many years on the Goodwin place on LaBonte.

As a young man, Harry contracted polio which left him paralyzed in his hand and leg. In spite of his handicap he ran a successful sheep and cattle operation. He was a foreman for C.D. Zimmerman's wide spread Diamond Dot Ranch for many years.

On April 15, 1938 Harry drowned in the flood waters of LaBonte Creek. Harry, with Arnold Braae and Rody Brow, was dislodging the driftwood and heavy logs that were threatening to cause a bridge at the ranch house to wash out. He was prying on one log, but to no avail. He reversed the procedure, throwing his weight against the log. The swift waters carried another timber against the one he was attempting to push away from the bridge and he was thrown into the creek. He was last seen about 300 yards below the bridge, his head and shoulders and one hand above water carried swiftly downstream.

A search party consisting of men from nearby ranches and the local WPA searched for several days for the body but to no avail. It wasn't until one week later that it was found lodged against a fence near the O.P. Johnson ranch buildings.

Elizabeth married Rody Brow in 1940.

Elizabeth Isaac Brow

## Isaac, Harry, Irene and Lenora

Harry Isaac was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1884 where his father worked as a meat cutter. The family moved to LaJunta, Colorado where Harry grew to early manhood. He came to Wyoming shortly after the turn of the century to be near his brother, Fred.

In 1915 he was married to Irene Shaw, daughter of



## Ivester, Joseph Clyde and Blanche

Joseph Clyde Ivester was born Dec. 8, 1888 in Mountain Rest, South Carolina, the son of Joe and Clara Pell Ivester and came to Wyoming in 1910 to make his home around the Shawnee and Douglas areas.

When Clyde (as he was better known) came to this area, he worked at several ranches, including the B. J. Erwin, Mortons and the Fiddleback. For a short time he farmed, south of Shawnee, then moved into Shawnee and with his wife Blanche managed the Shawnee Hotel. Also



Top row, l. to r.: Evaline Elgin Swickhamer (John), Elizabeth Elgin York (Henry). Bottom row, l. to r.: Myrtle Elgin York (Tom), Blanche Elgin Ivester (Clyde).

at this time, he worked as a carpenter and at other jobs, that were available. Clyde served 25 years, in various capacities, as a law enforcement officer. He served as Deputy Sheriff for four years at Shawnee and eight years in Douglas as Deputy under Sheriff Albert Peyton and ten years as Douglas Chief of Police. In 1942 he was elected Sheriff of Converse County, taking over this office in 1943 and served in this capacity, until the time of his death May 19, 1946.

Clyde married Blanche Marie Elgin on Jan. 23, 1915, at Lost Springs, Wyoming. Blanche was born in Bates County, Missouri, Dec. 22, 1895, to Charles Lee and Lucy Ann Elgin and came to Wyoming in 1908 with her father and made her home in this vicinity until her death July 25, 1934. She was a devoted wife, mother, and homemaker and active in the First Baptist Church.

Blanche and Clyde were the parents of two sons, Willard and Kenneth Ivester of Douglas and three daughters: Eva Ivester Quinn of Prosser, Washington; Peggy Ivester Quinn of Pendleton, Oregon; and Virginia Bennett Lenzen deceased 3-30-1976.

Eva M. Ivester Quinn

## Jackson, Andrew and Cora Family

Andrew Jackson was born in Denmark on March 28, 1842, growing to manhood there. At the age of 22, Andrew, in the company of a friend, Bill Holden, decided to emigrate to the United States, lured by the promise of open land available for homesteading and intrigued with the stories they had heard of the great cattle ranches, wild Indians and outlaws and the forts and soldiers in the vast and untamed country lying west of the Mississippi River.

Andrew and Bill arrived in New York in April of 1864. From there they traveled to the Wyoming Territory where they found employment with the Union Pacific Railroad. At that time the tracks had been completed as far as Omaha, Nebraska and the company was in the process of extending their road westward to join the Central Pacific Railroad which had originated at Sacramento, California. Bill and Andrew hired on to help lay track. The job was completed on May 10, 1869, when the presidents of the two railroad companies met at Promintory Point in Utah to drive the golden spike with a silver hammer, joining the two sets of tracks which spanned the United States. Bill and Andrew, along with many other laborers, were given the opportunity to tap the golden spike.

Shortly after the ceremony in Utah, Andrew and Bill boarded a stage bound for Rock Creek, Wyoming Territory. Two days later they arrived at the small settlement where Andy purchased a team of horses, a team of mules, a saddle horse, a freight wagon, and harnesses; Bill purchased a freight wagon and two spans of mules. In this manner they began their freighting business.



Mary Stoner Yeisley

They traveled from Rock Creek to Cheyenne, on to Sheridan, back to Rock Creek and on to Laramie. At first they were associated in business with two other freighters, Frank Hardy and Hank Wells. Their first trip as freighters was made in September of 1869; their destination, Laramie, was reached three and a half days later.

After two years of working at their freighting business, Andy and Bill filed on homesteads. Bill filed near Rock Creek and Andy filed in the north end of Downey Park near the Downey family for which the park was named. The two men continued freighting during the time they weren't required to be on the land.

Andy married Cora Yeisley, daughter of Henry and Mary Stoner Yeisley, on June 23, 1885 at the Jackson ranch in Downey Park with Mrs. Yeisley and her son, John, in attendance.

Cora was born in Lucas, Ohio on January 22, 1869. She had one brother, John and six sisters, Mary, Susan, Amanda, Katie, Reanie and Lena. Her father was born aboard the ship bringing the family to America from Europe.

After her husband's death in Ohio in 1869, Mary and her family decided to come west to Colorado to find free land. They came by way of wagon in a company of 15 wagons and 64 people. After an arduous trip which included many long remembered events such as a fight with the Indians, they arrived at their destination.

In 1884 the family came to Wyoming where Mary Yeisley accepted a position at the Cheyenne Stage Station as a cook and housekeeper. She died shortly after as a result of pneumonia which she contracted while hiding in a willow grove from the Indians which were attacking the station.

John Yeisley worked for Andy for a period of time before taking a job as stage driver between Rock Creek and Fort Fetterman. He later homesteaded on upper LaPrele Creek where he remained until his death on December 20, 1928.

Cora's longtime companion on the ranch while Andy was away freighting was Donna Hays. She married and moved away when Andy came back to the ranch to stay.

One son, Henry Martin (b. 1886), and one daughter, Lena (b. 1888), were born while Andy and Cora lived in Downey Park. Lena died in 1890 and is buried at the homestead in the park.

Shortly after Lena's death the Jacksons purchased Samuel Slaymaker's place on upper LaPrele Creek. Slaymaker had operated it as a stage stop on the Fort Fetterman-Rock Creek Trail. It is located immediately north of where Rory Cross lives in 1985.

Three sons; Bert (b. January 1891), George (b. December 1894) and Peter (b. February 29, 1896) and one daughter, Mattie Marie (b. July 1898) were born on the ranch on LaPrele.

Andy's brother, Peter, came to live with the family after they moved to LaPrele Creek. He was to live with them until his death on March 29, 1917.

Andy died on May 7, 1921 from the effects of a tragic accident a few days earlier. He had left the house to go and repair a wagon. After several hours of absence, Cora became worried and sent George to find him. George found Andy lying face down near a dead ewe. Indications were that Andy had found the dead ewe and decided to

skin her. He was in the process of doing so when a ram which was penned a short distance away broke out of his enclosure and butted Andy in the head. Unconscious, he was rushed to the Douglas hospital but died a few days later without ever gaining consciousness.

Cora and her son, George, managed the home ranch until her death on May 7, 1928. The ranch was then sold to William Cross.

Some of the teachers of the Jackson children were Lillian M. Bratt, Mary Cross, Marion Browning, Alzire Cross and Maud Dawes. Mattie remembers one school incident very well. It seems that someone wanted to play a joke on Mary so they stuffed a pair of overalls in the chimney. Smoke poured into the room, Mary became frightened and rode to Jacksons for help. John Yeisley grabbed a sheep hook and climbed to the roof upon reaching the school house and pulled the overalls out. Needless to say there was no school for the rest of the day.

Pete Jackson worked for the Hylton ranch for 30 years. He was foreman for many of those years. In 1943 he married Margaret Housiaux O'Brien. He died on February 26, 1956.

George homesteaded in 1916 near his parent's place on LaPrele Creek. On March 16, 1933 he married Stella Graves Howard in Harrison, Nebraska. Children born to them were: Cora (Johnson), James Richard, George, William, Andrew and Delbert. After becoming seriously ill in 1949 he spent most of the rest of his life in the Sheridan Veteran's Hospital. He died on December 15, 1966.

Albert "Bert" married Bessie Housiaux. They had one son, Albert Jr. Bessie died May 25, 1933. Bert married George's widow, Stella. He died in 1979.

Mattie Marie married Ed Carlon. (See Carlon story.)

From information given by  
Mattie Jackson Carlon

## Jackson, T. B. "Bert" and Angie

The Jackson family, Bert and Angie and their seven children, ranging in age from the eldest son, then 18 years old, to the youngest girl, who was six, left Kansas in June of 1919. They were bound for Wyoming, making the trip in two horse-drawn covered wagons. They arrived at the homestead site about two and one-half months later on August 12 at four in the afternoon. The family lived in the two wagons until they could complete their house.

The dwelling was very large compared to most homestead houses in the area. It was a two-storied affair, having five rooms and a full basement. Even the younger children helped with the digging of the basement, carrying buckets of dirt from the excavation. It was difficult work. The Jacksons wore out a pole axe and a pick digging in the sandstone.

The Jackson children studied at home that first year, using books they had brought with them from Kansas. The second year they attended the newly completed Leper-Nagley School. The Jackson children walked over two miles to attend this school. Their first teacher was a very young lady with only a high school education, but the

following year, and older, more experienced teacher was hired.

At the age of eleven, Joe, the second son, hauled coal. He used four head of horses, making a round trip of 44 miles. The Jacksons farmed, raised chickens and sheep. The oldest boy worked away from home most of the time so Joe was obliged to do much of the heavy farm work.

After spending three years on the homestead the Jacksons moved to Orpha, Wyoming where they operated a store. Joe continued to work in the country for various ranchers in the area.

In 1925 Mrs. Jackson's health failed. The high altitude of Wyoming aggravated her condition; therefore the Jacksons sold their property and returned to Kansas.

Joe B. Jackson

## Jacobs, Bass and Mabel

Bass Jacobs was born in Franklin, North Carolina in 1886, son of Jules and Rachel Jacobs. His grandfather, Gaither Jacobs, came to the United States from Holland. Basil Pinckney Jacobs, known as "Bass" arrived in Converse County, Wyoming in 1903 at the age of 17, after having worked his way West from North Carolina in order to join his older brother, Jesse Jacobs, and his uncle, both of whom were then employed by the Jake Jenne Ranch in northern Converse County. He relates that he arrived in Douglas with exactly 3 cents in his pocket, with which he bought 3 doughnuts; and then hired a livery driver to take him to the Jenne Ranch fervently hoping his brother would have the \$15 to pay the hire. Jesse Jacobs died within a few years (date unknown) of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and his uncle returned with Jesse to North Carolina for burial and did not return to Wyoming. Bass, however, stayed on, eventually working up to the job of foreman, formerly held by his brother.

Bass was a skilled driver of horses; this skill having been acquired at an early age as an apprentice to his father, Jules Jacobs. Jules was a stage coach driver for 42 years in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, with a 20-mile run every day over steep winding mountain trails from Franklin to Dillsboro, North Carolina and back, and he trained his son, Bass, to be an expert driver. This training stood him in good stead when called upon to drive a freight wagon with six horses in order to supply a ranch needs 60 miles from Douglas. Mrs. Charles Reid recalls an incident when Bass, driving six horses on a freight wagon with trailer wagon attached, managed to turn the rig around at the corner of the present Golden Rule Store with great skill, and so won a wager offered by onlookers.

Bass Jacobs was united in marriage with Mary Etta Pattison Whipple in 1916 to whom one son was born, Charles Alfred Jacobs. Mary Jacobs died in 1920 of pneumonia.

In June 1922, Bass was married to Mabel Schuman. Mabel Schuman was born in Putnam, Nebraska, daughter of Bert and Rosina Hoefling Schuman. Her father, Bert Schuman, came to this country from Germany as a small boy. Mabel attended schools in Kansas,

and came west as a young woman, teaching schools in Colorado and Wyoming. Mabel was an accomplished musician, providing piano accompaniment for school, church and community gatherings throughout her lifetime in Wyoming. In 1926, Bass and Mabel bid farewell to the Jenne Ranch and began a small ranching business of their own on Antelope Creek near the Campbell County line. To them were born three children: Evelyn Rose in 1924; Dorothy Rae in 1927; and Donald B. in 1929.

They had just finished their home, and were getting settled in when disaster struck in the form of a flood of tremendous proportions. In the spring of 1929, a widespread storm system did an unusual and devastating thing. In three separate cloudbursts at the head of three separate creeks, an unheard amount of water was channeled toward the unsuspecting residents along Antelope Creek. The three streams converged about a half mile above the Jacobs' ranch home. Bass had been away for several days attending to lambing chores. If he had not arrived home that evening no doubt the family would have drowned. In the night, Mabel heard a hen and chicks begin to chirp. Thinking some animal was molesting them, she urged her husband to investigate. Upon opening the door, he was greeted by a sea of water as far as the eye could see and it was rising rapidly. Hurriedly he woke Charles in the bunkhouse, put the babies in the car and moved it to a bluff overlooking the creek. Then Bass and Mabel, holding hands, waded out with the water now up to their shoulders. Evelyn was perched on her father's shoulders clutching her clothing which she managed to hold on to, with the exception of one shoe. When they reached the safety of the bluff, perhaps 300 yards away, they turned to look. It was a beautiful moonlight night, the storm clouds had dissipated, and they watched their log house leave the foundation and float down the creek. The house lodged in a grove of trees at a bend, one side gave way, and nearly everything washed out. Some of these things were found in the tops of the tallest cottonwoods when the water receded.

Although they had lost home, belongings and a large share of the livestock, giving up was not even considered. The family moved into a tent for the summer and work was started immediately on a new log house on higher, safer ground. This house still stands with various remodelings, was home for them the rest of their lives, and is still part of the home ranch buildings of son, Donald Jacobs.

During the blizzard of 1949, which brought such hardship to the livestock growers of Converse County, Bass Jacobs gambled with his life and won. In the midst of the storm when it became apparent that the sheep would perish by piling against the fences, he put on his warmest clothing, put as much food in his pockets as he could carry, took his wire cutters, and went ahead of his herd of sheep, cutting fences and allowing them to drift with the wind. Several days later when the storm cleared, he was many miles from home, but alive and so were his sheep. He was sighted by a rescue helicopter, he trucked his livestock home, paid his neighbors for the damages, and thus managed to retain his herd.

Such hardships were not uncommon to all the early settlers, and Bass was intensely proud of being a pioneer.

He and Mabel surmounted many difficulties to establish a successful ranching operation, and he remained active in the business until his illness which preceded his death September 26, 1966.

Mabel Jacobs enjoyed gardening and cooking and continued to teach in the various local schools in northern Converse County, as well as in Campbell County, in a period of time extending from before her marriage until 1956 at which time her grandchildren were among her pupils. Her special pleasure was in the musical programs she helped to present. Mabel Jacobs died November 8, 1972. Donald Jacobs now owns and operates the Jacobs Ranch on Antelope Creek.

Evelyn Jacobs Munkres Provine

## Jenne, Jacob and Annabelle Family

Jacob Jenne was born July 1, 1870 in DeKalb County, Illinois. His parents, John M. and Rosianna (Schmidt) Jenne had come from Germany to New York November 18, 1867 and arrived in DeKalb County, Illinois in 1869. Three of Jacob's brothers died during a diphtheria epidemic in Illinois in 1879, and so, leaving these sad times behind, the family moved to Adrian, Bates County, Missouri in 1882 and purchased 160 acres of land for \$2,520.00. Young Jacob went to school and worked the land in Missouri until 1891 when he came to Wyoming to be associated with his brother, John Morton, in the Morton-Jenne Sheep Company.

In 1897, John's wife was in need of a companion during her pregnancy. It was arranged through a family friend that Anna Elrod, visiting family friends in Chadron, Nebraska, would come to Douglas to be with Mrs. Morton. Annabelle was the daughter of Thomas Benton and Kathryn Ann (Bowers) Elrod of Loyd and Washington Counties, Indiana. She was born June 10, 1870 and grew up in Indiana.

Jacob's and Anna's first meeting came when he returned from a sheep camp; and they were married October 18, 1898. Their honeymoon was spent in Omaha, and the first part of their married lives was spent in a sheep wagon. Anna often remarked "those were the happiest days of my life."

Anna spent a great deal of time sewing, handstitching the linens in anticipation of the time when they would have a home. In February 1899, Jacob purchased two lots on Center and Sixth Streets and the Jenne home was built at 107 North Sixth. The family can remember large Christmas gatherings — at least three turkeys were roasted for the holidays. Bullberry picking and a picnic along the creeks in Converse County was a treat for young and old alike.

The Jennes loved to travel on vacation. Many of the lovely pieces of furniture, pictures, glassware, china, and bric-a-brac came from the auctions and stores in the various cities they visited.

Jacob built the Jenne Block on Center and Third Streets in Douglas. The basement for the old *Douglas Enterprise* newspaper was especially built with heavy floors to accommodate the heavy printing presses and other machinery required.

Anna was a hard worker in the Methodist Church — her chicken noodle dinners for church affairs became very well known. She gave unselfishly of both her time and money.

Anna decided to rent out a spare room for \$10 per month giving the income to the church. This decision brought Max O. Guthlin into the Jennes life to remain close to their hearts and part of their family his entire life.

Anna and Jake Jenne were active in the affairs of Douglas. In addition to her church work, Anna belonged to the Eastern Star and Afternoon Whist-Bridge Club. On February 16, 1915, Anna was appointed by the Governor of Wyoming as Vice President of Wyoming State Fair for three years — "One of five outstanding women of Wyoming." Jake was president of the Douglas Mercantile Company which literally sold everything from "nuts to bolts." He served as Converse County Commissioner and Councilman for the City of Douglas. He belonged to the Elks, Woodman of the World, and was a Thirty-Second Degree Mason, Royal Arch Mason, and a Shriner. They both enjoyed playing bridge and a night out with the Couples Dinner and Dance Club.

The Jennes family consisted of: Jacob Fred born July 29, 1900 in Douglas; and Kathryn born December 23, 1902 in Douglas. Later, Robert Roderick came to the family (born July 25, 1917) and all three grew up in Douglas and enjoying vacations in sunny California during the winter months. Fred married Lucille Lois Nohe, Kathryn married Dr. Foster Clarke Shaffer, and Robert married Kathryn Rankin.

Both Jacob and Anna became ill in 1935. Anna passed away August 7, and Jacob followed October 15, 1935. They are buried in the family plot in Douglas Park Cemetery.

Anna and Jacob Jenne enjoyed many friends throughout Wyoming, and were, in turn, loved by our Wyoming Pioneers.

Kathryn Shaffer

## Jesurun, Mortimer, M.D.

Among the early settlers and pioneers in Fetterman country was Mortimer Jesurun. He was born on July 18, 1860 on Curacao Island off the north coast of South America where his father was U. S. Consul at the port of Curacao from 1857-1864.

He could trace his ancestry back in an unbroken line to the twelfth century period to a distinguished prime minister of the King of Spain thru his mother Luna Peixotto Jesurun. His father, M. Jesurun, was born in Venezuela, South America.

In 1864 his father made his home in New York City. He became a shipowner and had large shipping interests with which he was identified until his death in 1880.

Dr. Jesurun received his early literary education from special tutors at his own home in New York City, at eleven years going to Germany to continue his studies.

In 1878 he became a resident of Fetterman, Wyoming, and embarked in the stock industry. To this he gave his personal attention and services in the summer seasons, returning to New York for the winters and there devoting himself to the study of medicine at the Univer-



Mortimer "Four Eyes" Jesurun, M.D.

sity of the city of New York, being graduated in March 1892 with the degree of M.D.

The Doctor was one of the original settlers of the Town of Douglas and served as mayor at one time.

During the Spanish American War he served as major chief surgeon of the Second U.S. Volunteer Cavalry under Col. J. L. Torrey and as chief surgeon of the hospital of the Third Division of the Seventh Army Corp. under Gen. Fitzhugh Lee.

On Nov. 7, 1900 he formed the Fetterman Hereford Co. along with Fred W. and Ruby Eva Rimington. The capital was \$50,000 with the three being directors. Some of the lands owned were in T. 33, R. 72, Sec. 21, which was bought from Lydia Clelland, wife of Lester Clelland. (These lands were later sold in 1905 to Martin Madsen and is where Dick and Catherine Strock live on LaPrele Creek now). Other lands were T. 37, R. 73, Sec. 22 etc., which were bought from the Rimingtons. (These lands were sold to John T. Williams Sheep and Land Co. for \$7,000 in 1909. It is where Walter and Evelyn Reynolds live on Duck Creek now).

On Sunday Feb. 19, 1905 Dr. Jesurun disappeared from sight. He was last seen at the Union Pacific station near Council Bluffs, Iowa after wiring his mother that he was enroute home. Three thousand circulars were distributed around the country with the following description:

"Dr. Mortimer Jesurun is missing from Douglas,

Wyo. was last seen at the U. P. Transfer Depot at Council Bluffs, Iowa. on Sun. Feb. 19, 1905. Is about 48 years old, 5'8", very bald, prominent nose, dark brown eyes, somewhat crooked, wears glasses, wt. 170#, wore #8 shoes, has full short vandike beard, moustache light brown and not very thick, carried his head to one side when walking or talking. His mouth when it can be seen had large gold crowns and bridge work around double teeth. Wore a large emerald ring on third finger of left hand. Wore pair of elk tooth cuff buttons. John Morton and John T. Williams who refer to the 1st National Bank at Douglas will pay \$1,000 reward for Dr. Mortimer Jesurun anywhere in U.S.A."

"Bill Barlow's Budget" (later, "The Douglas Budget") made note of Dr. Jesurun's disappearance in its March 12, 1905 issue, as follows:

"Seventeen days have elapsed since Dr. Jesurun of this city dropped out of sight at the U. P. near Council Bluffs, after wiring his mother that he was enroute home. Mr. John Morton, who has spent the past ten days in trying to pick up the trail of the missing man in the vicinity of Omaha returned Monday; but Mr. Williams who left Wed. to assist in the search has gone south in the hope of discovering some clues.

"From the fact that the doctor had plenty of money when he left Douglas and drew an additional \$600 on the day he started for home, it is believed that whatever the condition of his mind might have been he knew all the time what he was doing and where he was going, and that he is not likely to ever return. His financial affairs are said to be in bad shape — his debts aggregating near \$30,000 which while it does not fully explain, it does tend to throw some light upon his mysterious disappearance."

In the July 1, 1937 issue of the Douglas Budget, the obituary of Mrs. L. P. Jesurun tells of the final chapters of the life of Dr. Jesurun.

"Word has been received here of the death in Los Angeles of Mrs. L. P. Jesurun, who was an early resident of Douglas. Her death recalls a tragic episode in the career of her son, Dr. Mortimer Jesurun.

"Dr. Jesurun was one of the pioneer physicians of Douglas. About 35 years ago he left for the east, ostensibly to raise some money to tide him over an urgent need. He reached Des Moines on this trip and then dropped out of sight. An intensive search was made for him but no trace was found.

"Some years later the secretary of Ashlar Lodge of Masons received a query from Chanute, Kansas, to locate the owner of a Masonic charm that had been found there with Jesurun's name and that of Ashlar Lodge. Jesurun had changed his name and was engaged in the commission business in Chanute. Learning of the finding of the Masonic charm he hurriedly disposed of his business there and disappeared again.

"Nothing further was heard from him by Douglas friends until, about twenty years ago, he appeared in Los Angeles under his own name. he engaged in the drug business in that city and died a few years ago."

John R. Pexton



## Jewell, George A. and Bertha Family

George A. Jewell was born March 4, 1876 in Tucarawas County, Gnadenhutten, Ohio. His wife, Bertha I. Hesket, was born in Missouri, December 18, 1882. They were united in marriage June 23, 1901.

George and Bertha had three children, Faye Jewell, born May 3, 1901, George S. Jewell, nicknamed "Bud", born July 5, 1904 and Margurite Jewell born August 4, 1908. Each of them were born in Brown County, Indiana.

In the spring of 1909, the George Jewell family, including mother, Martha, sister, Ella Thursday Shaffer, a widow and her three sons, went to Mitchell, South Dakota. There they stayed with a brother in a two room apartment until they could find homes of their own. Bud said that ten people in a two room apartment made lots of noise and confusion.

The children started school in South Dakota. It was Bud's first year of school at the age of six and his sister, Faye, was eight and entered the third grade.

George A. Jewell's friend, Clarence Ford, from Indiana, came to Wyoming first and found the land that he wanted to file on as his homestead.

In 1911 George ventured to Douglas, Wyoming to file the claims for himself, his mother, Martha and his sister Ella. After filing, George then returned to his job in Mitchell, South Dakota, because he did not have to establish their residence at the homestead until October. He then returned to Douglas, with his family, his mother, sister and her children. They arrived by train the first part of October, camping at the mouth of Antelope Creek in a tent, below the Northwestern Railroad Bridge in a campground. The Wyoming State Fair was on at that time and the Roosevelt Colored Guard "The Fighting Thirteen" was the main attraction. Bud can remember watching their performance and the fair from a high place close to the tracks.

While camping at Antelope Creek, George hired Zimmerman, who had a team and wagon and was camped at the campground, to move all their household items and enough lumber to build three cabins on Smith Creek. They lived in tents until the cabins were finished.

The first experience that Bud Jewell can remember on the claim, was his encounter with the prickly pear cactus. George's father warned Bud to be careful but Bud and his cousin Arnold were being typical boys and rough housing a bit and Bud tried to escape his cousin and, of course, fell right into the prickly pear cactus. So his father had to spend quite a bit of time pulling the stickers out.

The first cabin to be built by George and Clarence was the one for George's mother. When it was completed, Bertha, Ella, Faye, Margurite and Ella's youngest son, stayed in it. George, his son, his two nephews and Clarence Ford remained in the tent and were welcomed by the first snow storm of the year. They soon learned why you should dig trenches and ditches around your tent. They didn't and the snow melted and got the tent soaking wet, all their bedding and them. They only had an oil cook stove to keep them warm so they spent a very cold, wet night.

George and Clarence built George's cabin next and he and his family moved into it right away and then built



George Jewell with his violin.

Ella's for her and her boys. Ella continued to stay with her mother until hers was completed.

Ella worked as a cook at the Table Mountain Sheep Ranch that winter, for a short time. Her youngest son stayed with her there, and the two oldest stayed with her mother.

The year 1912 is remembered by Bud Jewell very clearly as he, his father and his sister picked up cow chips for fuel on New Year's Day, and his sister, Faye's comment was that would be how they would spend all their days in the year 1912.

George had to walk to Orin Junction or to Douglas to get any supplies that were needed by their families. Once in a great while he was lucky and caught a ride with a camp mover. When George was not able to go it was up to Bud and Faye to walk to Douglas. One trip, George, Arnold and Edward had to get flour and kerosene. They took the toy wagon to carry the supplies, there were no roads and the trip was rough and the kerosene got on the flour. At the prices of supplies and the hard times, when money was very short, needless to say they were in trouble when they returned home.

George worked on Casper Mountain, building fences on ranches and working for Eastman. He had his nephew, Edward, clearing sagebrush and cutting cottonwood trees. When George returned, he and Clarence Ford planned to use Clarence's horse and a homemade rig of an axle and two buggy wheels to haul the cottonwood from the divide at Herny the Preacher's homestead, but the horse refused to work and the kids had to haul it in their toy wagon.

That fall, George and Clarence found a sheepherder's dog caught in a trap. The sheepherder was there too. He had tried to get the dog released from the trap and had been badly bitten. George managed to get the dog free and then took the sheepherder to Douglas to be treated by the doctor. The sheepherder was so grateful and gave George a mutton to butcher and eat. This was the

toughest meat Bud could ever remember eating. That first winter all they had to eat was rabbit. They were plentiful and one time they cooked 25 of them in a week's time. They ate bread and gravy, as eggs and potatoes were too expensive.

On April 15, 1912 Douglas was hit with a treacherous blizzard. George was away working so Edward gathered sagebrush for them to burn. Bud doesn't remember how they kept warm and survived that one. The Table Mountain Sheep Company had their sheep by Ella Shaffer's homestead and the sheep drifted out across the flat and died. This is one of the events that later caused the sheep company to go broke. George returned after the blizzard and skinned sheep for 10¢ a head, until they got too ripe. At this same time, other disasters were happening around the country, the Titanic had gone down. This was also a sad time for the family. Bertha's mother had passed away in South Dakota and she was unable to go because of no money.

That summer George planted a garden at Smith Creek, close to his mother's home. Ella's sons were to care for it while George was away. But being typical boys, they didn't do as they were supposed to and they didn't have much of a crop.

Ella married Ivan Miller who worked at the Table Mountain Sheep Co. They moved into Douglas in the fall. Due to the illness of George's mother, he and Bertha and the children moved in with her. Later they took her to Douglas and admitted her into the hospital. It was then that they discovered she was starting to go blind. After they harvested, they went into town to be near Martha and the children went to school. George worked and bought a team of horses.

The Table Mountain Sheep Co. wanted to get rid of the homesteaders, so they could reclaim their range land. They told Bertha they would pay her and the children's way back to South Dakota for a visit with her family. She took the money and bought tickets for them and they left but George stayed in Wyoming and their plan failed.

Bertha divorced George while she was in South Dakota and worked as a housekeeper to support herself and the children. She then married Henry Sambo. Bud had a very hard time, his life was miserable with a very mean stepfather. In 1917 Bud wrote to his father asking for a train ticket back to Wyoming. Bud returned to Douglas and the girls remained in South Dakota with their mother.

George talked his brother into coming to Wyoming. Edward A. Jewell filed for a homestead and tried farming. They also took land for their son, Robert Jewell, who was in the navy. After serving in WWI, he returned to Douglas and tried farming but this didn't work out. They bought a tractor and would plow for neighboring farmers and ranchers. Edward also worked in the office for an oil company but that also failed. He then ran the Wyoming Hotel that was located just north of the library. Eventually the owners sold the hotel and it was torn down. He went on to manage the apartment house on the corner of Fifth and Walnut. This apartment house has since been moved and is now the Ice Cream Parlor at the Plains Motel complex. Edward died and is buried in the Douglas Cemetery.

They passed a law that year that you could home-

stead another 320 acres, so George and Ella filed on another 160 acres. He tried to make a living farming potatoes, but due to the dry weather condition, it wasn't a very good crop.

In 1917 when Bud returned to Wyoming, his father did raise a fair crop of potatoes. They cut their grain late in the season and took it to Shawnee to the elevator to sell. George never invested in livestock, except for horses. In 1919 there was an April blizzard. It snowed for five days and nights. George had four horses at that time. He fed them every day but the weather conditions were so severe that three of his horses died. He purchased another team. That summer, George's mother passed away at the age of 72. She was buried in the Douglas Cemetery. The records have since been lost and no one knows where her grave is located.

The fall of 1922 George and Bud dug potatoes, then Bud left to work for Ed Fenneman building fences. He went to work for the county building a bridge for a few days, then left for Nebraska, working for a rancher during the summer and later worked for the Coffee Cattle Co.

In the year 1924 Bud came back to Douglas and worked the winter. He wrecked his car before Christmas and spent the holidays in the Douglas hospital. He spent nine days there. He later went to work for Cakebread at Orin Junction, building a water wheel and then he went back to Nebraska. He stayed for a short period of time and came back to the Platte Valley Co. He worked there for a short time, quit and went to Montana but didn't stay there very long before he left and went back to the Platte Valley Ranch where he finally stayed for two years. He later went to Pinedale, Wyoming and worked on a dam until the fall. He went to Idaho to dig potatoes then to Nebraska to shuck corn. He finally went back to work for the Platte Valley Ranch Co.

George, in the meantime, stayed on the homestead and tried to farm it. It didn't do any good so he went to work on an oil well for Cortane, as a night watchman, but never did get paid. He lost part of the land at this time due to failure to pay the mortgage.

In the year 1931 Bud met his wife to be, Pearl Kindig, at the Platte Valley Ranch. She was from Nebraska. Pearl was with her sister on their way to the state of California. After meeting Bud that night she told everyone that she was staying to marry Bud, which they thought was a big joke, as Bud was 27 and a confirmed bachelor. Bud and Pearl were married March 2, 1932 in Gering, Nebraska. They had two children, Mary Louise and Patricia Ann.

In 1933 George had a good crop of potatoes on his place. Bud went to work for the government on the WPA for a couple of years. They did work on the highways and different government projects.

In 1936 Bud went to work for the Stanolind Pipe Line Co. at the Clayton Tank Farm by Glenrock, Wyoming.

In 1938 George ran a filling station at Torrence's. The guy who owned it died and it was put up for sale. George bought 40 acres of land outside of Douglas and built his own station which he ran until he died.

This same year Bud was laid off from the pipeline. He and his family moved to Mitchell, Nebraska for a short time. He went to work in Fort Laramie, then they

called him for work near Douglas that fall on the river crossing, but he was laid off again in November. In March they called him back and he stayed with them until he retired. George died in February 1948. He was known by all as the fiddler who danced a jig. He entertained his customers. After his death, Bud sold the station building and the gas pumps but still owns the 40 acres.

In 1950 Bud and his daughter Patricia built a house, shed and garage on his father's land.

In 1958 Bud was transferred to Kirby, Wyoming for eleven months and then to Casper where Pearl worked at the Ben Franklin store for ten years. Bud slipped on a fire wall while gauging tanks and was off for eleven weeks during the winter time. He spent several days in the hospital.

Bud retired November 1, 1965 after 29 years, three months service. They stayed in Casper until 1968 and then moved back to Douglas to make their home.

Bud's mother Bertha passed away in Mill Port, New York in 1970. She was 88 years old.

On March 2, 1982 Bud and Pearl celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a big get together with family and friends.

Pearl passed away after a very short illness on October 5, 1983. Bud's daughter, Mary Louise is married to Don Henry and has six grown and married children and six grandchildren. Patricia Ann is married to Jack Garner and has three children and two grandchildren. Mary Louise lives at Commerce City, Colorado and Pat lives in Casper, Wyoming.

Bud died on July 20, 1985.

His sister Faye is a retired school teacher and lives in Sanford, Florida. His sister Margurite passed away in Florida and is buried there.

George S. "Bud" Jewell

## Johnson, A. "Humpy" and Caroline

Alexander Gus "Humpy" Johnson came to the United States from Sweden at the age of 12, in search of his brother, whom he was unable to locate. Gus had been born in Falun, Sweden in 1874.

Gus first located in the Bates Hole country, prior to coming to Douglas in 1900. He was employed as a freight wagon driver on a route between Douglas and Gillette for a time after his arrival. Later he worked for John Morton, and still later, he acted as foreman for the John Flynn Sheep Company. It was said of Gus that he could shear 200 sheep in one day.

In 1903, Gus went to Chicago where he met and married Caroline A. Anderson. With his wife, he returned to Douglas. There were four children born to this union, two boys and two girls. Three of the children died in infancy, but the fourth, Esther, survived.

Gus' first homestead, which was located west of Douglas, is now owed by the Rothleutners. He sold this homestead in 1916, after which he and his family returned to Sweden. Mine sweepers preceded the vessel on which the Johnson family sailed, pushing mines out of the path of the ship, since the first World War had begun.

The Johnsons remained in Sweden for a year, where Gus was involved in settling an estate. They returned to

the United States in 1917.

Gus, or "Humpy", as some folks called him, intended to remain on the East coast, but for some unknown reason, he returned to Douglas with his family, and once more, took a homestead west of Douglas.

In the middle twenties, he sold his homestead and moved to town where he eventually became a director in the First National Bank.

At the time of Gus' death in 1947, he had one grandson, the only child of Esther E. Johnson and Lloyd Bruegeman. Since then, Benjamin W. Bruegeman has been born. He is the son of Harold, Gus' grandson. These descendants of Alexander Johnson reside in the city of Douglas, Wyoming.

Harold Bruegeman

## Johnson, Carl and Alice Nason Family

Isaac Newton Nason, a farmer of French Canadian ancestry, was born November 18, 1852. Mary Alice Hahn Nason, of Dutch extraction, was born February 11, 1860. Both Isaac and Mary Alice were born in Pennsylvania, grew to adulthood and were married there on January 23, 1876. They migrated to Nebraska to engage in farming shortly after their marriage.

To this union eight children were born, two of whom died before reaching maturity. Alice Lorena, born in Marquette, Hamilton County, Nebraska on October 16, 1878, was the second child in the family. Alice received her common school education in Hamilton County. Alice and her older sister were obliged to work in the fields with their father, using oxen to plow and plant the crops. They were accustomed to hard manual labor.

Alice was married for the first time to a Nebraska farmer, Henry Johnson. Henry was born in Nebraska in 1868, of Swedish ancestry. He was a veteran of the Spanish American War and died in 1914 after a lengthy period of ill health, a result of disabilities suffered in the service. Alice and Henry were the parents of one daughter, Lorena, born in Nebraska in 1911.

In 1915 Isaac brought his wife and children to Wyoming to find land to homestead. His widowed daughter, Alice, and her four-year-old child accompanied them. The trip was made in emigrant cars, filled with household goods, furniture, farm animals, farming equipment and tools. An employee of Mr. Nason, Carl Johnson, came with the family. He, too, sought a homestead claim.

Carl Johnson, born in Nebraska, was no relation to Henry Johnson. His parents were Danish immigrants whose name was Jensen. For some reason they changed the spelling of the name to Johnson. Carl was one of four children, three boys and a girl. At the time of their arrival in Wyoming, Carl and Alice had fallen in love with one another. They filed on adjoining homesteads north of Shawnee and were married in 1916 in Douglas, Wyoming.

The Johnsons raised hogs, a few cattle and farmed to make a living. They milked cows and sold cream to earn enough to buy staple groceries. Each of them filed on additional homesteads. They worked long, hard hours, managing to wrest from the land a meager living.

Alice gave birth to her second daughter, Florence, on



Standing: l. to r. Alice Johnson, Carl Johnson, Lorena Johnson. Sitting: Mary Nason. Front: Florence Johnson 1920

April 7, 1918. Lorena, Alice's older daughter, spent much of her early life living with her grandmother and grandfather on their farm south of Shawnee. Florence, however, lived with her parents on the homestead, and from the time she was old enough to perform small tasks, she was required to work.

In 1924 Carl, hoping to improve the quality of his life and that of his family, decided to enroll in the Sweeney Automobile Mechanic's School which was located in Kansas City, Missouri. He was there only a short time when he contracted scarlet fever which took his life. He was buried in Aurora, Nebraska the same year.

Now Alice was faced with a choice. She could give up the homestead, or continue to operate alone with the help of her six year old daughter. She chose to do the latter.

Mrs. Johnson was a short woman, about 5'2" tall of medium build. Though cumbersome for field work, she always wore dresses or skirts. She was well versed in all aspects of farming, having done a man's work from the time she was old enough to do so. After Carl's death, she planted and harvested her crops and tended her stock with little or no help. Stockmen who owned large numbers of cattle or sheep and who had used the open range for years, resented all homesteaders but made it particularly difficult for a widow. Alice became a hard-shelled woman, always on the defensive, fighting to protect her rights and her property. She sacrificed her comfort and

that of her daughter, Florence, in order to save money to buy up parcels of land belonging to other homesteaders who left the area to seek a more profitable and more comfortable way to make a living. Some of the land she bought for as little as 50¢ per acre.

Alice was a rigid disciplinarian, restricting the activities of her daughter to helping work the ranch. The only respite Florence enjoyed were the months in which she attended school in Shawnee. Florence aspired to go to secretarial school after her graduation but her dream was never realized.

At the age of twelve, Florence spent much of her time herding sheep for her mother, staying away from home for days at a time. Her mother bought a .25 automatic pistol for Florence to protect herself against two or four-legged varmints. It was a lonely, hard life for a young girl.

Alice had few close friends except the Spencer Moore family. She had neither the time nor the energy to go visiting, nor was she receptive to callers at her home.

Florence and her half-sister, Lorena, graduated from the Shawnee High School; Lorene graduated in 1928, Florence in 1935. In 1937 Florence was united in marriage to Leonard Eddy in Hot Springs, South Dakota. After their marriage, they returned to her mother's home where they worked for Alice. Leonard and Florence were the parents of two children, Carol Marie and Joseph Carl.

In 1945, Florence's aunt on her father's side, Caroline Johnson, died, leaving her niece \$5,000. With this money, Florence arranged to buy the ranch from her mother. Leonard worked part of the time on the ranch and part of the time as a section hand on the railroad.

Alice's health finally failed in 1951 when she suffered a stroke and was confined for six months in the hospital in Douglas before she died. She is buried in the Douglas cemetery.

When Carol was ready for high school, Florence bought a house in Douglas and found employment at the Kandy Koop. She kept her small herd of cattle, but she and Leonard leased out the rest of the ranch land. On weekends and holidays, Florence worked at the ranch, keeping the fences repaired and the windmills in working order.

In 1959 Florence's marriage ended in divorce. She managed to keep her ranch and give her children an education. Leonard died in 1971.

Florence improved the quality of her cattle over the years and, in addition, started her herd of fine registered Appaloosa horses. In 1979 she sold all but three sections of her land and most of her cattle, but she kept her beloved horses. She has been very successful with them, winning many trophies and much recognition.

Florence's home, the Whispering Pines, is situated among the pines along Shawnee Creek north of Shawnee, where she lives alone. Though her life has not been easy, she has been successful due to much hard work, always being a conscientious caretaker of her land.

Florence has four grandchildren, Robert Lee, Dena Kay, and David Joe Russell and Dana Marie Eddy and two step-grandchildren, Fred and Sandy Sickler and three great grandchildren.

Florence Johnson Eddy

## Johnson, Jake and Iva

Jake Johnson and his wife, Iva, came to Douglas, Wyoming in December of 1944 when they purchased the part of the old Fiddleback Ranch owned by Carroll Mohr, 26 miles north of Douglas, Wyoming.

Jake was an early day cowboy on the roundup wagons having started his roundup days at the early age of 14. He was no stranger to Douglas as his father, K. T. Johnson, had bought cattle from Billy Irvine on the old Ogalalla Ranch, about 65 miles northwest of Douglas in 1898. It was at that time that his father had the "mess box" built for Jake to carry on the back of his roundup wagon which held his supply of groceries, or "grub" as it was called in those days. Jake and his cowboys trailed the steers to Gillette where they were loaded onto railroad cars and shipped to Antioch, Nebraska. At the same time Jake was on his way with his "outfit" across Wyoming to Antioch. He was there waiting when the steers arrived. They trailed the cattle from Antioch to K. T. Johnson's ranch northwest of Cody, Nebraska. That same ranch was later the first home of Jake and Iva Johnson.

The area around Douglas must never have left Jake's mind as a good many pictures of the State Fair were found among his possessions after his death. At one time he retired to the Valley of Texas but he was too restless for that so he began to look for a ranch where there would be less work to raise good cattle and some registered quarter horses. There would be less hay to put up in Wyoming and there would be less hay to have to be fed out in the winter months as Jake knew the grass was a "stronger" grass. So Jake left Texas and started looking around in Wyoming for that ranch where he could raise cattle and horses. The part of the old Fiddleback seemed to fit his plans so he purchased it.

Jake was a charter member of the Tri-State Old Time Cowboy's Association composed of cowboys from Wyoming, Nebraska and South Dakota. After he became acquainted he persuaded some of his friends to join the group. They were: Joe Reynolds, Ralph Scott, Jack Esau and Ross Barnes of Douglas and Peach Shaw of Jay Em, Wyoming. Each year Jake looked forward to being with his old friends and visiting about the old Roundup Days.

Jake's parents both came from Norway at the age of sixteen. Both of their families homesteaded in Iowa where they met each other. They were married at Marion, Iowa and later came west and homesteaded three miles north of Rushville, Nebraska, where Jake grew up.

Iva's parents came from Kansas and located three miles south of Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Even though Rushville and Pine Ridge are only 23 miles apart it was in the Sandhills of Nebraska and South Dakota where Jake and Iva met each other after they had grown up.

Jake and Iva were married on June 1, 1913 in the Sacristy of St. Francis Mission, a few miles south of Rosebud Agency, South Dakota where Jake had done a lot of his "cowboying" on the Roundup Wagons.

They had four children, Clara Eldean, born June 6, 1914. She married Clifford Thorberg and lived on Jake's ranch north of Douglas in 1944 until Jake could get all of his cattle, horses, machinery and household items moved

up from his ranch north of Cody, Nebraska. Eldean passed away in April 1967 at the age of 52.

The second daughter, Pearl, was born November 29, 1915 at their ranch northwest of Cody, Nebraska. She married Frank Eathorne and still lives at Douglas, Wyoming.

Their only son, Samuel Lee, "Bud" was born August 22, 1920 in Gordon, Nebraska. He married Dorothy Robbins from the Boxelder area after his return from the service in the air force. Bud and his father operated the ranch north of Douglas but he only lived three months after his father, passing away at the early age of 53 in December of 1973.

"Bud" had four children. Charles Jake Johnson still lives at Douglas. A daughter, Marlene, lives at Billings, Montana and a daughter, Dorothy Lee, who is married to Larry Abbott lives at Sidney, Montana. His son, Mike, works for W. A. Stoddard, north of Lusk, Wyoming.

Jake and Iva's youngest daughter, Opal Lorraine, was born at Valentine, Nebraska on July 7, 1923. She married John R. Janelle and lives in Aurora, Colorado. They have three sons and two daughters, none of whom live in Wyoming.

Jake Johnson passed away on September 10, 1973 at the age of 89. Iva passed away December 28, 1983.

John Federle, owner of the sale ring in Douglas, Wyoming published the following article in the "Livestock Market Digest" after Jake's death.

"The Cattle Industry lost a 4-square pioneer recently with the death of Douglas rancher, Jake Johnson. A very good friend of mine. Some of my fondest memories of Jake are the hair-raising rides he and I took across the prairies in his mechanical old "Ford Horse" mixed in with some pleasant hours of just sittin' and talkin'. He was one of the old-time breed of REAL MEN. Outspoken, but 100 percent honest and sincere."

Pearl Eathorne

## Johnson, Millard and Caroline

Millard Johnson, born on January 12, 1870 in Crawfordville, and Caroline Johnson, born in 1880, came to Douglas from Nebraska in 1918. They owned and operated the only dairy in Douglas (located north of town) at that time. They lived in the north end of town, on Fourth Street. The Johnsons ran their milk route making the deliveries in a horse drawn cart.

After two years in this location they moved two and a half miles west of Douglas. There was a large barn located on the Johnson Farm. Many dances were held here. The Tom Hunters later acquired the ranch.

After Millard's death and burial in Douglas in 1927, Caroline and her eldest son, Marshall, continued the dairy operation until 1936.

Marshall married Doris L. Fiddymont on January 1, 1934 in Hot Springs South Dakota. Their children are Sharlene, Carol, Gail and Stephen.

Caroline passed away in 1969 in Yuba City, California at the age of 89. She was living with the Marshall Johnson family at the time.





L. to r.: Caroline, Marshall, Daniel, and Millard Johnson, 1925

Daniel Kirk, Marshall's only brother, was born in 1918. He died in 1978, leaving no descendants.

Doris Fiddymment Johnson

## Johnson, Swan and Hazel Family

Swan P. Johnson (Sven Patrick Johansson) was the third child of Johan Eelof Johansson and Sofia Persdotter Johansson of Falkenburg, Sweden. He was born in 1886, receiving his education in Falkenburg. He immigrated to the United States at the age of 17 in the company of his brother, Oscar. The brothers parted company, however, Oscar going to Minneapolis and Swan going to Boston. There he spent his first winter milking cows, bottling milk and doing barn chores. The following spring, the Phelan Lumber Yard, located in Omaha, Nebraska, was searching for workers of either Swedish or Norwegian descent. Swan left Boston, traveling on an emigrant train. He went to work for Mr. Phelan upon his arrival in Omaha. He lived in a small room at the end of a building owned by Phelan, taking his meals with the Phelan family. At the end of his first month's work, the train fare from Boston to Omaha, as well as his board was deducted from his wages. Swan continued to work for the lumber yard for a period of ten years.

Leaving the lumber yard, he worked on a farm for a year, and then rented a small farm at Benson, Nebraska. He farmed, kept a few cows and some chickens. He sold cream and eggs, and in addition, cut and sold firewood during the fall and winter months.

On March 30, 1918, he enlisted in the armed forces to serve in World War I. He was sent overseas, to serve in both France and in Germany. Upon his return to the United States, he was sent to Kansas where he was honorably discharged in 1919.

Swan received his citizenship papers on May 9, 1918, at the age of 32. It is probable that the spelling of his name was changed at that time.

Swan came west to Douglas, Wyoming where he was employed by an oil company engaged in drilling south of Douglas, near Irvine. He became acquainted with some Swedish families, the Carlsons and the Humpy Johnsons. It was during this time that he learned that land was available for those who wished to homestead. As a result, he filed on land 45 miles northwest of Douglas on the Cheyenne River.

To stock his homestead, Swan purchased some Hereford cattle, eleven cows and a bull from Humpy Johnson's daughter, Esther. He was also able to buy Esther's brand, the "Sheep Shears."

In 1924 Swan Johnson and Hazel Scott were married in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Hazel, daughter of Arthur and Mary Scott, lived with her family on a homestead about two miles south of Swan's. Hazel was a member of a family of nine children. She received part of her elementary education at home, with her mother acting as teacher. Later she was enrolled in a school in which Angeline Tillard taught. Six of the Scott children attended this school besides the children of neighbors. Hazel had met Swan Johnson but had not dated him since at that time young folks went in groups to parties and dances, not just couples.

In the summer of 1923, on July 4th, a large group of neighbors were gathered at a lake for a picnic and swimming party. The party broke up when the clouds began to gather and threaten rain. The group decided to go to Mrs. Huff's home, less than a mile away. Some of the people had come on foot to the gathering, but the Scotts had come on a hay wagon. Just as the Scott wagon was about to depart, lightning struck, killing Art Scott, Hazel's father and Harry Stone, Mrs. Huff's son. Two of Hazel's sisters, already on the wagon, had the hair burned off their heads on one side. Hazel, who was at the rear of the hayrack suffered only a "flash burn" which ran down the side of her body and one leg.

Art Scott's body was returned to the cemetery at Avoca, Iowa, for interment. After the services, a disheartened, dejected Mary decided that she should move back to Iowa to live. In September of 1923, Mary Scott sold everything she owned in Wyoming except her land and returned to Avoca.

The following year, Swan shipped his cattle to Omaha to sell and afterward came over to Avoca to claim Hazel as his bride. They returned to Douglas by train, the trip lasting about two days. They laid in a supply of groceries and engaged a friend to drive them out to Swan's homestead. So began the married life of Swan and Hazel Johnson.

In the later part of September that first year, a group of neighbors took five wagons to Antelope Creek to get coal for the coming winter. They had black powder, fuses and a hand auger with which they gained access to coal located in the creek bank. They camped there for the night, returning home with their loads the following day. The coal had to be kept in a cave to prevent it from slacking.

Hazel and Swan needed a barn for their milk cow and horses. They hauled flat rocks for a foundation, sawed dead cottonwood trees which they used for the walls. For the roof, they used poles. Chinking was easy to make, using gumbo mud and grass mixed together. In this

fashion, they constructed serviceable shelter for their animals, at very little expense.

All the wives of the homesteaders baked their bread using what was called a "starter". If the starter went flat, the bread would not rise. When this occurred, the housewife must go off to a neighboring lady and borrow a "start".

Hazel learned to milk the day that Swan handed her the milk bucket, telling her to milk the cow or go without. Hazel milked! They also had a dozen chickens so their eggs, milk, butter and cream were produced on the homestead.

In their first home, the Johnsons had only two small rooms--a kitchen and a bedroom. Their furniture consisted of a homemade table and one chair, a bed and an ancient cookstove. Someone gave them another chair and a rocker later on. The bed was very narrow for two people, but there were two mattresses on it, one narrow and one wide. The wide one hung over the side of the bed. When Hazel was pregnant she placed an apple box at the head and foot of the bed with a plank laid across the boxes. This arrangement held up the large mattress and made sleeping much more comfortable.

It was a red letter day when Hazel got her wash boiler. Prior to that time, she had only a wash tub and a washboard. She had ordered a boiler from the catalog. The Johnsons had to go about four miles for their mail, sometimes making the trip in the wagon and sometimes horseback. The day the boiler arrived, Hazel had gone for the mail on horseback. Her horse objected to carrying the boiler and Hazel besides, so she finally walked home, leading the horse with the shiny new boiler tied on the saddle.

When her first child, Ruth, was born on December 4, 1925, Hazel had to make a bed in a trunk for the infant. She fashioned a big pillow to serve as a mattress; she hemmed flour sacks for diapers; thin underwear was used to make baby shirts; and she gave up one of her few slips to make little dresses. Trips to town were few and made only when absolutely necessary.

Finally, the Johnsons had made enough improvements on the homestead so that they could make their final proof on the land. They had increased their herd of cattle. They raised a larger garden than they had previously, and Hazel was able to can vegetables for the winter months.

Swan and Hazel bought her mother's homestead and in addition, purchased three more sections of land from a man named Amos Stone. The house on the Stone land was a nice big house with three bedrooms, a big living room, kitchen and a bathroom (which was empty of bath fixtures and plumbing). In the basement of the house was a washing machine. It was made of wood with a handle, which, when pushed back and forth, caused the dasher in the tub to go up and down. It was hard work, but a fine improvement over the washboard.

Then came the days of drought and depression. The drought caused the water level to drop in the water wells. Two big lakes on the Johnson's property went dry. The stock had to be moved to winter pasture along the river where they could be turned to water at a big spring once a day. The river was no longer running and the only water

available was at the springs. Swan finally had to go to work for the WPA, helping to build stockwater dams in order to make a living.

Under another government program, the Johnsons sold three sections of land to the government with the understanding that they could lease the land back from the government. It was supposed to be cheaper to lease the land than it was to own it. Under the program the owners were to move all buildings off. Two of the sections which Swan sold were given to others, but Swan was allowed to have the third. This was a severe setback to his operation. The government also bought cattle and hogs from the Johnsons, who were obliged to sell lest the animals die of starvation.

When he sold the land to the government, Swan had moved the big house back to his original homestead, and located it in a hollow south of the river. It was a monumental job to move a house of that size. It required the use of eight head of horses, a tractor, and a school bus to accomplish the task. At the new location, water was no problem due to the fact that the well that Swan had drilled proved to be an artesian well, flowing at the rate of six gallons per minute. Now it was possible to have plumbing in the house. Johnsons drilled three more wells for water for the stock. These wells, also, proved to be artesian. Swan constructed dikes near each well to hold the water.

During the years which followed, the Johnsons were able to make improvements on their land, establish hay meadows and increase their numbers of livestock. Besides their cattle, they had a small bunch of sheep.

The Johnsons decided to take a trip back to Sweden to Swan's homeland in 1949. The arrangements were made, the passports in order and Swan and Hazel looked forward with enthusiasm to the trip. The trip was never made however, because Swan had to have surgery and died the very day they were to leave.

Hazel continued to run the place until 1953. At that time she decided to sell and divide the proceeds with her children. She later moved into Douglas to live. In 1957 she was married to Clyde Reeves. Six years later, Clyde died. Since then, Hazel has continued to make her home in Douglas. She has busied herself with the activities of the Senior Citizen's Organization.

Ruth, the eldest child of Swan and Hazel Johnson, was born in 1925 at the home of Doctor and Mrs. H. G. Lynch in Dry Creek, Wyoming. She received her education in the Dry Creek Community. During the last two years of her high school she attended the Converse County High School in Douglas. After her graduation in 1944, she accompanied June Pellatz to Carlsbad, New Mexico to attend the ceremony in which Lincoln Pellatz was awarded his Air Force Wings. Lincoln and Ruth were married in 1944. He was stationed both in California and in Nevada. Ruth accompanied him to these states, but returned home when he was sent overseas. Then she was employed at the Prisoner of War Camp located west of Douglas. The couple has three children.

Frances Johnson was born July 29, 1929 in Douglas. She was the second daughter of the Johnsons and received her education in the Verse school, later the Dry Creek school and finally in the Converse County High School during her final two years. After graduation she was

employed by the Douglas Budget for a time and later by Mountain Bell Telephone Company. In 1948 she married Edwin Tschacher of Manville, Wyoming. To this couple seven children were born.

Elsie Irene Johnson was born in 1932 at the family home on the Cheyenne River. She attended the Dry Creek school for ten years, finishing her high school in Douglas. She was married to Billy Miller in 1951, and to this union, two children were born. Bill died in 1975, but Elsie continued living on their ranch located near Guernsey where she and her son are engaged in raising cattle.

Ida Mae Johnson was born in 1940 in the old Douglas Hospital. She weighed only 3 lbs. 11 oz. at birth and spent the first three months of her life in an incubator. As did the other children, she received her common schooling at Dry Creek, later entering the high school in Douglas. Ida is the mother of five children. Her present husband, Robert Fowlkes, comes from Hulett, Wyoming. He is employed as an oil field technician for Nucorp Energy in Douglas.

One son, Daniel Eugene, died in infancy in 1936. Another son, John Donald, passed away as a result of an accident.

Hazel Johnson Reeves

## Johnstone, Dave

David Johnstone was born in Freelon, Wentworth Township, Ontario, Canada in 1890, one of two sons belonging to John R. Johnstone and Hannah Brown Johnstone. David's brother, Gordon, was born there in 1888.

John R. Johnstone, son of William and Mary Johnstone, was born in Freelon in 1859. He was the eldest child in a large family, having six sisters and one brother.

Hannah, David's mother, was born on a farm half a mile from the town in 1864. She was the fourth child in a family of five born to David and Rosalie Brown. Grandmother Rosalie passed away before either Gordon or David was born and Hannah was in charge of the home after Rosalie's death until she married John Johnstone. Grandfather David married his first wife's sister, Millie, becoming David's step-grandmother.

Miss Elizabeth Dickson, a registered nurse, had owned the Douglas Hospital since November 1903. In 1908 Miss Dickson engaged the services of another nurse from the Chicago area to come to tend the hospital while she went on a much-needed vacation. This nurse, Janet Adams, was one of three girls who trained and graduated in the class of 1902 from the Presbyterian and Cook County Hospitals in Chicago. The other two girls were Mary Brown and Grace Galbraith. Mary Brown was the younger sister of Hannah Brown Johnstone.

An article from the "Douglas Budget" on November 3, 1903 states the following about Miss Dickson's new hospital. "Miss Dickson's rates are as reasonable as obtained in any similar institution anywhere. She issues certificates to those who desire them at \$15 which entitles the holder to 25 weeks care, including board, room nurse, medicines and the attendance of a physician, during the year for which the same is issued. A payment of \$10 covers a term of six months and a twelve weeks stay in the hospital as above. Parties who do not hold certificates



Dave Johnstone 1980

are charged by the week during their stay and may be attended by any reputable physician they choose to call in."

In the fall of 1908 Hannah moved to Douglas, Wyoming with her sons, summoned there by Mary Brown and Grace Galbraith. Together, Mary and Grace had purchased the Douglas Hospital from Miss Dickson. Hannah was to hold the position of manager of the establishment.

The hospital was located about a block and one half north of Center Street on Sixth. Across the street to the east was the Douglas School. It combined both elementary and high school grades. Close by was the home of Tom Rowley and the fine brick home of John T. Williams, stockman and banker.

The hospital had a four bed ward on the first floor as well as two rooms for the nurses. The staff slept on the second floor. Staff and nurses alike worked and ate their meals together.

Many doctors had practiced in the Douglas area prior to 1908, namely Doctors Jesurun, Wilson and Bodine. After 1908, Doctors Cantril, Pestel, Hylton, Storey and Keller practiced. A few nurses I remember well were Mrs. Frank Paul, nee Miss Larr, Mrs. Gus Nylen, nee Clanahan, and Mrs. LeRoy Moore. The citizens were blessed with good doctors and nurses. Patients came to Douglas for hospitalization from as far east as Chadron, Nebraska and as far west as Lander, Wyoming. Those having access to the railroad came in by train, but most of the patients arrived by horseback or in a buckboard. Persons who anticipated an operation, or expected a baby, would rent a room in the hospital well in advance of their confinement. Among the notable persons who died in the hospital was the infamous George W. Pike.

It was the custom for the engine crew on the railroad to stop at Orin Junction to have their noon meal. Once, a young man who was subject to epileptic seizures was walking along the track. He had a seizure directly below the steam blow-off valve. The crew, finished with their meal, returned to the engine where they blew off the condensed water and steam. Later, they found the man badly scalded. He was rushed to the hospital where the staff treated him, constructing a frame to hold the bedding off his raw flesh. The man survived and later the doctors performed skin grafts.

Many accident cases and illnesses of all kinds were treated at the hospital. Once, during a period of severe drought in which the springs, streams and water holes became stagnant, there was an outbreak of typhoid fever, and on another occasion, there was an epidemic of measles.

The "house of ill repute" in Douglas was owned and operated by Maggie Wheelock. One of Maggie's "girls" was a patient in the hospital for several days. Her bill amounted to \$80.00. When Maggie came to take the girl home, she opened her purse and counted out 80 silver dollars, a small fortune in those days.

Maggie enjoyed driving in the country on fine days. She and her female driver once visited a homestead which belonged to the family of a child who was quite ill. Maggie had learned that the family could not afford to have the doctor come to the homestead. When Maggie returned to Douglas after her visit, she instructed the doctor to make the call at her expense.

David's education had been interrupted for about five years after he had completed his eighth year in school in Canada. After his arrival in Douglas, he enrolled in school in 1910, graduating in the class of 1913. Since he had been out of school for such a long time, he was considerably older than his classmates. This accounts for the fact that by the time he had completed high school, he had become a naturalized citizen and had proved up on 160 acres of land as well.

David's homestead property was located south of Douglas. The government offered two options to the homesteader. He could build a cabin and establish residence for at least six months of each year for a period of three years or he could build a cabin and establish residence for twelve consecutive months, plow up 20 acres of prairie land and, in addition, pay a fee of \$200. David chose the latter option. He built a 14 by 14 foot shack with shanty Irish roof. On the outside, he put narrow strips of wood (battling) over the cracks between the sheeting and on the inside he insulated with five thicknesses of "Denver Post" newspaper. He had one four-pane window besides the door. David laid a wooden floor in his house and for heat, he used a small sheep wagon stove. It was really quite comfortable.

It had been David's dream to attend Ontario Agricultural College in Canada and it was toward this end that he spent his time doing any sort of work he could find. He worked as a shepherd, helped shear, lamb, and so forth. He was employed at Nowood, a ranch at the foot of the Big Horn Mountains, building an earthen dam. Here he worked a team on a wheel scraper. He had jobs as far west as Nowood and Shoshoni, Casper, Moneta, and Lost Cabin. At one time he even found work running a washing

machine of the push-pull type for the wife of a Mexican bartender in Lost Cabin.

Finally, he had saved enough money to enroll in the Agricultural College. In the fall of 1914, he returned to Douglas where he bade his mother and brother farewell before he left.

Eventually, David returned to Wyoming. His life was full of interesting events. He met the challenges of each day with vigor and always maintained a fine sense of humor. David worked hard to achieve the goals which he set for himself and was successful.

Hannah married Frank Virden in 1916. David was married to Rose Fitzhugh first, then to Mrs. Newt Wilkinson. He lives today in Ft. Collins, Colorado.

Dave Johnstone

## Keenan, Henry and Goldie Family

Just 64 years ago this month, March 20, 1920, my family and I came to Wyoming to make our home. I was a six-month old baby and my brother, Bob, was two and one-half years old. My dad had come up here from Nebraska a few months before and built a one-room shack on his homestead, which is about 10 miles north-east of Glenrock. In the spring he loaded his two horses, one cow, a few chickens, his wagon, an old walking plow and a few odds and ends in an emigrant car at the railroad in Lewellen, Nebraska and headed for Wyoming. He put us two boys and my mother on the passenger train, our destination "Glenrock". Somehow the railroad raised the fee on the emigrant car and Dad either didn't have the extra money or his Irish temper took over and he wouldn't pay it, so the railroad just put him off on the siding, till he had to change his mind. When Mom got off



Henry and Goldie Keenan farming in the Nebraska sandhills just before coming to their Wyoming homestead, about 1917.





Bob, Betty, Joe and Dick Keenan on homestead shack porch, 1927.

at the Glenrock depot there was no one there to meet her and she didn't know what had happened to Dad. She asked around and finally another homesteader by the name of John Welty said he thought he knew where Dad's homestead was and offered to take her there.

When Mom arrived at her new "home" there were no groceries, no water, no fuel, no nothing and Welty saw he couldn't leave her and her two small kids there all alone, so he took us over to another neighbor's place, (Sophia Negley), which is about two miles farther east. We stayed there with the Negleys till Dad finally paid the difference on the emigrant car and showed up a few days later. That is how we started our life in Wyoming.

When Dad helped build "The Dry Farm" school house, he told his neighbors that although he didn't mind helping build the school his kids would never go there, cause he was going back to the sandhills of Nebraska cause he sure as hell didn't like it up here in Wyoming. Well, us kids all went to that little old school house and Bob and I graduated from the 8th grade there. When Dad died on Jan. 30, 1972 just four days short of his 78th birthday, he was the only homesteader in this area who was still living on his original homestead.

The big cowmen and sheepmen hated the fences the homesteaders put up. Dad and one of R. D. Carey's cow foremen got into an argument about them one day and Dad told him that he would be damn glad when there were a lot more fences around. The foreman asked him what he would do for meat when Carey's cattle weren't around and Dad told him, "I haven't eaten any of your cattle yet." "Well what do you do for meat then?" the cowboy asked. "I eat pork if I got it and if I don't have it I go without," my dad replied.

We used to have a lot of real bad spring storms in those days and Bob tells us about one day in early May when a neighbor, by the name of Ralph Lepper, brought over some cottonwood trees he had dug up down by the Platte River (they were the first trees on this place). It was pretty late when he finally got ready to go home so Dad said, "Why don't you just stay all night and go home in the morning", so Ralph agreed. That night came one of those spring blizzards and Bob said it snowed and blew so hard that the next morning there was a drift as high as the house and he and I were walking up

the drift and standing on top of our little house. After breakfast when Ralph got ready to go home his horses wouldn't even pull his wagon out of the drift and they either had to shovel it out or Dad had to hitch his team "Charley and Roamie" up and pull him out.

The CY Ranch had turned their cows and calves out in this north country already and they died by the hundreds. Bob said everywhere you looked there were dead cattle. The cows, in their weakened condition, died first and the little calves would nurse on their dead mothers till they also died. A lot of cattle died that spring.

My younger brother, Dick, was born out at our homestead on July 9, 1922. Our sister, Betty, was also born here on January 24, 1926. Pauline Swisher, my first grade teacher, was boarding here when Betty was born and she stayed with Mom while Dad jumped in his old Model T. Ford and hurried to Glenrock to get Dr. Leonard Tabor. We were probably a little late for school that day.

In those days there were just wagon trails around the country and the old road from the Hyland country up north went right by our barn and angled through our corn field. Dad always had shocks of corn fodder there and he said once in awhile he could see where some homesteader would help himself to a couple of bundles of corn fodder to feed his horses while he was doing business in town.

There were about six or eight gates to open to get to town, which wasn't too bad when you drove a team. You just got out and opened the gate and the team would walk through and you would close the gate without getting back in the wagon. But when Dad got his first Model T. Ford in 1923 for the sum of \$25.00 it didn't have an emergency brake on it and you had to shut it off and put it in gear so it wouldn't run through the gate. Then you had to crank it up again to get through and shut it off again to close the gate. Quite a complicated process when you were by yourself that took a lot of time. Dad worked in town a lot, mostly at the refineries, and had to make the trip twice a day, so he got two of his neighbors, Seth Negley and Frank Shockey to help him build a sort of a graded road and put in car gates where the gates were. Those little old car gates were only about six feet wide, just barely wide enough to let a car through and you had to slow way down, but it sure beat opening a gate.

Dad furnished four head of horses and Seth and Frank each had a team. They got an old horse grader and with eight head of horses pulling it they made the first graded road from Glenrock out north. Today it is Highway 95. Some places they had to have a lane (fences on both sides) and the homesteaders had to set their fences back and sometimes build a whole new fence. This work was all done free of charge plus giving the right-of-way for the road. The grading that Dad and Seth and Frank did was also done free. They put the road on section lines wherever possible and that is why those two right angle turns are by the Negley place. People wonder about those turns to this day. They had to angle into the crossing at Big Sand Creek and had to cross a guy's section and he didn't want that. He had a three-wire fence up and Dad told his neighbors "Well fellas, we got to get to that creek crossing and we got to go through his section." He took a pair of wire cutters and he said, "We got to make a gate here and there are three wires and there are three of us, so we will each cut a wire and if he shoots one



of us he will have to shoot all three cause we all cut his fence." The highway still runs where they cut the fence that day.

In about 1928 when they were putting the finishing touches on the new road they were filling in the approaches at the new Sand Creek bridge. Eva, Seth's wife, had sent him some fresh fruit in a glass jar for his lunch and when Seth finished his lunch and dessert he noticed a bunch of broken glass pieces in the jar. He was sorta worried that he might have eaten some glass so he drove into town to see Dr. Tabor. Doc said, "Go up to the drug store and get yourself a pint of castor oil and then go over to the grocery store and get a quarters worth of your favorite cookies. When you get home tonight drink all the castor oil and eat all those cookies and you'll be alright!" Seth did as he was told and the other day up in Casper I was talking to his sister Mary Layton and she said Seth was still okay and going strong down in Arizona at the age of 80 years. So Doc's advice must have worked.

For filling in the approaches of the Sand Creek bridge they got paid so much for moving a yard of dirt. That is the only pay they got for building the whole road. They didn't get paid much but it was a lot better than working for nothing. Davie Smyth (father of Pete Smyth of the KOA radio station of Denver) was county commissioner at that time and he hired them to make the fill on the new bridge.

When the depression hit in 1929 and a bad drought followed a year or two later, the average homesteader couldn't grow any crops or raise any stock to speak of and he just couldn't survive without some other kind of income. Most sold their places to their more prosperous neighbors or bigger ranchers. Then they took off again, still trying to find something better for themselves and their families.

Like the old cowboy song says, "Time Changes Everything." In 64 years it has really changed the way of life on "The Old Homestead." If someone would have told us in the 30's that we would someday have electric lights, refrigerators, telephones, and indoor plumbing and a paved highway running by the gate we would have thought they were crazy. That is the way it is these days, however, and its pretty nice, too!

In my old neighborhood, there are only two people living on their homesteads. Jake Negley lives on his mother's place and I live on my dad's. Everyone else has left, died, moved to town or something. Most of the land in my area was homesteaded. That means at one time someone lived on nearly every square mile. That was all the land one person could get from the government, 640 acres. A few wives took a homestead close to their husbands and that worked pretty well; they got two sections that way. A lot of people from the eastern states thought 640 acres was a lot of land. They didn't realize that in this country you need several sections to make a decent living.

My mother, Goldie, died Feb. 21, 1967 in California at the age of 66 years. My little sister, Betty, was killed in a car accident just a little east of Big Sand Creek Feb. 9, 1941 on the road to Glenrock that Dad helped build. She was just 15 years old.

My older brother, Bob, owns a ranch on County Line Hill, on the west edge of Converse County. His ranch is

the old Myron Spencer place. He married Anna Mae Hildebrand and they have four children, three girls, Maryon, Betty and Roberta, and a son, Robert Jr. Maryon married Carroll Carr and has three daughters, Colleen, Conna and Carla, Betty married Don Dungan and they have two sons, Darin and Danny. Roberta married Ernest Scholtz. Robert Jr. and wife, Nell "Tex" have a daughter, Jan and a son, Robert III.

My younger brother, Dick, has been living for several years about four miles north of Keeline, Wyoming on the Beryl Fullerton Ranch. He is married to Dorothy Carpenter and has two children by a previous marriage. A daughter, Delores, who lives near Denver, and a son, Kenny, who has his own welding business and lives west of Casper. Kenny and wife, Becky, have one daughter, Valerie.

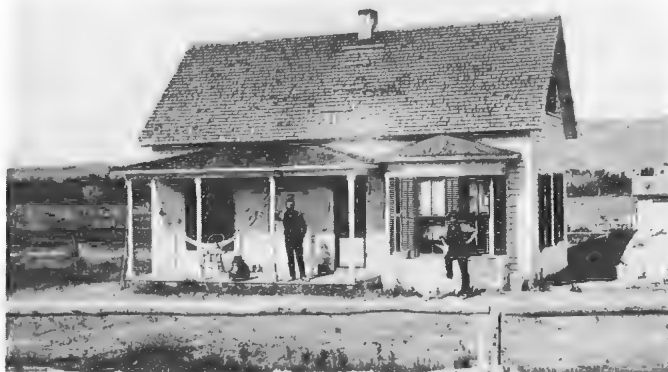
Me, I still live on Dad's old homestead. I have called it "Home" for 64 years, except for four years in the navy during World War II. Uncle Sam taught me to weld and I used to weld on and help repair our submarines over in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Besides taking care of my ranch, etc. I write a story now and then or maybe a poem or two. Also do a little steel sculpture work. I have samples of my work in several states and quite a little around Converse County. I have several jobs I am proud of, but my best work is my little steel cowboy that I call "The Bronc Rider." He took me almost a year to make and when I look at him I sometimes can't believe I made him. Right now he is on display at the Pioneer Memorial Museum in Douglas, Wyoming for all to see.

Joe R. Keenan

## Kellogg, Henry and Matilda

Treadwell, New York was the birthplace of Henry W. Kellogg who was born there November 8, 1856. He came to the Wyoming Territory about 1876 where he was engaged in various activities, drilling both oil and water wells, and driving both horses and oxen to haul freight. He was employed by John Hunton freight line in 1878, receiving \$54.36 in the month of December as wages for "bull-whacking."

In 1879 Henry Kellogg and S. A. Bishop went into a partnership to buy a freight outfit. They hauled for the government and under sub-contract from Rock Creek to Fort Fetterman and from Cheyenne to Fort Laramie.



S.A. Bishop and Henry Kellogg in front of their ranch house on LaPrele 1883

They sold their outfit in 1882 and entered the ranching business together as partners, purchasing a squatter's right claim from Noel Seminoe, a halfbreed, for the amount of \$75. The claim was located on lower LaPrele Creek.

George Powell, who had a claim of his own on LaPrele, urged Kellogg and Bishop to buy the claim since he, George, wanted some white neighbors. George was instrumental in convincing Ed Smith to homestead in the area as well.

The Kellogg-Bishop ranch was joined on the west by the Ed Smith place and on the east by Pat Tobin's ranch. Bishop and Kellogg built one of the first frame houses in that locality and Bishop, who married in 1884, brought his wife to that house to live. The Bishops later engaged the services of Matilda Schmidt to help Mrs. Bishop with her housekeeping. In 1893 Henry Kellogg married Matilda.

After Henry and Matilda were married, the partnership of Kellogg and Bishop was dissolved and the ranch was divided. The Kelloggs took the upper or Sand Creek portion and the Bishops took the lower part on LaPrele Creek.

The Kelloggs were the parents of six children: Lucy, Stella, John, William, Lester and Edward. In 1902 the family moved to Douglas to live, and there all the children were educated.

Henry Kellogg was always proud of being a Wyoming pioneer and gloried in the progress of his beloved state. He died on February 19, 1942 in Tacoma, Washington.

Ruth Grant

## Kennedy, Joseph and Josie Family

Joseph "Joe" H. Kennedy was born on January 12, 1847 in Virginia, where his ancestors on both paternal and maternal sides had lived for generations. He was the son of John and Jane E. Kennedy. His mother moved to Marshall County, Iowa in 1856 after her husband died at an early age.

Joe remained on the family farm in Iowa until 1872 when he decided to seek his fortunes in the west. He located in Larimer County, Colorado where he became involved in the livestock industry.

In 1877 he moved his cattle operations to upper



Ranch home of J. H. Kennedy



Joseph H. Kennedy 1896

LaPrele Creek where he purchased a ranch belonging to "Speed" Stagner and others. Some of Joe's associates and cowboys were Dennis Leman, Charlie Horr and George H. Cross Sr. These men were later to have their own outfits in the area.

Mr. Kennedy entered married life on January 8, 1896, being united with Josie Shockley, a native of Kansas and daughter of A. D. Shockley.

They became the parents of two sons, John (b. 1898) and Wayne (b. November 10, 1904).

The Kennedys built a splendid three story house on LaPrele. The architect who designed it was from the east; he also designed the Jacob Jenne residence at 107 North Sixth Street in Douglas in 1900.

When open range became a thing of the past Joe bought the Chamberlin property on Little LaPrele Creek for summer range.

Josie died on October 12, 1915; Joseph on January 10, 1925.

My brother, Wayne, and I, John, attended school in the Beaver Creek School House about one and one half miles west of home. Both of us finished the eighth grade there and then attended high school in Douglas.

After graduating from high school I attended college in Oberlin, Ohio, 1916 through 1919, and helped with the ranch work during the summer months. Upon finishing high school, Wayne helped at home and drove the car for our aged father, who boarded and roomed in Douglas.

I met Ottie Lee Weaver in the summer of 1923 and married her in October of the same year.

With Dad's guidance, Wayne and I ran the ranch until Dad's death in 1925. Shortly after, in the summer of 1926, we sold the land and the cattle.

After the sale of the ranch, Ottie and I purchased a car and took a trip to the west coast stopping at all the

scenic places and visiting with some of the relatives on the way. On our return we learned that Wayne had married Gertrude Smith.

In the fall of 1926 Oattie and I moved to Denver where I enrolled at Barnes Commercial School, pursuing clerical and secretarial knowledge.

Two daughters, Mary Josephine (b. June 14, 1927) and Betty Jean (b. April 1, 1929), were born to Oattie and myself while we lived in Englewood, a suburb of Denver, Colorado.

Moving back to Douglas in the spring of 1929, I went to work for the Wyoming State Fair and on January 1, 1930 took a position as assistant cashier in the Converse County Bank. In May 1941 I obtained a position as an assistant to State Examiner Norris Hartwell in Cheyenne.

I was appointed to office of Converse County Assessor in January 1944 by the County Commissioners to fill out the term of the incumbent who had passed away. In 1946 I was duly elected to the office and served until 1949 when I resigned to take a job with the Examiner's Office in Cheyenne again. I remained there until my retirement in 1968.

My daughter, Mary Jo (Shaw), attended the University of Wyoming for a year after which she worked in Casper as a secretary until her marriage. She lives in Billings, Montana at the present time.

Betty Jean (Durr), my youngest daughter, attended Wyoming University also and later attended St. Luke's in Denver, graduating there in 1950 as a nurse. After nursing for a time she returned to Cheyenne to get married. She lives in Wheatland at the time of this writing.

My wife, Oattie, died in 1980.

After Wayne's divorce from Gertrude he married Frances Borchardt on September 11, 1934. He worked at various jobs in and around Douglas until his death on September 24, 1961 due to a ditch cave-in while working for the town of Douglas. Frances died in 1971.

John A. Kennedy

## Kenyon, Arthur and Agnes

Arthur W. Kenyon was born on November 23, 1868 in England.

Arthur came to America as a result of a program being offered to young English men to study ranching in the United States. All he learned was how to build fences and dig ditches. Discouraged with this, he returned to England only to return to buy a ranch on a tributary of upper Horseshoe Creek. His homestead was later sold to Tom Shepard. The small creek by his homestead is still known as Kenyon Creek.

In 1900 Arthur was married to Agnes Elizabeth Rutherford, the daughter of Alford Rutherford. She was born in Roxburghshire, Scotland on October 26, 1874. Agnes came to the United States in 1899 to visit her brothers, Malcolm and Archie who owned a ranch on Rutherford Creek, 30 miles south of Douglas.

After selling the mountain place to Shepard they

bought the George Foxton Ranch on Indian Creek. It was here that Mary Patricia "Bunte" was born on May 18, 1908.

Later they sold their belongings to Mills and moved to a small place at the head of North Horseshoe Creek.

Bunte married Bill Morton, the son of Alexander Morton.

Agnes died on March 25, 1937; Arthur in 1944.

Ginger Morton McGuire

## Kimball, Col. E.H. and Lizzie Family

The following story of the Kimball family is written by J. R. Slaughter, grandson of E. H. and Lizzie Kimball and son of Emma Kimball Slaughter.

Emerson H. Kimball was born in Center Sandwich, New Hampshire on October 21, 1842, where the Kimball family had resided for many generations.

He enlisted in the 13th Maine Regiment during the Civil War, under Colonel Dow, while he was teaching in Maine. After three years in the service, he re-enlisted for another three years or for the duration of the war. The conflict ended shortly after his enlistment and Col. Kimball returned to Center Sandwich, New Hampshire. On April 18, 1865 he married Lizzie Mary Smith in Meredith, New Hampshire. Lizzie Smith was born in Center Sandwich on July 26, 1849, one of three children of Lorenda and Isaac Smith.

Colonel and Mrs. Kimball lived in New Hampshire until 1869 when, with their two children, Wilson S., born July 22, 1866 and Edna J., born February 2, 1869, they moved to Audubon County, Iowa. There they bought Iowa land with soldier's script for \$1.25 an acre. They homesteaded in Iowa and were engaged principally in the newspaper business. Col. Kimball became editor and publisher of the *Exira (Iowa) Defender*, a weekly newspaper in 1875. Afterwards he published papers in Guthrie Center and Audubon, Iowa. It was while they were publishing the *Audubon Times* that an article in the Davenport (Iowa) *Daily Gazette* carried this item: "A cradle containing a sleeping child is one of the sights in the *Audubon Times* office. It's mother, the wife of the proprietor is an old hand in a printing office and thus combines domestic with newspaper duties." This item led to the publishing in the New York *Police Gazette*, of her picture showing her setting type and rocking the cradle with one foot.

In 1871 Colonel Kimball was admitted to the practice of law in Carroll County, Iowa.

Five more children were born, Lizzie H., Glidden, Iowa, July 14, 1871; James E., Exira, Iowa, June 24, 1876; Emma L., Audubon, Iowa, October 19, 1881; Mary E., Audubon, Iowa, September 22, 1883; and Allan R., Glidden, Iowa, May 8, 1889.

In 1886 they sold their property and business and moved to the Wyoming Territory where they again engaged in the newspaper business in Fort Fetterman, Douglas, Glenrock and Casper, Wyoming. They published the "Rowdy West" at Douglas in 1886 and the *Glenrock Graphic* in 1890.

Soon after coming to Wyoming they homesteaded in Boxelder Park on what they called the Circle K Ranch. Their brand was later registered as a "K within a circle." In 1895 they moved to Glenrock. Their son, Jim Kimball, took over the old homestead and it is still known as the "Kimball Ranch". Grandmother Kimball used to tell us stories about living on the ranch. Some winters there was no feed at all for the cows and the snow was so deep they couldn't get out of the cabin. One winter, Grandfather Kimball came to town to help out a man that had been accused of rustling. Grandfather had been admitted to practice law in the Territory of Wyoming in 1888 and was the only one available for law cases. A bad winter storm came up and he was unable to get back to the ranch for almost three weeks. Grandmother said, "they kept the fires going to keep warm but the food almost ran out". They cooked up some kind of a mush and put sorghum and water on it. Uncle Allan was about three or four years old and got really sick. She said she was never so glad to see anyone in her life as when Grandfather came riding horseback through the snow with some "provisions" from town. It was soon after that they moved to Glenrock.

They built the "Kimball Hotel" and Grandmother rented out rooms. Her New England cooking was so good, however, that more and more people came to the dining room to eat. Usually it was on a Sunday evening that the travelers and the townspeople came to the dining room. Mom said that lots of times people were standing clear out on the sidewalk waiting for the dinner bell to ring. One summer they kept track and served over five thousand trout dinners. Grandfather loved to fish and provided the

trout from the Boxelder Ranch. The dining room closed down in 1917, during the oil boom when many other eating places opened up.

Grandmother Kimball was the town doctor, pharmacist, notary public and the confidant of many people. She was appointed Glenrock Postmistress in 1896. If anyone was sick or hurt they came to Mrs. Kimball. Mom said she set many a broken arm or leg. Her pharmacy was located where the Commerce Building is now. When they started building the commerce block they jacked up the pharmacy and moved it out in what is now the center of the street and put it up on blocks.

Aunt Lizzie married Jasper Sumner who was one of Dad's old cowboy buddies and they had a big general store located just north across the street from the Commerce Building.

Aunt Edna was a city clerk, notary public, insurance agent and all around business woman. She married a man by the name of Charles Rollins. Mom told us the story about the time during the "Cattleman's War" when they needed someone to eavesdrop on the messages coming in on the teletype, so the men could be warned of the attacks. Uncle Charlie volunteered. He was a very fastidious man and he was truly giving his all to sneak down to the depot and crawl under the board platform, where he could hear the morse code being sent in. It was one of these nights that one of the men from inside the depot had the urge to urinate...and stepped to the door. That was one of the stories told many times around the town...how mad Charlie was and there was nothing he could do but stay there and not give away his hiding



Col. E. H. Kimball family, 1913: Back row: 1. to r. Joe Slaughter, Jap Sumner, Lizzie Kimball, E. H. Kimball, Wilson Kimball Jr., Edna Rollins, Wilson Kimball Sr., Jim Kimball, Allan Kimball, Nell Kimball Grieves. Front row: 1. to r. Russell Slaughter, Ruth Kimball Bylund, J. R. Slaughter Jr., Edith Sumner Morgan, Minnie Kimball, Ozra Sumner, Bea Rollins Gardner, Wren Kimball Slaughter, Lizzie Kimball Sumner.

place. However, many nights he did intercept the messages and was able to relay them to the men.

In 1915 Grandmother and Grandfather Kimball celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. This was an occasion for all of the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to get together. One of the remarkable things about the Kimball family was the fact that though they had emigrated so far, yet all of the children lived within a radius of 25 miles or so. We used to have Kimball family gatherings every Thanksgiving. It was truly something we all looked forward to and enjoyed, going back to the old hotel and hearing the year's happenings, both funny and sad, from aunts, uncles and cousins.

Uncle Will Kimball owned and operated the Kimball Drug Store in Casper for many years and when he came down to visit he always brought Grandmother and Mom and the other sisters a surprise present.

Uncle Allan was the manager at the O. L. Walker Lumber Company. One time, Vern Griffith came into the store and when Allan had to go to the back room for something, Vern set all of the alarm clocks to go off at the same hour. Just as some of the company officers and inspectors came in to make their official visit the alarms started ringing...I guess that really caused a commotion.

Grandmother slipped and fell at the bakery in town. A piece of tin had been nailed over a rough spot in the floor and she slipped on the tin, fell and broke her hip. She was bedfast for two or three weeks and then slipped into a coma and died on September 20, 1920. The funeral service was held at the hotel and graveside services were conducted by the Eastern Star Chapter of Casper, of which she was a member.

Grandfather Kimball continued practicing law until about 1921, almost a period of 50 years as a lawyer.

In 1926 he presented to the city of Glenrock a plot of ground, comprised of seven lots, which had been the Kimball garden plot for many years. He donated this land in his words "in memory of my wife, one of the best known and loved women who ever lived in Glenrock." It was to be used and improved as a park for the public, for recreation and especially for the young children and their mothers. It was to be always known as Kimball Park. I remember all of the ice cream socials they used to have there and the city band concerts on Friday evenings.

Grandfather Kimball died in his sleep at the Kimball Hotel in 1932 in his bed that had the American flag hung at its head for as long as any of us could remember.

The Masonic Lodge #15 of Casper, Wyoming conducted the services at the Masonic Hall and also at the graveside. The Jesse Martin post of the Glenrock American Legion fired a salute to Colonel Kimball and "Taps" were played by the Boy Scouts. He was buried beside Grandmother Kimball in the Glenrock Cemetery.

J. R. Slaughter

## Kimball, Susan Robbins Family

The birth of Susan Stephenson took place in Capetown, South Africa in 1864. Susan's father, an officer in an army engineering corps in South Africa was also a big game hunter. He guided the hunting team which led Sir Henry Stanley out of Africa.

Susan was one of a family of ten children. She received her education in France. She was united in marriage with Frank Robbins and the two made their home on Boxelder, south of Glenrock. There were two girls and several boys born to this union, among them Frank Robbins, Jr., and C. J. "Doc" Robbins.

Frank Robbins died as a result of a freak accident involving a bunch of horses which had been corralled. One of the horses jumped over the fence, knocking loose the top pole which struck Frank in the head, killing him instantly.

After the death of her first husband, Susan married William C. Kimball. William had been born in 1864 in Portland, Maine. He came to Douglas, Wyoming in 1886 on the first train into the town. He homesteaded 160 acres at Boxelder.

There were two sons born to William and Susan Kimball, Bert and Bill. Bert was born at Boxelder, Wyoming on January 17, 1897. He received his education in the rural school at Boxelder. His first employment came with the North Central Gas Company in 1934, working as a pipefitter. After two and one half years with the gas company, Kimball worked in construction for Converse County for seven years. He took a homestead on Deer Creek in 1930. In 1943 he bought his Peaked Hill Ranch, consisting of 1,040 acres from Roy Elder. This property, located northeast of Douglas, was expanded by purchasing additional land. His brand, the Lazy R T connected, was recorded in the late 1880s, one of the first brands to be recorded in the state of Wyoming.

Bert was married to Ruby Pryor Dee on February 12, 1934. She had come to Wyoming in 1917, a widow with two children. She had received nurses training in Alliance, Nebraska and supported herself while she homesteaded on land north of Douglas. Ruby was born in Crawford, Missouri, the daughter of John S. and Marilla Kight Pryor. Her father was a native of Kentucky; her mother a native of Missouri. Bert and Ruby had no children born to them. She died November 25, 1971.

Bert married Helen Stephens Dykes in 1972. Helen died January 26, 1978.

Mr. Kimball raised purebred Angus cattle and was one of the pioneers of the Wyoming Aberdeen Angus Association founded in 1948. He was a member of the board of directors of the First National Bank of Douglas and was considered to be one of Converse County's outstanding stockman. He died on March 21, 1975.

Ruth Grant

## Kirn, Matt and Mary Family

Makronog, Dolenska, Austria was the birthplace of Mathias "Matt" Kirn on February 20, 1873, the youngest child and only son. His parents' names are unknown, but they were of Slovene German descent. The father apparently was a government trapper; he and his wife both died when Matt was but a young boy. Matt was reared by his four sisters, Theresa, Frances, Anna, and Cecelia with the help of an uncle, the father's brother.

Little is known of Matt's childhood. When he reached



military age, he served in the army for a specified period of time, after which he had to continue to receive training on a scheduled basis for a number of years.

It should be noted that World War I changed the face of Europe, and names of towns used in this story cannot be verified as to spelling or location; they are not found on present day maps. Spellings used are as written by Mary Kirn. The area of Austria in which they lived is presently northwestern Yugoslavia.

Matt began working as a miner in the coal mines near Trbovlje, Austria. It was here that he met Mary Anna Scobe who worked unloading the coal cars at the same mine.

Mary Anna was the only child of Tony and Maria Brienner Scobe. She was born March 12, 1876 in Lagvrje ob Save, Capital of Ljubljana, Austria. The family was also of Slovene German descent.

Her father died when Mary was about nine years of age. Mary's schooling ended in the third grade, and she had to go to work for local farmers herding cows. Maria married a Mr. Jakob and the family moved to Trbovlje where Mary, at age 15, went to work in the coal mines.

Matt and Mary were married September 25, 1898 assumedly in Trbovlje but possibly Makronog.

After a period of time, Matt and Mary moved to Germany where Matt continued to work in the coal mines, and they started a family. Martin was born in November 1900; Matheas "Matt" born February 5, 1901; and Mary born May 7, 1902. All of the children were born in Makronog as Mary's mother and stepfather had moved there, and Mary would go home to her mother who was a midwife.

Mary liked living in Germany as it was so clean. It

was here that she had her first stove to cook on; in Austria, their homes were only equipped with fireplaces which were also used for cooking.

In 1903, a group of the miners Matt worked with began to prepare to go to the United States. Matt and Mary decided that he should go with them. Mary and the children returned to Makronog to live until Matt could send for them. It was here that Stephanie Frances "Betty" was born September 18, 1903.

Matt went to Sheboygan, Wisconsin where he worked on the docks unloading ships. He then worked in a foundry making bathtubs and lavatories. The pay was small; he paid only 35 cents per day for board and room.

Somehow he learned of the coal mines in Rock Springs, Wyoming where the pay was much better. Again he and some of his friends decided to go west to make a better living. In 1904, the men arrived in Rock Springs and began work as coal miners.

By 1905, Matt had saved enough money to send for Mary and the four children. Because the children were all under five years of age, Matt hoped that his niece Meetsie could come with Mary to help with the children. Tickets were purchased, and the two ladies and the children traveled to Paris. It was here that they discovered that not only did one need tickets but also an additional \$200. Meetsie did not have the \$200, and she was not allowed to go further; she had to return home.

Mary and the children traveled 21 days on the ship *Lorraine* and arrived in New York City on May 17, 1905. Even though young Matt was only four, he was a big help to his mother by keeping track of various smaller items and his younger sisters. Mary always said that Matt kept the crowds from walking over them by putting up his



Kirn family, 1913 left to right: Anna, Mary, Matheas, Matt, Mary Anna, Stephanie "Betty", and Joe. Bottom row: Sophie and Frank Kirn.



Matt Kern Coal Mine 1928 L. to r. Wm. "Mack" Johnson, Joe Kirn and Frank Kirn.

hands to push people out of their way by the seat of their pants.

They then traveled by train. In Buffalo, New York, one of the family's trunks containing papers, keepsakes, and clothing was lost. Mary did not have time enough to get the children and all of the luggage on the train before it began to move. The trunk had to be left on the platform and was never recovered.

At 10 p.m. on May 21, 1905, the Kirn family was reunited in Rock Springs. Mary being used to the lush green lands of Austria and Germany didn't like the barren area of Rock Springs and spent the first few days in tears wondering just what kind of life she would have in this strange new land. The family lived in the coal company's Number 4 Camp.

To earn extra money, Mary took in boarders, many of whom were bachelors. They liked the food as it was delicious and there was plenty of it; Mary was an excellent cook and seldom used a cookbook.

The Kirn family continued to grow with Joseph "Joe" arriving on February 21, 1906 and Anna "Ann" on July 20, 1907.

Matt went to night school to further his education. Mary learned to read and write English on her own but with assistance from Matt's books.

The family pronounced Kirn as if it were spelled Kearn; this led to the name being improperly spelled Kern. Today the family pronounces Kirn and Kern as though they were spelled Kurn. The Matheas Kern family continues to use Kern as the spelling.

Martin, the oldest child, died of a kidney infection in the fall of 1909 and is buried in Rock Springs. Sophie, the youngest daughter, was born February 27, 1910.

In the spring of 1910, Matt went to Oklahoma where he purchased a farm near Wilburton. The family joined him soon after. It was not long before Matt, Mary, and Joe came down with a fever and became bedfast for a period of time. The three young children Matt, Mary, and Betty had to do all the chores and take care of the sick and their two baby sisters. The doctor told the Kirns that the fever could reoccur each spring. Knowing they did not want to be sick every year, they sold the farm and boarded the train for Rock Springs. The further north they came, the better they felt; by the time they arrived in Rock Springs, they were cured and had regained their

appetites.

On May 6, 1912, the Kirn family became citizens of the United States.

Frank, the last of the 11 children, arrived on February 16, 1913. Three of the children died shortly after birth; dates and places are unknown.

During the mine strike in 1914, Mary read in the newspaper that land was available for homesteading near Douglas. Matt and young Matt came to Douglas to look at the land. Matt filed on it in the early spring. Together Father and son built a small three room house (sided and painted white) on the homestead located about five miles east of Douglas (on the present County Road 52). In July, Mary and the six children arrived by train. Matt met them at the station with William Winslow who drove them to their new home in his Model T. Anna remembers the land as containing lots of tall sagebrush, which was used for firewood, and cactus.

At the time of their arrival, there were only three places between Douglas and the Kirn homestead -Matthew McCrillis (used only for livestock), Charles L. Esmay, and Hans H. Bakken. The nearest neighbor to the east was James Trainer who lived about ten miles away. About once a month, the Trainers would go to Douglas for supplies and stop to visit the Kirns. The main trail went by the Kirn house making it a stopping place for most of the homesteaders.

A wagon and team of big horses were purchased so that supplies could be hauled, and they would have transportation. Water was hauled the three miles from the Bakken place until a water well was drilled by H.C. Anderson in the late fall.

Matt and young Matt returned to Rock Springs that fall to work in the mines during the winter so that the family would have money on which to live.

The first winter was pretty bleak. Meals consisted mostly of beans and cornbread. The next year things looked brighter as Matt purchased a walking plow, disc, and harrow. (This was all the machinery he had for the first few years.) All kinds of vegetables were planted and a bumper crop was produced. That fall Mary bought their first cow for \$15 from Walter E. Titterington who lived about six miles northeast. Now the family had fresh foods and milk to add to their diet.

Homesteaders and neighbors coming into the area to file their claims every half mile and most to build their one room tar paper homes during the next six years were: Lafe Burnett; Charles "Charlie" Caffee, Jessie Roberts; Charles Waterman; Chester and Arthur Sims; William M. "Mack" Johnson; Joe Orth; Sadie Bersheer and her son and daughter Roy and Odetta Hamilton; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wickwire and Fred, Leland, Mamie, and Rosie; Tom and Anna McCarty; Frank and Cora Severin; the Gustavus Bentleys; the Charles Reubhars and their seven children (while here the family spelled their name ReBar); the Sigfred Nielsen family, his brother Chris, and his sister Abalone Nielsen McKay; Mr. and Mrs. John F. Murphy; Carl and Marie Giehm and Rudy, Albert, and Herman; Clem and Maggie Jagers and Elward "Mike," Delbert "Pete," Nellie Una May, and Robert "Bobby;" Vinson and Hettie Merritt; the Walter Titterington family; the Charles Sprittles; and the Hugh Conner family.

Matheas, Mary, Betty, and Joe had all attended school in Rock Springs, but it was not until the fall of 1917 that a school was provided on the homestead. Matt built the building on Kirn property just over the hill north of the Kirn home. It was here that Anna, Sophie, and Frank (in 1920) started to school. The first teacher was Mary Ryan, the eldest of the John Ryans' seven children. She would stay with the Kirns when the weather was so that she could not ride horseback to and from Douglas each day.

Besides the six Kirn children (Matheas was the only one who did not attend this school), other pupils during the school's five year duration were: Odetta Hamilton; Pete and Mike Jagers; Rudy and Albert Giehm; Mabel, Mary, and Johnny Reubhar; Cecil Conner; Fritz, Lewis, and Lloyd Nielsen; and Charles Sprittles' daughter. Teachers included Bill Featherston, Elizabeth Dunn, Lydia Haas, and a roly-poly Spanish lady who crocheted almost constantly.

When the school closed, Sophie and Frank attended the old North Grade School in Douglas. The first bus driver was a Mr. Hess (or Hesson) who drove a Reo speedwagon. Mrs. Hess would go along for the ride but mostly to keep the children in line. The next year Charles Reubhar took over the route which he kept until 1926. He had a Model T Ford truck outfitted with wooden benches along both sides. If the children sat still and weren't jolted about, they didn't get splinters; but if they weren't careful, watch out! In the cold winters, they would sit and try to keep their feet warm on the exhaust pipe which ran the length of the truck. When the snow was deep, Reubhar would hitch up his team and wagon and take to the ridges. Frank Kirn said of those trips, "The only ones who kept warm were the two Old Dobbins; I walked more than I ever rode in that wagon." Sophie graduated from North Grade in 1926. A Mr. Willey operated the bus for the next two years until Frank graduated in 1928. This completed the formal schooling for the Kirn children.

The Kirn school house today is a part of one of the houses on the south side of the 800 block of East Center Street in Douglas.

In the spring of 1917, Matt began building a larger home which was completed in 1918. On February 18, 1918, Matt received the patent to his homestead lands.

One day in 1919 when the house was not quite a year old, the four younger children were home alone. Joe was always fascinated with Matt's guns. Since Matt and Mary were both in the field working, Joe took out a shotgun and playfully pulled the trigger. The gun was loaded, and the blast knocked Joe to the floor and a hole through the outside wall of Matt and Mary's bedroom. Anna, who was ironing in the kitchen, heard the blast and Joe's screams, ran into the bedroom, and saw Joe rolling on the floor; she thought he had been shot. When things calmed down, the children saw the hole in the wall and surveyed the damage. Because Anna was wearing a light colored dress, which wouldn't be noticed by their parents if they should look toward the house, Joe told her to go outside and tack down all the splinters and paint the boards so that they would match the rest of the wall. Inside Joe stuffed the hole and plastered over it.

The shell in the shotgun was the last one Matt had. Frank was given a nickle, and he ran all the way to Clem

Jagers, who had the same type of gun, to buy a shell. Clem asked Frank, "Are you going to shoot a beef?" Frank didn't dare tell him that Joe had just shot a house. When Frank delivered the shell, Joe took and whittled it to fit the gun, placed it in the gun, and put the gun away. Anna placed newly ironed pillowcases over the bed's headboard to hide the fresh plaster - thus they successfully repaired the hole temporarily.

The first time that both Matt and Mary went with the team and wagon to Douglas, a trip which took all day, Joe and Anna busied themselves and replaced outside boards and painted them, replastered inside, and fit a small piece of wood in the woodwork and stained it. The wall is repaired that way to this day. It was not until years later that Mary noticed the notch in the woodwork; she and Matt were then told the story.

The neighbors provided stories which are still told. One bachelor was quite a drinker, and every time he went to town, he would get drunk. Anna relates: "It was a good thing that the horses knew where to go as he was not able to drive them. One time as he went by the house, Mother noticed he was especially drunk. After awhile she sent us kids to his place to be sure that he had made it home. When we got to the top of the hill, we could see that he had fallen from the wagon and was lying on the ground. Being little, we had to go for help to get him into the house."

A few of the neighbors were very poor. One family had a child die, and they could not afford a funeral so the child was buried on the homestead. Another family made the rounds of all the neighbors about noon so they would be assured of having one meal a day. The Kirns living close by fed them about twice a week.

Dr. Hylton declared one family "the dirtiest people in the state." Chickens roosted on the bedsteads; the plates from which they ate were never washed, just turned over from one meal to the next. One time the Kirn children were visiting. During the course of the visit, the family's baby needed changing. The Mother cleaned him and washed his bottom in a pan of water. Then she invited the children to stay for supper. Because she was having guests, she decided she would wash the plates. Wash them she did - in the same pan of water in which she had washed the baby. The Kirns hightailed it for home in a hurry.

One time during threshing season, the youngest daughter of this same family, a toddler, was playing outside in the dirt where she unearthed a pig's foot which had been cut off during butchering. Wanting to "help," she brought it into the house and tossed it into the pot of beans cooking on the stove for the threshers' dinner. Afterward all the Mother could say was, "They ate it anyway."

The area in which the Kirns lived was not like other areas of the county; there were no community halls, dances, socials, Sunday schools, mail routes, etc. It was not until the 1970s that mail was delivered. Prior to this, the residents had a box in the Douglas Post Office.

Sadie Bersheer would hold weekly box socials and dances in her home in the late teens. The only reason she held them was in hopes of finding a husband for her daughter; when this proved unsuccessful, the dances were discontinued. The only other remembered dance was one held at the Charles Sprittles' residence.

When asked what the family did for entertainment, Frank answered: "We pitched horseshoes on the hill north of the house. We walked to the neighbors to visit. Of course, we had a saddle horse; but it was closer to walk to the neighbors than it was to walk after that horse to catch it to ride to the neighbors."

Except for Betty, the children were given only one name. When they chose their confirmation name, this name then became their middle name: Mary Elizabeth, Joseph Bernard, Anna Catherine, Sophie Josephine, and Frank Theodore. For some unknown reason, Matt added a J to his name; no one knew what this initial represented.

Matheas left home in 1917 working first for ranchers west of Douglas. He then returned to Rock Springs to work in the mines. He had quit school to work in the mines prior to coming to Douglas; now he went to night school to continue his education. When he was 21, Matheas went to western Kansas to work in the wheat fields. From there he went to Raton, New Mexico where he again worked in the mines.

It was in Raton that Matheas married Thelma (last name is unknown) whom he met while boarding at her home. Early in 1925, about two months after they were married, Thelma died of a kidney infection, the result of swallowing a pin; she was only 17. Matheas continued to work in the mines in New Mexico and southern Colorado.

Daughters Mary and Betty left home in the early '20s for California. Mary married William E. Coleman; their sons are William Edward Jr. born December 15, 1925 and Donald DeWayne born January 9, 1929. Mary and her family lived in Los Angeles where her husband died October 12, 1952, and Mary died March 12, 1975.

Betty married William S. Chamberlain and had two daughters Nellie Louise (Selvage) born June 22, 1925 and Ella Mae (Wilkinson) born May 6, 1927. She and her family returned to Wyoming in the 1930s living in Cheyenne and Casper before going back to California permanently. Betty died in Eureka on January 6, 1965.

One day in the early '20s, the four younger children found a rattler coiled up not far from the house. Joe started throwing rocks at it hoping to kill it. The rocks only made the snake angry; and before they knew it, the rattler was coming after them. Run for the house they did with the snake chasing them in leaping bounds. They barely all got on the porch and the door shut when the five foot snake landed on the steps with a loud thud. The rattler then crawled under the porch where it remained until that evening when Matt shot it.

The first car was purchased in 1923 from Joe Orth - it was a 1914 Model T. All of the Kirns remaining at home except Mary learned how to drive that car. Joe tried to teach his mother how to drive, but she didn't want to learn.

Mary had become sick in 1915. A mattress was put in the wagon for her to lie on while being brought to the Douglas hospital. Dr Cantril performed surgery and removed a large tumor. She recovered completely. Again in 1924, Mary became ill. Dr. Keller diagnosed the problem as diabetes. Mary started taking insulin in early 1925.

Until 1939, Matt continued to work in the coal mines during the winter months - first in Rock Springs, then in the Shawnee area, and in latter years in the Casper area.

During the summer he would farm; the four younger children took charge in the winter months.

The dairy herd was gradually increased until they were milking 20 cows. In 1926 and 1927, Matt had the feedlot for George Arnold, who ran a butcher shop in Douglas. The animals would be trailed from Douglas to the feedlot where they were fattened and later butchered. The carcass was then trucked to the shop to be sold.

In February 1928, Matt purchased his first tractor from Irwin Mills - a brand new McCormick-Deering 10-20. New ground was broken west of the house increasing his farm land.

Sophie married William McKinley "Mack" Johnson in Douglas on July 21, 1928. Mack was born in McKinley, Missouri, the son of Loney Johnson, on August 6, 1899. He came to Wyoming in 1910 and served in the navy from 1918 to 1921. He homesteaded about four miles east of the Kirns. He sold his place to Mortons. The Johnsons lived in Casper where Mack worked at the Standard Oil Refinery from which he retired. He and Sophie had two children: a girl Jean Marie born in November 1929 and died in March 1931, and a son Thomas Milton born January 18, 1939. Mack died May 20, 1973, and Sophie died April 8, 1982.

In the fall of 1928, Matheas returned to Douglas; he operated the Kern Coal Mine on federal land near Shawnee Creek. Matt worked in the mine also. Joe and Frank delivered coal to Lusk; and Charles and George Poirot, who each had a truck, delivered coal to Douglas. The Kirns worked this mine until 1930 when the coal supply and the customers both ran out at about the same time. During the 1930s, Matheas worked mostly on tunnel construction which took him to many parts of the United States. He often spoke about living in Baltimore.

The years prior to the '30s were mostly excellent years for growing agriculture products. Crops were planted in April and harvested in October or November. During the spring and summer, weekly rains would come to water the dryland fields. Corn grew 12 feet high and grains grew over six feet high. Prospective homesteaders were shown the Kirn homestead so that they would know what kind of crops they could expect to produce. One year Matt grew eight foot tall brome grass. He cut it for hay leaving a block for seed; people stopped to ask about it.

Sugar beets were so large they had to be dug with crow bars. Watermelon and cantaloupe seeds were planted in the corn fields. Clem Jaggers grew watermelons averaging over 20 pounds by the wagon loads. Visitors were each given a half of the best melons to eat; the other melons were fed to the hogs.

During the late '20s and early '30s, most of the homesteaders moved from the area, many returning to their original homes. An exception to this trend was the arrival of Robert J. "Bob" Blotz who purchased the McCrillis place in 1928. Bob arrived in a 1924 Model T Ford which he was to drive for the next 40 years. A camper was built on the back; Bob lived in the camper until he could fix up the one room rock building which McCrillis had used for storage.

Blotz was born September 11, 1892 in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. He served in the army during World War I and was wounded in France. After returning from the service, he moved to Randolph, Nebraska in 1919. His wife Alma Geneva "Eva" Webster Blotz was also born in

Dodgeville, Wisconsin the daughter of Edward and Sarah Webster. In 1920, Eva traveled to Randolph where she and Bob were married on September 29.

Because Bob had tuberculosis, he had to leave Nebraska for a drier climate. Eva returned to Wisconsin while Bob came to Wyoming. Eva arrived in Douglas in 1930, and they continued to live in the rock building.

Bob had to repair the McCrillis house before they could live in it. It was not until 1931 that they moved into the two room house. The house was never modernized, and the Blotzs had the same style of living in the 1960s as they did when they first came to Douglas.

As long as Eva's mother was alive, Eva would return to Wisconsin every winter to help her.

In the 1960s, Bob purchased a used late model pickup. Eva would not ride in it as she did not "want to be hauled around like cattle." She rode in the Model T until Bob got a 1936 model car which was only driven to church.

The Blotzs raised cattle, and Eva had a few chickens to provide eggs which she sold. Bob was a carpenter; he would take jobs as they pleased him.

Eva died May 12, 1968, and Bob died March 27, 1980; both are buried in Douglas.

By the 1940s, the only other permanent residents remaining were the Sigfred Nielsen and Tom McCarty families.

Anna married Miles J. Larkin in Glenrock on April 19, 1933. Their daughter Catherine Ida "Kati" (Pexton) was born in Casper on August 16, 1936. Miles passed away on March 15, 1963, and Ann presently lives in Douglas.

Matheas returned to the Douglas area in 1938. He worked at various jobs including the Swaggart Coal Mine northeast of Casper (along with Matt and Joe) in 1939. In 1940, he and Frank worked for their brother-in-law Miles Larkin in drilling an oil well on the George Beaver property in the Walker Creek area. It was here that the brothers were introduced to the occupation which they would follow for the remainder of their lives.

On April 27, 1940 in Guernsey, Matheas married Louise Edna Daily, the only child of Jacob Sumner "Jake" Daily and Katherine Pauline "Katie" Daily. Louise was born March 17, 1910 in Saranac Lake, New York.

Katie Daily, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McMan was born at Keene Valley, New York on September 13, 1892. Following the death of her father, she was adopted by Charley and Louise Stevens of Saranac Lake, New York. On May 13, 1909, she married Jake Daily, a cousin of Archie Hamner, who was born February 7, 1888 in Storm Lake, Iowa. The family moved to Aurora, Illinois in 1911 and to Guernsey in 1916 where they farmed.

Matt and Louise moved to Kamas, Utah where they lived while Matt worked as a roughneck. It was in Utah that their two children were born: a daughter Marie Ann was born and died on the same day in April 1941, and a son Charles Joseph "Chuck" was born March 6, 1942 in Coalville.

The Kern family returned to Douglas shortly thereafter. Matt worked on the construction of the P.O.W. Camp; he then worked in the Lance Creek oil field, and they lived in Lusk. Following this, the family moved back to Douglas where they continued to reside. Matt worked in the oil fields as a roughneck and became a driller.

Louise's mother Katie Daily came to live with them after the death of her husband Jake on July 16, 1947. Louise passed away on August 30, 1950. Katie continued to live with Matt and Charles until she passed away on September 26, 1953. All three are buried in the Douglas Park Cemetery.

Frank served with the U.S. Army Ordinance in the South Pacific during World War II. He continued to work in the oil patch after he returned from service and eventually became a driller. In September 1947, Frank married Dorothy Jean House of Basin, and they had two daughters, Mary Ellen (Werner) born November 22, 1948 in Casper and Alice Jean born January 31, 1953 in Douglas. Frank was injured on a rig north of Gillette in the 1960s; after that, he started working for himself drilling water wells. Frank and Dorothy were divorced. Frank continues to work and to reside in Douglas.

Matt and Joe farmed until Matt's death on April 28, 1953. Joe, who never married, remained on the homestead with his mother. In latter years, Joe worked for Florence Lumber Company and did some farming. Mary passed away on July 10, 1965. Joe died in Evanston on April 25, 1981.

Matheas' son Charles served in the U.S. Navy from 1961 to 1965; he then reenlisted in 1968 and served until 1969 and saw action in the Vietnam Conflict. In 1971, Charles purchased most of the homestead from his aunts and uncles. Frank kept a portion on the west side; Bob and Mary Ellen Kirn Werner built their home on this land.

At Esterbrook on August 21, 1971, Charles married Jeanne Louise Bradshaw, the daughter of William W. "Bill" and Eva Bradshaw. Their children are Kimberly Ann born January 7, 1977 and Cassidy Renee born April 8, 1979. Chuck and Jeanne were divorced, and Chuck married Marion Frances Mason Houk on July 23, 1983 in Douglas. Marion was born in Cheyenne on November 28, 1944, the daughter of Thomas Francis and Doris Gillis Mason. Marion's daughter Misti Dawn was born April 25, 1975 and has been adopted by Chuck.

In the mid-1970s, Matheas sold his house in Douglas and moved into a mobile home on the homestead. He resided there and helped raise his granddaughters while their parents were working. Matheas passed away in Casper on June 13, 1985.

In the area of this story, the Kirn homestead is the only one on which members of the homesteader's family still live.

Catherine Larkin Pexton

## Knisely, Vern and Edith

Vern's father, Aara Jay Knisely, was born in Mt. Zion, Missouri in 1875. He rode a bicycle from Missouri to northern Wyoming and took up a homestead near Lovell in 1900. In 1906 he married Mabel Florence Howard of a pioneer Lovell family. Vern, the third of six children, was born in 1911. He was the only son.

In 1917 Aara bought a cattle ranch on the Wood River where Vern went to a one room school until high school when the family moved to Worland. Vern's first piece of business was trading his string of horses (two ponies) for





Edith Clayton Knisely and group of horse riders on Center Street in Douglas.

a bicycle - this was promptly squashed by his father. Vern graduated from Worland High School and attended the University of Wyoming from 1929 to 1933. He lettered in tennis three years and said he never won a match. By 1935 he was employed as an engineer for the Resettlement Administration Land Purchase Program with his home in Douglas.

Vern's start in construction was by accident. A rancher wanted some stock water dams built and asked Vern if he would do the engineering for him and find a contractor to do the work. Vern couldn't find a builder at the price offered so he and Bill Moore, son of LeRoy Moore, organized the Knisely-Moore Company. The initial capital was \$2,000.00 which they borrowed. The company was to become one of the biggest highway and heavy construction companies in the mountain west states. The company was sold in 1970.

Garetson-Knisely (a drilling company) was organized with Vern serving as president from 1939 to 1946. He recalls the time an oil well was discovered in Nebraska but by the time some of the backers were through celebrating, it was salt water.

In 1943-44, Floyd Bartling and Vern started a timbering operation near Esterbrook and a post-treating plant in south Douglas between the tracks west of where Judy Gibb lives in 1985. The operation employed German prisoners of war. One night, sparks from the incinerator ignited the post plant and it burned to the ground. The Douglas Volunteer Fire Department performed well, and "Bart" and Vern were not discouraged so they rebuilt the plant; and to show their appreciation to the fire fighters, they had a fireman banquet at the LaBonte Hotel. While they were dining the plant burned down again. That finished it.

Vern has served community and state in many capacities. Some of them are: Member of the Wyoming State Highway Commission 1974-76, Member of Governor Hathaway's Legislative and Executive Reorganization Commission 1971, President of Wyoming Association of General Contractors 1951-52 and Chairman of the Converse County Republican Central Committee.

Some of the outstanding honors he has received are: Wyoming Outstanding Business Man for 1963-64 by the College of Commerce and Industry at the University of Wyoming, the Charles M. Smith AGC Civic Activity

Award 1974 and the Wyoming Recreation Achievement Award 1977.

The first nine holes on the Douglas-Converse County Golf Course were designed by Vern. He is forever thinking of ways to improve the course even if it is the high grass around the green that raises the handicaps and wrecks the scores.

Vern and Edith Clayton Morton were married in 1954. One daughter, Jill (Feldhausen), was born to them. She presently lives in Tucson, Arizona.

Edith had previously been married to James Morton, son of John and Sarah Morton. They were married in 1934 and had four children: James Jr., Margaret (Picchetti), John and Sarah (Monroe).

Vern has two children by a previous marriage: Nancie (Rauch), died in 1976, and Jay.

Edith Knisely

## Knittle, Frank Severn and Mary

Frank Severn Knittle first traveled to the West from the family home in Port Carbon, Pennsylvania, to spend a summer in the Black Hills of South Dakota, with his brother. A diary kept by him detailed his trip by train to Nebraska, and then by stage to the Hills. It also recorded hunting and fishing in the area.

In 1888, his brother, Robert H. Knittle, moved to Douglas, Wyoming, where in 1890, he organized the Douglas Hardware and Lumber Company which later became the Florence Hardware Company. Frank Knittle moved to Douglas and joined his brother in the business.

Mr. Knittle was active in the affairs of the growing town of Douglas. He returned to Pennsylvania, where on January 12, 1893, he married Mary Priscilla Stockett. After honeymooning in the South, the couple resided in Port Carbon until March when they returned to Douglas where he had built a home on North Third Street.

They were blessed with seven children, all born in Douglas. Five graduated from the Converse County High School and the two youngest boys from Natrona County High. Only the two younger boys are living, one in Greybull and the other in Littleton, Colorado. Three of the sons were ex-service men in World War I, one serving in the Canadian Army. The sons became professionals; two accountants, two civil engineers, and one an agent of the FBI.

Frank Knittle served as Postmaster, County Surveyor, and Superintendent of a division of the State Water Department, while residing in Douglas. As a surveyor, he had probably walked all of Niobrara and Converse Counties, staking land for homesteaders and oil and mineral prospectors.

At Douglas, he was active in the local gun club. Undated news clippings relate that the team of Knittle, Morton, Jesurun, Richards, Rutherford and F. Foxton scored 205 out of 300 clay birds, only to lose to the team of Hardenbrook, Rimington, Barrow, Cooper, Dickson and G. Foxton, with a score of 216. On another match, Rimington, Cooper, Knittle, and Jenne outshot Jesurun, Hardenbrook, Richards and Rutherford. Losers entertained the winners and their wives at the LaFayette Restaurant at elaborate banquets prepared by Chef

Olivereau.

In 1928, the Knittles moved to Casper, Wyoming, where Frank became City Engineer for this booming oil town. He held this post intermittently until the late forties. After moving to Casper, he took up golf, aiding the building of the City public course. He won a number of awards, and was runner-up in a state tournament.

He was active in the Masonic bodies, becoming Grand Master of the Wyoming Grand Lodge. He also held offices in the Shrine and Consistory.

Mrs. Knittle was one of the founders of the Job's Daughters and in 1918, she was Worthy Grand Matron of the Order of Eastern Star. She also served as state and local president of the American War Mothers, and was a member of the DAR.

Mrs. Knittle died in Casper in 1948, and Mr. Knittle died in Denver in 1950. As of 1983, two children, eleven grandchildren and nineteen great grandchildren survive these Wyoming pioneers.

Robert A. Knittle

## Koch, Jacob and Elizabeth

Jacob "Jake" L. Koch was born September 11, 1890 at Merna, Custer County, Nebraska. He was the fourth child of Johann and Mary Koch. Johann and Mary were from Wurtenberg, Germany. Johann had been married to Katherine Flickinger, previously.

After Katherine died, Johann married Mary Deinen-ger and had even more children, making 13 in all. Jake belonged to this second family.

Johann moved his family from Pearl City, Illinois to Custer County, Nebraska in 1889. The three older boys from this first family moved with them. The three younger children had died before they moved. These three older boys were a great help to Johann and Mary in their new homeland.

They purchased a small farm in Custer County. They first had a sod house. They lived and worked hard and happily together until April 17, 1899 when Johann was burned to death in a prairie fire. He had soaked down the hay stack and left the older boys with extra barrels of water to protect themselves. He started back to the house to be sure Mary and the younger children were safe. They found his burned body in a ditch where the fire had caught up with him before he reached the house.

Jake was just eight years old when this happened. The older boys continued to help Mary and the four remaining children. They built a new frame house which made life a little easier for Mary.

In 1907 Mary married Jacob B. Klump and they moved into Broken Bow, Nebraska. He died in 1924 and she was again left a widow. Her older children resented this second marriage and spent little time at home after this.

Jake and the other children attended school in Merna but had lots of work and chores to do at home as well. Jake went to school four years.

Jake grew up with Mary to guide him and as she was a good Christian and church member, Jake too was a good Christian. As he moved around, there was not

always a Lutheran Church so he and his family attended the church services available to them. Later in Verse there were usually only traveling missionary services. When they moved to Sheridan they joined the First Christian Church and were able to attend regularly.

Jake grew up working on farms around Custer County. He worked hard and played hard, too. No one loved a practical joke more than Jake. He was always teasing, joking and laughing.

On June 29, 1910, he married Elizabeth Grace Haefele at McKinley, Custer County, Nebraska, at the home of her parents, Joseph Haefele, born November 20, 1864, Pottstown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, died April 18, 1930 at Calloway, Custer County, Nebraska and Mary Belle Booth, born December 10, 1870 at Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, died January 5, 1935 at Calloway, Custer County, Nebraska.

Elizabeth was the first child in a family of eleven children.

Jake and Lizzie leased farms around Merna, McKinley, and Lillian for the next twelve years. In 1921 Jake and Ralph Haefele went to Verse, Wyoming where they had heard there was good homestead land. They filed claims and April 1922 the Koch family moved to Wyoming.

By this time they had five children:

Lawrence Leonard, born October 13, 1911 at McKinley, Custer, Nebraska, married Geneva Izetta Whipple Harris on May 17, 1933, died August 29, 1965 and was buried in West Lawn Cemetery, Gering, Nebraska.

Raymond Eugene, born December 9, 1913 at Merna, Custer, Nebraska, married Frances Pauline Hollister on October 31, 1937.

Warren George, born April 4, 1916 at Lillian, Custer, Nebraska, married Lois Pauline James on February 15, 1943, died May 2, 1979.

Helen Bernadine, born September 2, 1918 at Merna, Custer, Nebraska, married Ward Rea on December 12, 1938.

Orval Loren, born February 8, 1921 at Merna, Custer, Nebraska, married Patricia Lee Hughes on May 17, 1953.

On the new dry farm they were even more isolated than in Nebraska. It was 60 miles south to Douglas, the county seat, where they went once a year to buy the year's supply of groceries, clothing and other supplies. It was 60 miles north to Gillette and nine miles to Verse where there was a small general store, post office and school. Ralph and Charles Haefele (brothers of Lizzie) each had homesteads four miles south. Visits with these neighbors and others were their chief form of entertainment. They would sometimes go after chores were done to have supper, spend the night playing cards, have breakfast and return home to the morning chores. The children played together until they fell asleep. The families had dances at their homes that lasted all night, also.

The yearly trips to town were an important occasion. One time Warren had an accident with a .22 gun and had to go to Douglas to have a doctor sew it up and remove the bullet from his hand. He was so happy to go to town he didn't mind the injuries. The doctor did not find the bullet. It later worked down into Warren's finger and Jake removed it with a straight razor.

Water in Wyoming was a scarce commodity, especially good drinking water. Much of the water was

alkali. On the homesteads was a good, cold, sweet water spring but it had to be hauled about one mile in barrels for drinking. They also had a pump for stock water and a cistern to catch rain water for washing, etc. They couldn't build the house right by the spring as it was in a draw and flash floods would come down and wash it away.

They also needed a flat place for house, barns, shed and garden and the field crops. In spite of the fact that they had to haul water so far, one of their favorite fun things was water fights. They used buckets to throw water on each other until the barrels were empty.

Jake, Lizzie and children moved to Wyoming in a Buick touring car but horses were used to do the work on the homestead. A team and wagon were used in the fall to get the years supplies.

In winter, Jake worked in the Best Coal Company coal mine to help supplement their income. In spring, starting in February to June, Jake went shearing sheep. When the boys were old enough, they went too. Jake sometimes worked in the oil fields at Midwest. It was west of the homestead about 50 miles. This left Lizzie and the children home alone a great deal. The boys also worked on neighboring dry farms putting in and harvesting crops. They worked from daylight to dark (4 to 9 o'clock) driving six head of horses harrowing or disking for 50¢ a week.

The children attended the nearest one-room school on horseback, carrying a lunch with them. Some of their favorite teachers were Mrs. Kane, Ruth Walker and Gladys Hanlin. When it came time to go to high school, they could go to Verse for one year but had to stay all week with people at the store and work for board and room or go to Douglas or back to Nebraska and stay with relatives and work for room and board. Lawrence and Raymond both returned to Nebraska. Warren finished ninth grade at Dry Creek then went to work to help earn money to pay Bernadine's board and room in Douglas. Bernadine earned her own way but Warren did buy her class ring. It cost \$8, a lot of money in those days. Bernadine graduated from high school in 1937. Orval went to school in a cement house (Fuller's) and then to Verse school through the eighth grade.

Living on the homestead was a hard life but they were a happy family. Their first home was a one room shack on skids. That way it could be used to "prove up on" the next homestead when one family got their house built. The last home Jake and Lizzie had on the homestead was a two room log house. Lights were first, candles, then kerosene, then gasoline.

The variety of food was not great; both Lizzie and Jake ended up with false teeth. Lizzie became quite thin and ill before she finally had hers all pulled. Lizzie was hard of hearing so in later years was happy to have an earphone. The veins in her legs sometimes ruptured and drained. It was caused by an allergy to nylons, which rayon hose cured.

In 1940 war was going on in Europe. Selective Service was voted in by Congress so all young men over 18 were required to register. Warren's registration card is dated October 2, 1940. Warren and Orval joined the National Guard of Wyoming in Douglas February 18, 1941. When Pearl Harbor was attacked December 7, they both went

into active service and shipped out to the West Coast for patrol duty. Warren remained on the coast until August 29, 1943 when he was transferred to Army Reserve and sent to work in the Anaconda Copper Mines in Butte, Montana. Orval transferred from 115th Calvary F Troop to the Paratroops. He was sent to Florida for training and then directly overseas to England and on D-Day was in the attack on Normandy. He was taken prisoner that day and remained a prisoner for eleven months. Jake and Lizzie received a telegram that he was missing in action and eventually a prisoner of war. No letters were received from him until peace was declared.

One Fourth of July when all the family was home for vacation and trying to get ready to go to the rodeo, Bernadine couldn't find her toothpaste. Jake says, "here, take mine," so she took her glass of water and went outside to brush her teeth. When she came back he asked how she liked his toothpaste. He had given her the stuff to make his false teeth stick in his mouth. He had all the grandchildren trying to take theirs out like Grandpa did.

In 1948 Jake and Lizzie decided to sell out the homestead and move to Sheridan, Wyoming. They held a farm auction, selling all their cattle and horses and machinery, etc., except the milk cow and chickens and household equipment, and moved.

Jake was still playing jokes on everyone. He kept the handles of brooms at the mill well greased. On their 50th wedding anniversary June 19, 1960, the whole family gathered at their home to celebrate. Jake got an empty pancake mix sack at the mill and filled it with plain flour. Bernadine made pancakes for the crowd, adding extra eggs and shortening to make them good. She finally said, "This is the worst pancake flour I've ever used. I think I'll stick to Aunt Jemima." Lawrence and Raymond were polite enough to eat them without complaining. Although Jake has been playing these kinds of tricks all their lives, Lizzie and all the children still fell for them every time except for Warren. He liked a joke and so looked for the trick first.

On the 29th of August, 1965 Jake and Lizzie were visiting Warren at Daniel, Wyoming when they received word Lawrence had passed away. I've heard of people's hair turning white overnight. Jake's did, from gray to silver white.

About the last time we went to their home, Jake served us prepared cereal in a dog biscuit box. It was labeled bone meal. Warren's family all ate it without comment but when the other children arrived they refused. "No, my God, I'm not going to eat dog biscuits." Jake had lifted the inside wax sack out of a cereal chex packet and placed it in the dog biscuit box.

May 19, 1966 Lizzie died in Sheridan, Wyoming and was buried in the Sheridan Municipal Cemetery in Sheridan.

On February 16, 1967, while visiting his daughter, Bernadine, in Buffalo, Dallas County, Missouri, Jake dropped dead of a heart attack. His body was shipped home to Sheridan and he was buried beside his beloved Lizzie in Sheridan Municipal Cemetery in Sheridan.

He remained a true jokester to the very end. Bernadine worked at the school lunch counter in Buffalo so went that night to work at a ball game. She always fixed the electric percolator so it could just be plugged in to

start coffee in the morning. She found the percolator handle greased, so cleaned it up and went to bed. Jake was the last one to go to bed but when they heard him fall they rushed downstairs to find him dead. Bernadine then went to make a pot of coffee and grabbed a handful of grease. He had regreased the percolator handle just before he died.

Jake and the boys were all mechanically minded. Their car was an important part of their lives. Lizzie, however, never learned to drive. She always depended on Jake.

Lois James Koch  
Orval Koch  
Raymond Koch  
Bernadine Rae

## Kollars, Tony and Ethyl

Anton R. "Tony" Kollars was born in Menominee, Cedar County, Nebraska on October 10, 1894. He grew to manhood there, earning his living as a farmer. He entered the army in 1917 and was discharged in 1919.

In 1922, Tony took a homestead 35 miles northeast of Douglas. In 1923, he married Ethel Maxwell who had an adjoining homestead. After their marriage, they combined the two properties. They had no children.

The Kollars had an orchard and received many Wyoming State Fair awards for their excellent fruit.

Ethel died in January 1965; Tony died December 10, 1966, the result of a one car accident on the Walker Creek Road.

The Kollars' property was placed in a trust for two children's homes — one in Casper, the other in Torrington. One-fourth of the property was to be sold each ten years.

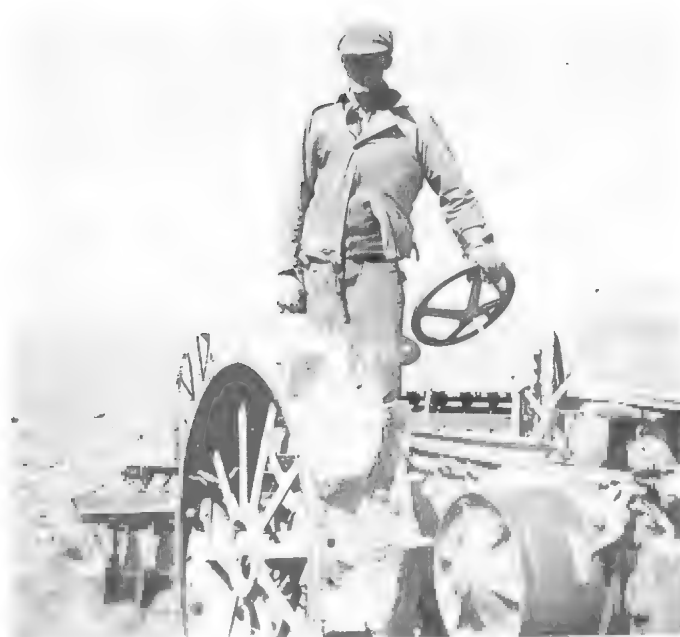
Lyle L. Kollars

## Kornegay, George and Lela Family

George Elgin Kornegay, in the year 1915, heard that homesteads of 160 acres were available in Converse County, Wyoming. Having the spirit of a true pioneer and with the encouragement of his wife, Lela, he set out with the hopes of finding a new frontier to settle and a better way of life. He selected a homestead nine miles south of Shawnee, Wyoming.

Over the years, more and more of their neighboring homesteaders moved away. George and Lela were able to increase their holdings to 4200 acres by gradually buying up this land. Some of the lands acquired were the original homesteads of the Warden, Tobin, Shelley, Hetu, Meigs, Pickering, Kiouss and McCann families. George kept and worked his beloved land until his death there on September 23, 1951.

George Kornegay was born May 30, 1886, in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, to John W. and Mary M. Kornegay, one of seven children raised on a farm. George completed his education at the Fox Squirrel School in Siloam Springs. As a young adult he was the pitcher for the local



George Kornegay.

sandlot baseball team. He never lost his love for the game, and was an ardent fan of the New York Yankees as he grew older. He worked for the Kansas City Southern Railroad until he was 23 years of age, when he left the area to marry Lela Ardella Pickering.

Lela Ardella Pickering was born June 21, 1887, in Atlanta, Nebraska, to Abel and Hannah Anthony Pickering, one of twelve children. The family left Atlanta, Nebraska when Lela was seven years old. Lela remembered her job well on the journey, for it would be repeated again on her move to Wyoming. It was her responsibility to tend the white cow and keep her with the wagon so the family would have milk. After completing her schooling in Siloam Springs, Lela returned to Atlanta, Nebraska, and married George there on June 27, 1909.

George and Lela honeymooned in Denver, remaining there four years while George worked in construction. His experience in both carpentry and masonry enabled George to construct all the buildings on the ranch in Wyoming. When construction slowed down in Denver, they moved to Scottsbluff, Nebraska, where George worked in the sugar mill for one year. Weary of the long hours, poor working conditions, and with an intense desire to be independent, George quickly took advantage of the opportunity to homestead in Converse County.

It was a day to remember, this typical hot and windy August 15, 1915, as George, Lela and their sons, Paul and Hugh, arrived at their homestead with two horses, a cow, and a dog. In order to have transportation and a place to live, the family made the five day journey from Scottsbluff, Nebraska by covered wagon. As they set up their wagon, which was to be their home for two years until the first home was built, they were soon aware of their situation. There were no fences or close neighbors, only the still of the night and the occasional howling of the coyotes. When they looked out at a herd of antelope grazing, and realized they could see forever, they knew they had made the right choice. Never looking back, they devoted their lives to their land, raised



their family, and contributed to the development of a community while suffering the hardships and joys of life on the frontier, the hallmarks of true pioneers.

They had the foresight to bring woolen clothing and bedding for winter arrived early. They gathered firewood, hauled water from a spring one mile away, cleared sagebrush, built fences, bought more cattle, and planted ten acres of wheat the first year. One of the most difficult days for Lela occurred when a herd of wild horses from the open range trampled her garden, even though she was waving a white cloth and trying to herd them away. During the first three years Lela often took care of the homestead while George worked for Harry Haas, the first postmaster and general store operator at Shawnee, Wyoming. George generally took his wages out in staples to supplement what they were raising.

Over the years it was necessary for the Kornegays to diversify. They always raised a commercial grade of cattle, using the F Lazy F (F) brand. During the depression years they sold milk and cream and raised chickens and hogs that were butchered. The meat, as well as, the eggs were sold to friends and door-to-door in Douglas. As more and more sod was plowed under and cultivated for feed and cash crops, George, being very progressive, recognized the need for mechanization. He bought the first tractor in that part of the country, a John Deere. With bigger and better equipment he increased the acreage under cultivation to 1000 acres.

Transportation influenced every aspect of family life. The horse or the horse and wagon were the standards for the Kornegays, as they were for all the pioneer families. When the family was able to construct a wagon with rubber tires, and the older boys had a two-wheel cart for courting, they felt they were experiencing luxury. Up until 1930 the cattle were trailed to Shawnee or Orin, Wyoming, and loaded on Chicago Northwestern Railroad cars. George accompanied the cattle to market in Omaha, and always brought special treats from the big city back to the children.

When church services weren't available, George and Lela sang hymns in harmony as their children gathered around their knees. The big social event of the year was threshing time, which went on for weeks. Every meal was a feast as neighbor helped neighbor for miles around. The power for the threshing machine was John Nance's big black steam engine which was appreciated by all ages. The whistle could be heard for miles and was blown at frequent intervals, to the delight of the children.

George and Lela bought their first car in the early 1920's. In 1928, the Dodge touring car they bought fulfilled their dream of taking their family back to their roots in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, to visit family and friends. The month-long trip was all they expected it to be; however, one of the things remembered most was the number of flat tires, due to the gravel roads. The occasional trip to Douglas on Saturday, by car, was greatly anticipated by the Kornegay children. A walk along the streets with friends, a visit to the dime store, a cone or hamburger at the Kandy Koop, and time in the Carnegie Library to gather the box of books for next week's reading, filled the entire day. During their high school years the Kornegays attended public dances Saturday night at Shawnee, Lost Springs, or Glendo, with Lela ever



Kornegay family, left to right: George, Lila, Sidney, Lela, Shirley, Hugh, Faye, Paul, and Calvin.

present as their chaperone. The state fair in Douglas became the highlight for entertainment for the year.

The coming of the car not only affected individuals but it changed communities. More and more families went to Douglas during the 1930's where they could tend to all their business in one day. Shawnee, which had been the heart of the community, dwindled from a business district of two grocery stores, a post office, two meeting halls, a newspaper, bank, and lumberyard, to a combined general store - post office and a filling station. During the early years George and Lela hauled their produce to Shawnee by team and wagon, returning with needed goods or a load of coal from the mine north of Shawnee. This was replaced by trucking produce and livestock to Douglas, and hauling coal back to the ranch from Gillette, Wyoming.

All of the Kornegay children, except the two youngest, started school in the one-room school house one mile south of their home. Occasionally the teacher lived in the school house, but generally lived with the Kornegay family. After 1932, all the children went by bus to the schools in Shawnee. They all graduated from Shawnee High School except the two youngest; Calvin graduated from Douglas High School and Lois from Glenrock High School, as there were no longer enough students to justify keeping the high school at Shawnee open. George and Lela advocated higher education as a major goal in life, which greatly influenced their children. All of the children moved away from Converse County except Calvin, either to attend a university or to enter the job market. After completing his tour in the military service, Calvin returned to the ranch.

Throughout their married life, George and Lela took an active role in community affairs. They were available when neighbors needed help, assisted in building meeting halls and schools, and were members of the Methodist Church. Their chief interest was education for all children evidenced by George's serving 17 years on the school board and Lela being elected to fill the office vacancy when he stepped down. He was most influential in getting electricity through the REA to the ranches south of Shawnee in the early 1940s. Prior to this he had provided electricity to his own household by a wind-charger and battery system he developed.



Lela carried on the ranching activities after George's death in 1951, with the assistance of son Calvin, who shared her love for this kind of life. Lela moved to her home in Douglas in 1966. She was semi-retired from the ranch until it was sold to Jim Bright, a neighbor, in 1970. Calvin purchased a ranch six miles south of Douglas and continued to operate it until his death on April 11, 1977. His wife, Frances Anderson Saffels, operates the ranch with his two children, Shawn Lee Kornegay, born May 17, 1966, and Heidi Ann Kornegay, born December 12, 1975.

George and Lela Kornegay were the parents of eight children: Paul A. (now deceased) married Ruth Frederick in Sidney, Nebraska in 1945, and had three children, Corri, Elena, and Kevin. Hugh married Marie Pilcher in Wheatland, Wyoming in 1943, and had one son, Harley. Faye married Archie Black at Lusk, Wyoming in 1936, and had two sons, Allan and Larry. Sidney married Florence Rentz in Cheyenne, Wyoming in 1947, and had five children, Gary, Burl, Debbie, Julia, and Glenna. Shirley married Russell Vaudrey in Tucson, Arizona in 1946, and had two children, Sharon and Daniel. Lila married Herman Schoenfeld in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1947. Calvin married Frances Anderson in Ft. Collins, Colorado in 1966, and had two children, Shawn and Heidi. Lois married Harold Smith in Houston, Texas in 1946, and had three children, Stanley, Connie, and Candance.

Lila Kornegay Schoenfeld

## Lam Family

Andrew Calvin Lam and Susan Ann Anderson, of Rockbridge County, Virginia, were married June 6, 1872, and had six children, three of whom came to Wyoming: William Irby Lam, James Finley Lam, and Claude White Lam.

William Irby Lam (called Irby) left his home in Rockbridge County, Virginia, in 1896 for the San Joaquin Valley in California, where his mother's brother, Rush Anderson, lived. He remained there for four years and then came to Glenrock, Wyoming in 1900. When he first arrived, he worked for John Higgins. Later he homesteaded and bought land north of the Platte River and ran sheep. He married May Kimball, daughter of another pioneer family, Col. and Mrs. Emerson H. Kimball, in November 1904, and she and her child died at childbirth in 1909. He later married Margaret Smith, a teacher, and she and her child also died at childbirth in April 1918. He never married again but lived out his life in Glenrock. He was Justice of the Peace for a number of years and had a furniture store. In his spare time he built barbecue pits, fire places, benches and tables for the city park, which made it a pleasant picnic grounds for the townspeople. He also planted trees and shrubs at the Glenrock Cemetery, being a kind of unpaid caretaker. He died November 16, 1951 at Glenrock.

James Finley Lam came to Glenrock in 1903 by train. His mother's cousin, Stuart Anderson, had homesteaded in Nebraska but found the results discouraging, and had gone to Wyoming. He went back to visit in Virginia and induced some Virginians to come to Wyoming to work.



Irby Lam

James F. Lam was one of these, as well as Bill McMasters, Pres Miller and others. All remained in Glenrock or vicinity until their deaths.

Irby and Jim worked for John Higgins on his ranch when they first came to Wyoming.

Jim married Aurora "Roe" Smith, daughter of the Martin Smiths, also a Wyoming pioneer family, March 17, 1908. They had four sons: Harry, Gordon, Howard, and Gene. Howard married Mary Hildebrand and still lives in Glenrock. Harry married Helen Gillespie of Douglas; she lives in Douglas.

Jim and Roe owned a ranch on Deer Creek east of Glenrock, on what is now known as the Olin Place. They operated a dairy and their sons delivered milk in Glenrock in the mornings before school. Later, oil was discovered on their ranch.

Jim preceded his wife in death in September of 1958. Roe died February 2, 1973.

Harry Lam was a submariner in World War II. Gene Lam is a physician and served in the Korean War. He was a prisoner of war and the first doctor in the history of this country to be awarded the Silver Star.

Claude White Lam came to Glenrock from Virginia when he was 20 years old, arriving August 12, 1905. He rode cross country on the train, changing stations across town in Chicago. His mother had given him a basket of fried chicken and a bottle of wine to eat and drink on his journey. Why he didn't develop food poisoning in the heat is a mystery, but apparently they had some secret then that we don't know now.

Claude got off the train in Parkerton, Wyoming. He

was supposed to get off in Glenrock but had fallen asleep, so he had to walk back to Glenrock from Parkerton.

Claude went to work for his brother Irby, herding sheep. Later he bought 100 head of bum lambs and ran them with Irby's herd, and finally built up a herd of his own. He filed and proved up on a homestead north of Glenrock, on Sand Creek. On one occasion Claude accompanied a trainload of livestock to the stockyards in Omaha, Nebraska, which also carried some of their own sheep.

On one of his trips to town he met a Glenrock girl, Grace E. Fenex, daughter of William L. and Sabra Fenex, also Wyoming pioneers. They were married October 2, 1908, at Douglas during the Wyoming State Fair. Grace's lingerie for her wedding was hand-sewn by Mrs. John Higgins, a Frenchwoman raised in a convent in France, whose husband built the Higgins Hotel (now the Tabor Hotel) in Glenrock. Grace rode in a horse race that day at the fair. She was a superb horsewoman, having grown up riding half-wild Indian ponies. Since they were married at the State Fair, they went to the fair nearly every fall. In 1958 they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at the fair and rode in the parade.

Prior to her marriage, Grace had taken a teaching examination and started teaching at the age of 16, first at Edgemont, South Dakota, and next at Newcastle, Wyoming. Her marriage ended her teaching days.

The first years of Grace and Claude's marriage they lived in a sheep wagon (the forerunner of today's trailer) on their homestead. Their first child, Preston, was born September 29, 1909, and he spent most of his first year in the sheep wagon. Grace would put a tarpaulin on the floor of the sheep wagon and set him on it, but the wind blew so hard that it often lifted the tarp and Preston off the floor, so she had to put him on the bed.

Trips to town were made in a buckboard drawn by a half-broken team. Grace held Preston between her knees while she drove. When they came to a gate she climbed down from the buckboard, set Preston on the ground, opened the gate, drove the buckboard through, then picked up Preston and they continued on their way.

Grace was also a crack shot and supplied part of their food by shooting sage chickens, rabbits and antelope. The smell of sheep is not the most pleasant odor in the world and mutton or lamb was never served in their home. As a matter of fact this writer never tasted either until well into adult life. The water was foul tasting, so mostly they drank canned tomatoes.

William Calvin Lam (called Bill and Kayo interchangeably) was born October 1, 1911, at the Fenex ranch west of Glenrock, where Grace and Claude had moved. The name Kayo was bestowed upon him by C. H. "Okie" Blanchard, because he was small like Kayo Mullins in the comic strip. Notwithstanding his size, he played football at the University of Colorado, and at one time held the nation's ground-gaining record. He was the first Colorado player to play in the East-West Game, and was chosen Cane Bearer (an honor bestowed upon the outstanding graduate) at his graduation in 1936.

Dixie Lam was born August 12, 1914, at Glenrock. Her mother, Grace, was one of the few ragtime piano players in the county and had often played for dances before Dixie's birth. Several of the better known rags she played

were "Dill Pickles" and "Maple Leaf Rag." A number of persons came to Grace and begged her to play for some dances, but she refused as she was breastfeeding Dixie. A solution was finally found: Dixie slept in a buggy behind the piano while Grace played; at feeding time everyone took an intermission and Dixie was fed. This was satisfactory to all concerned, and it is said that the baby never cried.

Virginia Grace Lam was born in 1916 at Glenrock, but died at the age of 23 months in 1918, from the influenza which claimed so many lives at that time. She was an exceptionally talented child who could carry a tune perfectly, sing all the words and wait for the interludes. Bill and Dixie sang at gatherings and church, and Virginia would run up onto the stage to sing with them. Often she sang alone, one of her solos being "So Long Dear Old Mother, Kiss Your Soldier Boy Goodbye," a popular tune at the beginning of World War I. Mrs. Higgins always wept when she heard Virginia sing and said, "That baby is too smart. She will never live."

Meantime Grace and Claude had moved into a home in Glenrock to hold their growing family. A bad blizzard had killed all of Claude's and Irby's sheep in a pile-up, and all they salvaged was from the sale of the hides. Claude had become involved in other enterprises, one of which was a long-line skinner outfit of 16 horses. He moved heavy equipment and at one time moved an oil rig from Casper to Lost Soldier Field. Another enterprise was operating a livery stable in Glenrock with his brother Jim.

Later Claude worked for Continental Oil Company at its refinery in Glenrock, retiring in 1950. In 1957 he was appointed Justice of the Peace, was elected to that office in 1958, and held office until December 31, 1975.

Grace died June 25, 1973, at the age of 83. She was a fifty year member of the Order of Eastern Star and Republican Committee Woman for many years.

Claude died February 14, 1976 at the age of 91. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge. Many persons thought he resembled Will Rogers, and he was well known for the same brand of homespun humor.

Grace and Claude are both buried in the cemetery in Glenrock. The Claude Lam family tombstone ordered by Claude before his death bears the following inscription: "Let us cross the river and rest under the shade of the trees." Grace's grave marker states that she was the "Daughter of Wyoming Pioneers," and Claude's grave marker states that he was the "Son of a Confederate Soldier."

During World War II, William C. Lam was Flight Deck Officer on the carrier Yorktown, and Dixie Lam was a WAC in the Air Force.

Dixie Lam Kading

## Lane, William and Bell Family

William Lane was born on June 23, 1883 near Lincoln, Nebraska of English parents, Richard and Fannie Lane, who immigrated to a farm in the eastern part of Nebraska. Here William, the fifth child of nine, was educated and grew to manhood.

William, or Bill as he was better known, married Isabell (Bell) Julia Horton on October 1, 1907 at O'Neil,



Ida, Bell and Ethel Lane on their school bus.

Nebraska. Bell was born January 31, 1888, near Stuart, Nebraska in a sod hut. Her parents were George and Frances Horton. They were also English, coming to this country on their honeymoon. Traveling overland in a covered wagon, they settled in Holt County, near Stuart; this is in the western part of Nebraska. In those days Indians raided the settlers, taking their horses. Because of this, George Horton kept oxen to do his work.

Bill and Bell Lane and their two daughters, ages 4 and 6, came to Wyoming in 1914, homesteading the present ranch on Shawnee Creek, 16 miles east of Douglas. Many more pieces of land were bought and added to the ranch. Son Chester now owns and runs the spread.

Being short of finances, Bill obtained work on the Northwestern Railroad receiving \$1.50 per day. He walked the four miles to and from work. In those days you worked six days a week. In the evening after work, he fenced, plowed the fields and planted grain, often for many hours into the night if there was moonlight.

Many seasons Bell cooked for the community sheepherders at the Fisher Shearing Pens.

Bell was a skilled horsewoman. She took her older daughter four and one-half miles to and from school on horseback. Unable to leave the younger daughter alone, Ida was put in front of her mother, sharing the saddle. I rode behind. The teacher suggested that Mother should leave Ida at school for it would be a hardship on a small child to go back and forth, that far, to school each day.

Our school bus was a little gray Indian pony. She was a tough feisty one.

The ranch was a stop-over for many a wandering cowboy. They were always welcomed with a hot meal for

themselves and feed for their horses.

One cowboy, who frequently stopped by, Jack Lassiter (called Peg-Leg Jack because of a wooden leg) was most welcomed by us girls. He always had a small bag of hard candy for us.

One time, after he had been hitting the bottle and was full of talk, he kept getting in front of Mother while she was preparing supper. Finally, he sat on the back of the stove directly over the reservoir. Suddenly he jumped straight up off the hot place, much to the delight of us girls.

Bell Lane did a great amount of tatting in those early days, selling her beautiful work to customers in Douglas. One time she tatted a trousseau that included lace for pillow slips, sheets, gown, and petticoat, a corset cover, dust cap, collar for a dress and edging for bedroom curtains. For this she received \$100.00, a fabulous price then.

William died in July 1949 and Bell died Jan. 19, 1974.

William and Bell Lane were the parents of three children. Ethel Ann, who married Victor Olson of Marshall, Minnesota. To them were born four children: Richard Wayne Olson, Lovell, Wyoming; Robert Lane Olson, Los Angeles, California; Reita Lois Olson Ruddy, Santa Maria, California; and William Olson, Pismo Beach, California.

Ida Francis Lane married Floyd Jones of Thermopolis, Wyoming. They have no children.

Chester Ivan Lane married Minnie Taylor of Douglas, Wyoming. They have four children: Roberta Lynne Lane Follum, Texas; Carol Leigh Lane Follum, Douglas, Wyoming; Lee Frederick Lane, Douglas, Wyoming; Judy Luella Lane Blessing, Sturgis, South Dakota.

Ethel Lane Olson

## Langan, James and Adelee

In the spring of 1936, Stanolind Pipe Line Company, assigned me as Material & Time Supervisor to the project of reconditioning the oil pipe line which ran from Glenrock to Freeman, Missouri. Before any work actually commenced, I visited states along the system and accepted advance shipments of material.

When arriving at Welch Station (Clayton Tank Farm) on the banks of the North Platte River, some 15 miles east of Glenrock, it was interesting to see 150 of 80,000 barrel tanks full of crude oil and the pump station just as they had left it after litigation regarding the Tea Pot Dome controversy. The station held two 500 HP McIntosh-Seymour air injection diesel engines and two triplex plunger pumps. On the station grounds was a tall water tower and a smaller tower for fuel to run the diesels.

North of the station site were four two-bedroom houses with garages and a water tower. There was a schoolhouse at the tank farm about 100 yards west of the cottages. Our eldest child (Leroy) started to school there. Mrs. Bill Vollman, Sr. was his teacher. Mrs. Vollman lived with us during the week and returned to their ranch weekends during the school year.

During actual reconditioning work, I spent most of my time in Nebraska and Kansas. After reconditioning

work was completed, I changed my work from construction to operating pump stations. In 1938 I was transferred from the station in Washington, Kansas to Welch Station. My wife and I with our one-year-old son were back in the Rocky Mountain area where we wanted to be.

Living in Glenrock, I had to drive to and from Welch Station day or night as my shift required. To overcome this inconvenience, I thought of buying a 40 acre spot of land between Welch Station and the river and building living quarters thereon. For some reason, that small spot had never been homesteaded or purchased. But I soon changed my mind when I saw the sand hill located thereon blown by every wind, and the winds were frequent. Now I see the sand hill is a half mile east of where it was then.

My work schedule was six hours a day, six days a week. Every three months the engineer moving from fourth shift to second shift had sixty hours off duty. My wife, Adelee, and our one-year-old son used these long shifts to see the surrounding country - Black Hills, Thermopolis, Laramie Peak, etc. I dieselized my Dodge coupe and on 6¢ a gallon we could go a lot. In hunting season, I once got an elk on my 60 hours off.

Two of our children were born at Welch. Dr. Tabor was our doctor and the prenatal care and home delivery cost was \$35.00. The private nurse was an additional cost.

The Robert Hildebrands were our nearest ranch neighbors and much of my time was spent with Bob during haying, threshing and hunting seasons. Joe Paddick worked at Welch and we became friends. One dark stormy night when we were at work, Joe came into the station after gauging one of the oil tanks and told me lightning had struck one of the tanks and a ball of fire rolled around the top rim of the tank until it hit the vent pipe, then came down and went into the ground.

As the tanks were emptied, they were left standing until World War II. Then they began to be torn down. This continued on a daily basis for several months. Then our government declared that no more steel would be shipped after a certain date, so dismantling crews were increased and worked around the clock to get as much steel as possible before the deadline. An abundance of steel was left stacked at the site when the deadline date arrived. This made an excellent shelter for cottontail rabbits. I used to take my .22 rifle and sit on the tank dyke and shoot rabbits galore. We liked rabbit meat and when we couldn't keep up with the supply, Adelee would mix it with pork and make sausage. Her parents came from Oklahoma for an extended visit. After they were with us a while her dad told me, "Jim, if I eat any more rabbit I am going to start jumping."

An odd thing about the pipeline was that when it was built it had 17 stations to pump the oil, many of them never used. Once the oil went over the hill at Glendo, it was downhill the rest of the way. If a break in the line occurred in Nebraska or Kansas and it was necessary to stop the flow of oil in the line, they didn't dare close the valves down there until the valves west of the leak were closed; the farthest west closed first then the next east of there, etc. Otherwise, the line pressure would rupture the line. Of course, we had gauges to indicate the amount of oil pumped each hour, but we also had to record the number of strokes the pump made each hour, so we knew how

much oil was put in the pipeline each hour. In addition to these checks we often would check the oil in the tank being emptied by having a hand tape measurement made of the oil in the tank. During cold weather this verification was worthless because the oil would be so thick it would have a higher level on the opposite side of the tank than on the outlet side where the gauge was taken. As long as the oil in the line was kept moving, the pressure would remain quite constant. However, if there was a leak in the line or mechanical trouble at the station, the pumping was discontinued. The oil would be difficult to start moving again after the cause of the interruption was eliminated. Sometimes in cold weather portable pumping units would have to be tied into the line at various places and the oil circulated and agitated until it was liquified and would flow through the line. It was interesting work and constantly checking the diesel engines, pumps and auxiliary equipment kept one alert.

The company made a change. They removed the diesel engines and installed electric motors to run the pumps. About all we had to do was to 'be there' and phone in our hourly report of barrels pumped and the pressure on the line. It was a responsible but an easy job with very few variations.

Some of us had gardens back of the garages toward the school house. One time, a lot of honey bees swarmed at the school house. Two of the engineers, Stewart and Morgan, decided to hive them. They were inexperienced and unprepared and some of the bees got up their pant legs. No matter that they were in the open in plain view of onlookers; they stripped to their birthday suits in a hurry.

James E. Langan

## Larkin, Miles and Anna Family

Miles Joseph Larkin was born February 22, 1891 in Lebanon, Missouri, the ninth child and fourth son of the 14 children of John and Bridget Gibbons Larkin. John Larkin, son of James and Winifred Larkin, was born in West Virginia in 1852. Bridget Gibbons, daughter of Miles and Ann Hastings Gibbons of County Mayo, Ireland, was born in Alton, Illinois in 1859. Miles Gibbons and James Cardinal Gibbons were first cousins. (In 1917, Theodore Roosevelt called Cardinal Gibbons the most respected, venerated, and useful citizen of the United States.)

The Larkin family lived on a farm about two miles from Conway, Missouri. Here Miles received his education which ended with the eighth grade.

In 1905, when Miles was 14, he went to work for his grandfather Gibbons on the railroad. Evidently the Gibbons family owned a railroad and was in the process of expanding it.

About 1914, Miles left Missouri and went north to Nebraska to the Tekamah area where he rented a farm. It was here that he became acquainted with the George Beaver family. The Beaver brothers and Miles Larkin were to remain lifelong friends.

In 1919, Miles came to Wyoming with Ernest and Raymond Beaver. They traveled in the Beavers' Model T





Ann and Miles Larkin

truck. At first they lived in tents. Cabins were built after the arrival of three more of the Beaver brothers - Charlie, Bill, and Irette. Bill's cabin was built first, and the men lived together until the other cabins could be constructed. The men all helped each other and purchased needed equipment and supplies together.

Miles received the patent to his 640 acres on September 19, 1923.

During the '20s, Miles worked in the Salt Creek Oil Field. He was working here during the Salt Creek flood when all the oil field workers were called upon to aid flood victims.

After Ernest Beaver began the Douglas Co-Op, Miles returned to Douglas and worked for him. The salary was \$15 per week. Miles was working here when he married Anna Catherine "Ann" Kirn, the daughter of Matt and Mary Scobe Kirn, on April 19, 1933 in Glenrock. Anna was born in Rock Springs on July 20, 1907.

John Ackard "the wheat king of Kansas" arrived in Douglas in 1934 with his doodlebug. He drilled two summers for oil on the Hiram Daniels place. Miles, Hank White, and Charlie Bauman were among his employees. No sign of oil was found.

Miles and Anna moved to Casper where Miles worked for Fred Goodstein. The couple's only child Catherine Ida "Kati" was born here on August 16, 1936.

Later that year, Miles went to Cut Bank, Montana as a roughneck. He was injured on an oil rig and received compensation of \$75 per month for the next three years.

In April 1939, the Larkin family moved back to Douglas. They purchased from the Town of Douglas for \$25 five 25 foot lots full of sagebrush and cactus in the Fairview Addition on Jefferson Street. At that time there were no streets and only about five houses. The addition was still outside of city limits and no modern facilities were available. Electricity came first; then in 1944, the

water and sewer lines were laid by the WPA; natural gas was made available in the late '40s.

With the help of Frank Kirn, Ann's brother, they built a small house; in 1947, the house was enlarged and a basement added.

Because of his oil field experience, Miles was positive that there was oil on the George Beaver property (Peter Lewandowski homestead) in the Walker Creek area. In 1940, he started to drill an oil well and employed Hank White, Barney and Red Wensel, and his brothers-in-law Matt Kern and Frank Kirn. Finances played out before the well could be drilled deep enough to determine if there was more oil than the trace that was found. Today oil is pumped in areas surrounding this drill site, but no drilling has taken place near enough to determine if indeed oil was under that drilling rig.

In 1943, Miles worked on the construction of the P.O.W. Camp; and after its completion, he and Matt Kern went to work in the oil field at Lance Creek. He then went to Hamilton Dome where he worked in '45 and '46. Ann and Catherine would ride the train to Thermopolis on weekends and holidays to visit him.

After this, Miles worked mainly on highway construction projects. On one job, he was employed as a flagman trying to keep cars from running into the gravel piled along the center of the road. Along came a car driven by a New York lady. Vigorously waving a red flag, Miles tried to get the driver to slow down - to no avail. As the car sped by, the occupants waved at him. Suddenly the car hit the gravel pile and was mired up to its axles. Miles ran up and said to the lady driver, "Didn't you see me waving you to slow down?" The lady meekly replied, "I thought you were flirting with me." Miles threw up his hands and walked away. He never did say whether or not he helped her out of the gravel.

Ann worked at various jobs which included the Woodruff Seed House, John Fotes' cafe, and substitute mail carrier for Roy Wampler. In 1951, she began working as a maid at the LaBonte Hotel for Hazel Ball. She retired from the hotel 28 years later in 1979.

In December 1953, the family went to Missouri for a visit. This was the first time that Miles had been back since he left almost 40 years before. In 1958, Miles returned to Conway and purchased an 80 acre farm which joined his nephew's farm. Every fall he would drive to Missouri and spend the winter; he would return to Douglas in the spring.

Miles passed away in Douglas on March 15, 1963.

Catherine graduated from Converse County High School in 1954, a member of the last class to graduate from the high school building located at Fourth and Oak Streets. She was employed by LeBar Motor Company before attending college at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden. She then worked in Casper 18 months before accepting employment with the U.S. Forest Service in Douglas. In November 1957, Kati became the first full time district clerk to be employed by the Medicine Bow National Forest. Fire dispatching was the most interesting part of the job and provided many stories to remember. Kati resigned from the position in April 1974.

On Friday, September 13, 1974, Catherine married John R. Pexton, the son of Lisle and Lucille Pexton who was born in Douglas on September 27, 1925, in a ceremony



performed in Washington Park in Douglas.

Kati's past activities include serving as recording secretary of the Wyoming Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs and several garden club offices before becoming the 1983-85 president of the Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Governor Ed Herschler appointed her to a three year term on the Wyoming Council for the Humanities in 1979. She presently is serving as Secretary-Treasurer of the Wyoming Pioneer Association, a position she has held since 1979. Kati is currently Converse County's member on the Selective Service Local Board #5.

From 1948 through 1961, Ann worked for Converse County preparing the agricultural exhibits for the county's booth in the Agricultural Hall at the Wyoming State Fair. It was she who made all the grain and grass sheaves and cleaned the grains, beans, and other samples for exhibit.

She has exhibited her garden produce at the fair for almost 40 years. For 12 consecutive years, her cut flowers won the 25 mile radius sweepstakes.

Ann is regarded as an expert gardener and her yard is a place of beauty. In 1977, she was awarded the Yard of the Year plaque by the Jackalope Victory Gardeners Garden Club and the Douglas Jaycees. She continues to remain active and still resides at 1034 Jefferson Street.

Catherine Larkin Pexton

## Lass, Al and Mable Family

Al Lass was born April 1, 1886 and grew up at Clinton, Iowa. At an early age he decided to see for himself if the stories of the West were true and landed in Converse County, Wyoming. His first work was for the Cross-Leman family ranches in LaPrele country. It was there he met Mable Rice, daughter of Charles and Almina Rice. Mable was a talented enterprising lady for the times. From the time she was quite small, Mable loved to draw and paint. This would lead to an enjoyable and sometimes profitable hobby in years to come. Members of the family have sketches of her work while she was still in her teens, and she was very good at copying portraits with pastels. In addition, she set up a small business in the Rice home and very often the front parlor became a "sitting" room for pictures of friends and relation with her old-fashioned box camera complete with black cloth and tripod.

Al and Mable's wedding, February 10, 1909, was a neighborhood occasion with friends and relatives coming to celebrate with good food and dancing. Al and Mable set up housekeeping nearby and eventually gained more land around the original homestead acres. The first child, Stanley, arrived in 1910, then came Verna in 1913, Arthur "Jeff" in 1915, Maude in 1916, Houston in 1918, and Virginia in 1922. During this time Al sold horses to the



Ashland Steam Laundry



Alfred and Mable (Rice) Lass. 1909.

army and one year ran a sale-ring in the south where horses were bought and sold. While there the family came down with the measles — all except Stanley. They waited for him to break out, and finally decided he would not get them. During the long train ride back Stanley did come down with them, and a very sick little boy spent the rest of the journey under blankets so the conductor would not make them leave the train. During this time Mable had become ill with a goiter. The doctors could not help, and during a winter storm on Jan. 4, 1926, she passed away. Neighbors and friends helped with sleds and horses to get her body to Glenrock for burial. Al decided to sell the ranch — the "Deadwood" went to the George Crosses, and other parts went to Charles Horr, and Charles Rice bought the original homestead. Stanley, the oldest, continued to live with his grandparents, the Rices, while Al and the other children left to live in Glenrock, Wyoming.

Al worked for a time at the Glenrock Refinery, but when the offer of marshal, and later, deputy sheriff, came along, Al accepted. This was a job Al enjoyed. Raising five children during the depression was not an easy task, but the family enjoyed good memories of those days. Al recalled to the family, during a family dinner one afternoon, how surprised he was one day when he went to "shake down" a train in the Glenrock yards he thought a wanted man may be riding in. When he got to the end cars, he noticed a bundle of clothes at the rear and thought he had his man! To his surprise, when he approached the "pile," it turned out to be his own son, Jeff, and a friend. They were "hitching" a ride to Montana to break wild horses. Al said he never did let on to the boys but what he knew they were there all along! Thank goodness he spotted them, or it may have been a

long time between lunches for those two youngsters!

Prohibition brought with it a share of problems to any town, even one as small as Glenrock. And, then, like today, there were so many car wrecks involving teens. These were especially hard for Al as many of them were friends of his own children.

Verna was the oldest girl; and her brother, Houston, still recalls the "coffee cake" she made that turned out to have a bunch of funny specks through it! When the kids complained, "Each got a kick under the table from Dad!" It seems Verna had put coffee grounds into the cake instead of brewed coffee! "We had to eat that entire cake; grounds and all."

Al's scrapbook shows clippings covering many years of law enforcement. However, it is hard to get a clear picture of his career as the clippings are not dated, and the source is usually not given. Glancing through them the reader will find everything from murders, stolen cars, robberies, to returning a diving board to the Douglas City Pool after it was stolen by pranksters. Al became Sheriff of Converse County when Sheriff Ivester died in office. He held that position until he retired in 1955. He was particularly interested in youth and always helped them out when he had a chance — many would send him gifts from prison at Christmas time, and the grandkids always enjoyed the carnival or circus along with any kid he happened to see when the owner of the businesses would give the local sheriff some free passes. Al's career was laced with such incidents as a very cold "wade" in Morton's irrigation ditches on the case of a couple of wanted guys, breaking up slot machines throughout the county in 1951 — (definitely not a popular move!) and, also in 1950, investigating a "Flying Saucer" that turned out to be pieces of a scientific apparatus which had been sent aloft by the University of Minnesota cooperating with the Navy. The editor of the newspaper entitled the Flying Saucer picture, "Our Heroes," but toned it down a bit with a "tongue in cheek" explanation: "Our apologies to Messrs. Lass and (Heavy) White for the picture caption, but the impulse was too great to overcome." During the early days Al was deputy, and later, sheriff, and before the Highway Patrol Department was established, it was up to him to investigate all accidents, speeders, and stolen cars. To top it off, the sheriff was also the local brand inspector. The county got its money's worth from the Sheriff's department! A special memento to the family enjoys is a letter from J. Edgar Hoover in 1953 to Al congratulating him on the capture of William Guy Schultz. Schultz was on the FBI's most-wanted list at the time, and Hoover extended his personal thanks for his apprehension.

The children, meanwhile, had grown up and scattered. Verna and Virginia both passed away with effects of the dreaded tuberculosis. Verna's husband, Delbert Moore, was a casualty when the ship, Liscombe Bay, sank in World War II. A monument beside that of Verna rests in the Glenrock Cemetery for Delbert, even though his body was never recovered. Houston also served in World War II and saw action in the Southern Pacific. He married Carolyn Cowan, from Atlanta, Georgia, and has since made his home there with their daughter, Teresa. Maude married Kenneth Gaut and had three children, Jerry, Doug, and Marilyn Jo ("Lynn"). Jeff did pursue

his childhood dream of breaking wild horses, and became a member of the old rodeo club, The Turtle Association. He enjoyed the sport, and the family was very proud of his success. He passed away in January 1941. The three girls and Jeff are buried beside their parents in the family plot in Glenrock, Wyoming. Stanley, the oldest, married Mary (George) and made his home in Converse County. They are retired from the ranch now and enjoy their home in Douglas. They have two daughters, Bette and Sharon.

When Al retired from the Sheriff's department, he made his home for a time in Glenrock, then enjoyed a few years in California before returning to Glenrock to live until his death on Dec. 8, 1964.

Mary and Stanley Lass met at a community dance near Douglas, Wyoming. Stanley and some of the neighborhood young men had formed a dance band and frequently were called upon to play for the Saturday night dances in local communities. These were a favorite form of entertainment during the rough times of the '30s. Stanley was the son of Alfred and Mable D. (Rice) Lass. Mary was the daughter of Hubert and Rose (Falkenburg) George. Mary and Stanley were married after her graduation from high school in 1935. They spent a year on his grandparents' ranch, the Charles Rices, before several years of trapping for ranchers in different areas of the State of Wyoming. This was an unusual life; long winters of being snowed in with a one or two-room cabin, furnished by the rancher, as home. Stanley trapped coyote, bobcat, and lynx during the winter; he set his traps so he rode in a circle from the house every third day, leaving in early morning and arriving home after dark at night. After a day in the saddle in below zero degree weather and howling winds on the Wyoming plains, the bed was a welcome sight! Mary had the company of a radio, enjoyed books and did hand-sewing to fill the long days. When a daughter, Sharon, came along in 1941, Stanley gave up trapping and leased a ranch near Glenrock, Wyoming. This home burned in May of 1944; the Lasses lost almost everything they possessed. They decided to start over on a small ranch southwest of Douglas, Wyoming. A daughter, Bette, was born in Aug. 1944, and the next May they moved to their new home. It wasn't much to look at! All the fences had to be replaced, the meadows reseeded, irrigation ditches dug, barns built, and the house remodeled. But the place gradually took on the appearance of a home and the family enjoyed ranchwork and pleasant memories.

Mary always had a huge garden, lots of chickens, and as typical, more work than a small person like herself should do — but she did it! Stanley milked cows and sold milk and cream for years — sheep were a major source of income with some feeder steers now and then.

Sharon and Bette went to school in the Douglas schools only four miles away. During the summer the only time we consistently went to town was Saturday afternoon for groceries and errands — and 25¢ allowance meant a comic book each and 15¢ to save for a special gift. There were always bum lambs to feed, chickens to care for and cows to get in at night. Stanley's nieces and nephews, from California, came each summer for a visit

to round out playmates while school was not in session.

Sharon graduated from high school in 1959, attended business school in Denver during 1959-60, and came home to work until her marriage. Bette graduated in 1962 and worked in Douglas until her marriage in 1963 to Jim Hildebrand. Jim works for the U.S. Post Office at Douglas, Bette works with the Douglas Senior Citizen program, bowling and ceramics, and both enjoy coaching a Junior Archery Club. Their boys, Todd and Troy, and their father, Jim, fill a large wall with archery trophies. They all enjoy hunting with both rifle and bow and arrow. Sharon and Sam Field live in Cheyenne with their two children. Sharon is active in the Wyoming State Historical Society and the Cheyenne Genealogy Society. Both are active leaders in 4-H and enjoy working with young people.

Mary and Stanley decided to retire and move to Douglas, Wyoming. Mary is the past director for the Douglas Senior Citizens, and Stanley enjoys his summer work as the maintenance and groundskeeper, plus handy guide at old Fort Fetterman. There is always time to go fishing, garden and yard work, and to enjoy the grand-kids!

Sharon Lass Field

## Layton, Frank and Ellen Family

Frank M. Layton, born on April 16, 1864 in Decatur, Illinois, was the son of Henry Clay and Martha Jane Layton.

Ellen Jane Hollonback, born June 15, 1877 in Woodford County, Illinois, was the daughter of William A. Hollonback. Ellen Jane and Frank were married at Wymore, Nebraska on September 7, 1890. Frank died June 19, 1947, Ellen Jane on February 17, 1952.

Frank M. Layton made his home in Nebraska, serving with the notorious Nebraska Company C at the battle of Wounded Knee. He was later engaged in the real estate business in Beatrice, Nebraska. He and Ellen Jane were the parents of three children, Albert Clay, Scott and Iva.

In 1919 Frank came to Wyoming with his two sons for the express purpose of helping them select homestead sites after they had been discharged from the military following World War I. All three of the Laytons found Wyoming to their liking and all three of them filed homestead claims. While Frank was in Douglas, he also approached the local school board in regard to a teaching contract for his daughter, Iva, who was teaching at the time in Nebraska.

The Layton family established residence in Wyoming on August 27, 1919. Frank opened an insurance and real estate business; the two sons set about proving up on their homesteads; and Iva, who had been hired by the school board (by photograph), prepared to bring her teaching career in Wyoming with the opening of the fall term. She was to teach domestic science as well as to serve as vice principal at the Douglas High School, a position she held for 13 years.

Clay Layton's claim was located about 24 miles northwest of Douglas. He started out in the cattle business with an old Guernsey milk cow which he had

obtained through the trade of an ancient, tire-less, Model T Ford. He recorded a brand in 1920, the reverse 4L, to be used by all four of the Laytons, Frank, Albert C., Scott and Iva.

Clay Layton married Mary Isabel Negley, daughter of Daniel P. and Sophie Negley, on July 28, 1923 in Douglas, Wyoming. They were the parents of one son, Francis Clay "Pete" Layton. Pete grew to manhood in Douglas and received his education there, continuing on at the California Business College. He married Lois Bliss. To this union three children, Gregory, Patricia, and Albert Clay were born.

Clay died on December 7, 1978.

Scott E. was born on May 15, 1894 in Odell, Nebraska. He served in the U.S. Army during World War I. He with his partner Harry Anderson, started the first service station in Douglas, located on the site now occupied by the First National Bank. He later joined with Otto Rohlf in establishing the Yellow Dot service station at Fourth and Center Streets. The Table Supply Grocery was also owned by him. It was sold in 1939.

He was united in marriage to Virginia M. Ailor on December 25, 1924 in Douglas and to this union one daughter, Margaret "Peg", was born on August 18, 1931.

Scott died on January 14, 1971; Virginia on March 20, 1981.

Peg was confined to a wheelchair and could breathe only with the aid of a respirator after she contracted polio in 1952 while attending the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado. She learned to use an electric typewriter by hitting the keys with a wand she held in her mouth. She was an accomplished writer, writing for magazines and newspapers. The book "West of Yesterday" was also written by her. She married Ed Leonard in 1972. Peg died in April 1983.

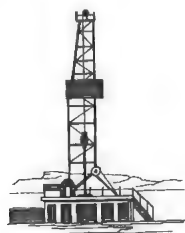
Iva married William Trethewey, son of John W. and Margaret Libby Trethewey. William "Bill" was born April 11, 1889 in Marquette, Michigan. As a young man he was raised in Denver, Colorado and attended Barnes College in that city. After coming to Douglas as a building contractor in 1916 he followed that trade until his appointment as Douglas City Clerk for eight years during the 1930s. After his marriage to Iva they owned a restaurant, later taking over control of the LaBonte Hotel coffee shop and later the Douglas Coffee Shop on North Second Street.

Bill homesteaded south of Douglas near Sawtooth Mountain in the Laramie Mountains while his father homesteaded in the upper part of the Morrison Valley now owned by Charles Pexton. He later operated a sheep ranch near Irvine until his retirement in 1950.

Their children were Jack A., Dr. Robert W. and Beth (Mullison).

Bill died on May 31, 1972. Iva resides in Colorado near her children in 1985.

Ruth Grant



## Lees, Chet E. and Maude Family

Chet Elmer Lees was born in 1877 in Iowa. Clarissa Maude Dehorety was born December 15, 1880 in Peoria, Illinois. They were married in Cleveland, Kansas in 1897.

They moved to Cora, Wyoming where Chet operated a freight service by team and wagon from the lumber camps around Pinedale to Rock Springs, Wyoming. He brought groceries and coal and supplies to the lumber jacks in the Pinedale area. Later, they moved to the ranch where the Lone Tree Bible Ranch is located now.

Chet and Maude Lees had seven children, all born in Wyoming. Rita, who died in early childhood, Vinus, Oliver "Ollie", Bill, Dorthy, Cora and Mary.

Chet was in ill health part of his life and died of heart trouble in 1925 when they were living on the ranch near Glendo (the present Lone Tree Bible Ranch).

After his death, Maude moved with her youngest daughter, Mary, to Orin. The other children were grown and had left home then. There she went to work in a restaurant for the railroad, operated by Harry Churchill. Later she worked on a ranch as a housekeeper and cook for Dave Gordon. Then she moved to Midwest for a time where she lived with her daughter, Mary, and son-in-law, Clifford Gillespie. Cliff and her daughter's (Dorthy) husband, Leo Adami, were working in the oil fields there. Mary and Cliff Gillespie then moved back to their ranch at Orin and Maude Lees moved to Douglas and lived in Riverview Addition. She worked on various ranches and as a cook, keeping her home in Riverview Addition until March 1952. At that time, Cliff Gillespie was killed when his pickup was hit by a train when crossing the tracks near their ranch at Orin. Maude then went to live with her widowed daughter, Mary, and her grandson, Calvin, in a home Mary bought in Brownfield Addition. Mary still lives there.

Maude Lees was a very hard worker all of her life. She had to take care of her husband because he was ill quite a bit, as well as care for her six children and help with much of the ranch work and the house work. She always took time, though, for her handiwork of crocheting and raising a large garden and canned many



Left to right: Bill, Ollie, Joe, Vinus, Dorthy, Cora, and Mary Lees.

fruits and vegetables. She loved to play cards and belonged to a card club with several other ladies. She also belonged to North Platte Homemakers for many years. She took part in all the activities of her children and grandchildren including the rodeos and hunting.

In 1957, when she was 77 years old, she was on an elk hunting trip with the Red Coles and others at Meeteetse when all the people were snowed in. It was blizzarding and they were wondering what to do for food, when Maude and Cora Cole told everyone to pool their food. They cooked elk stew and other dishes for them until supplies were dropped to them by airplane. They tramped in the snow the word H E L P to let them know where their camp was located. The National Guard was called in to get most of the people out. However, the Coles were able to help get pickups out along with their horses.

Grandma Lees was mentioned on the television and radio and in the newspapers at that time. It was reported that a 77 year old woman was lost in a blizzard and would have to be rescued. Instead, Maude Lees was busy using the resources at hand and helping others much younger than she to survive this ordeal.

This is typical of Maude Lees and her life. She spent many years in Converse County, had many friends here, and contributed much to its history. She died in October 1966 at the age of 86. She is survived by three children: Dorothy Adami of Buffalo, Cora Cole and Mary Gillespie both of Douglas. Her sons, Ollie and Bill, lived in Converse County also and worked here in the lumber camps but have since died. We are proud of these pioneers and their contributions to Converse County.

Faun D. Cole  
as told by Cora Lees Cole

## Leman, Dennis and Bessie Family

Dennis William Leman was born on July 29, 1852 in Crossways House, at the Village of Sandford in the Parish of Winscombe, Somersetshire, England, of ancient English lineage.

Dennis Leman's father was a fine representative of the English farmer, intelligent, well-read, progressive and well-to-do. Dennis Leman and his twin sister were the fifth and sixth of a family of seven children. His father died at the age of 44 when Dennis was only eleven years old.

When Jim Leman, Jr., was in the army serving in Germany during 1954, he went to London and visited a cousin of his, who was the only living relative of Dennis Leman. She was terminally ill at the time and she gave him the old, old family papers. These are parchment deeds, leases, mortgages, wills, accounts and letters beginning with a will written in 1675, a parchment deed of a land exchange made in 1714 by a William Leman who was the great-great-great grandfather of Dennis Leman. There are 80 documents in this collection. The son of this William Leman was a Dr. Dennis Leman who died in 1788 and who has a marble tablet in his memory inscribed on the north wall of St. Martins Church of Worle, Somersetshire. This church is over 600 years old.

In 1872, at the age of 20, Dennis Leman and a friend,

Jack Douglas-Willan, left England and sailed westward to see what the New World had to offer. Fortune was their friend and they wisely made their way across the great Mississippi Valley to the far west, first stopping at Denver, Colorado; but in 1877 they came to Wyoming. Jack Douglas-Willan sometime thereafter, returned to England having, through the death of an older brother, come into the inheritance of an earldom.

When coming to Wyoming, Dennis had purchased some Texas cattle, so as to get started in his own ranching operation, but thereafter came a terrible storm and he said that after the storm when he tried to find his cattle he thought every dead animal he came across had the DL brand. Cattle were found in the tree tops after this storm, as high winds had drifted the snow into terribly deep drifts and few cattle of any kind had survived.

Thereafter, he worked for a number of years for an outfit owned in whole or in part by Joseph Kennedy on Wagonhound Creek. Joseph Kennedy later acquired the land and built the house where Bill and Barbara Cross now live on LaPrele Creek.

He was attracted to the beauty of the Upper LaPrele country and took up a homestead on Beaver Creek, a tributary of LaPrele Creek, patent for which was issued to him in 1890. He became a naturalized United States citizen in 1889. He later took up desert homesteads, purchased some other homesteads, and acquired state and other lands, making the home ranch some 500 acres, a good portion of which he put under cultivation. His first home was built of logs but this was later lathed and plastered on the inside, other rooms were added. Later the outside was sided making a very comfortable home. This, by the way, is the same house where James and Lois Leman still resided. It has not changed too much as to outside appearances during the years but has been beautifully remodeled inside. No one living today knows how old it is but it must be a little over 100 years ago when the first log was laid.

Dennis Leman and George H. Cross were partners for a number of years, the Cross holdings lying over a hill to the south of the lands acquired by Dennis Leman. This partnership lasted until 1905. When the partnership between Crosses and Lemans was terminated, there was an uneven number of horses owned by the partnership so one horse named "Mallett" could not be divided and Crosses had him for six months of the year and Lemans the other six months. Horses belonging to the partnership had been branded VE and after the partnership was discontinued, Crosses branded their horses bar VE while Lemans used the VE bar brand for a number of years, making rebranding the horses easier. Mallett had just the VE brand during his lifetime.

For many years Dennis Leman had a very special horse no one else was allowed to ride. He was a beautiful sorrel gelding singlefooter named Tony.

On September 15, 1897, Dennis Leman married Bessie Mills at the home of Peter and Amy George, a great aunt and uncle of Bessie Mills. The house where they were married has been torn down and moved, but it was on LaPrele Creek at the southern edge of the storage reservoir of the LaPrele Dam. Five children were born of this union.

The father of Bessie M. Leman was Fabius D. Mills





**Top row: Grace Leman, Edith Leman, Mona Ashby, Bessie Leman and Dennis Leman. Bottom row: Doug Leman, Jim Leman, Ruth Leman and Dana Browning with dog.**

who went to college in Madison, Wisconsin. Later, he taught school and was County Superintendent of Schools at Seneca, Wisconsin. Her mother, Louisa Copsey, was also a school teacher before her marriage. Louisa's mother was Susan Green, a descendent from William White, one of the pilgrims on the Mayflower. The Mills family moved with several other families, including the Fred George family, (Mary George was a sister to Louisa) to Custer County, Nebraska, in covered wagons, going there to take up homesteads. While they were moving, the Mills family had to stop over in Sutton, Nebraska, where Bessie was born on November 8, 1878. They stayed in Sutton, Nebraska until April 1879 and then moved on to live on their homestead in Custer County, Nebraska, near the town of Ansley and there to join up with former traveling companions. Bessie Mills was the seventh of 17 children, three of those older than she died when very young. F. D. Mills was admitted to the bar in Custer County, Nebraska and to provide for his large family, also farmed, sold insurance and wrote news items for the local paper.

Peter and Amy George, grandparents of Ed George, had settled in Converse County, Wyoming and Fred and Mary George, uncle and aunt of Bessie Mills Leman had moved on to Wyoming. Ella Mills, a sister of Bessie's had come to Wyoming to teach and had married John Robins, a rancher in the Wagonhound area at that time

and so Bessie Mills, at the age of 17, came to Wyoming. She taught first at a school on LaBonte Creek, where the Willox children went to school to her. Edna Burns, who later lived at Glendo, Wyoming and James C. Willox, now deceased, being two of them. Often, some of her students were older than she; and because winters were so bad, school was held in the summer months instead of in the winter.

Dennis Leman was a member of the school board for the Beaver School District and in 1897 he hired Bessie for the next term to teach the Beaver School, then located on land belonging to Crosses not too far from the present Beaver School house. During the time she taught school there, Dennis Leman, whose home was less than a mile from the school house, went early each cold morning, had a fire going and water supplied; and in September of that year, Dennis Leman and Bessie Mills were married.

In early days the cattlemen were much disturbed by sheep being moved onto the open range which they had used as their own for so long and one night a number of men, masked with sacks over their heads with holes cut for eyes and mouth, had gotten a herder out of his wagon and burned the wagon and then scattered the sheep in all directions. Any of the cattlemen in the area who did not have good alibis was arrested for this, but at a hearing of those arrested, none would plead guilty or name anyone else they knew as being involved. John Jones was an

elderly bachelor who had purchased the Peter George Ranch on the LaPrele and though he pleaded not guilty he said he thought he knew some who might be involved. When asked to point to anyone in the courtroom who was involved he started pointing to each and every one in the room, excepting the judge, but including the lawyers and visitors saying, "He was there, and he, and he." on around the room. He was dismissed as being an unreliable witness; and the defendants were all released for lack of evidence. Frank Virden, who was sheriff at the time of this incident, later purchased a ranch on the LaPrele next to that of John Jones and occasionally at community gatherings some mention was made of the arrests. No one admitted being there but those who mentioned it knew too much about it not to have had some inside knowledge of what went on that night.

Blanche George and Matt Carothers were married a short time before Bessie Mills and Dennis Leman were, but they had no children during the early years of their marriage and for a good many years they spent Christmas with the Lemans, while Lemans on Thanksgiving morning piled into the buggy and headed due east of their ranch home over the divide between the LaPrele Creek and Wagonhound Creek watersheds to Carothers. Dennis Leman always called this "Mattsgiving Day".

Bessie and Dennis loved to play cards; and many times there was only one visitor so they played Solo which can be a three handed game. There was a small table in the center of the living room with pedestal legs, and the lamp was taken off and set to one side so they could play on this table. Maud Dawes, a second cousin of Maude Ryan, was one of those who stopped frequently and played cards with them. Other people occasionally stopped by; and if they were interested in cards, they always had a chance to play.

During the summer months ministers from several of the Douglas churches in different years had services at the Beaver School house for the families in the neighborhood. This was quite an effort for a minister as he had to come by horse and buggy and it took some three hours to travel each way. Many times the minister was a guest at the Leman home for Sunday dinner.

There were quite often others living at the Leman ranch. Dennis usually had one or two men working for him. They lived in a bunkhouse but ate with the family. Bessie Leman, when her family was young, often had a girl to help her with the work. Louisa Mills died when her youngest child was only ten years old and F. D. Mills died four years later, so that a sister and several brothers of Bessie's as well as her father stayed at the ranch for weeks at a time, especially during summer months. There was always room for one more at this ranch, and nieces and nephews also visited at various times. Often, the teacher boarded with the Lemans.

The school house was moved from its original location on the Cross land south of the place where the Beaver School now stands to make it more centrally located for the area families and Jimmie (Cornelia) White, a sister of Betty Slonaker, was one of the favorite teachers who taught at the Beaver School for several years and stayed at the Lemans. She was a dear friend of Bessie Leman's as well as others in the neighborhood, and they were much grieved by her early death during the flu epidemic.

Dennis Leman was a good fisherman and hunter. Beaver Creek as well as the LaPrele Creek had lots of fish and getting a mess for a meal was never difficult. Sometimes when there were lots of us to cook for, we would take a seine and catch fish in the LaPrele and come home with a small washtub half full. There was no legal limit on fish at that time or restrictions on the seining of them, and none of them was ever wasted.

Dennis was always interested in national affairs and subscribed to the Chicago Tribune. Both Dennis and Bessie were active in school affairs, in the Beaver School District, serving on the school board at various times. Bessie was active in anything that went on in the community.

The advent of the auto industry resulted in changes having to be made and the trails that were good enough for horse, buggy and wagon travel became obsolete and impossible. Therefore the community, not having help from the county at that time, would form a day called "Road Day" where all the neighbors would gather and repair the trails into roads. Dennis was one of the first in the neighborhood to own an auto and although he attempted to learn to drive he always hollered "whoa" when they came to a gate. He finally got tired of repairing gates and turned the driving over to his wife and children and he enjoyed riding along.

On October 19, 1901, five members of the LaPrele community organized a club named Pleasant Hour Reading Club. Each member of this club was required to subscribe to at least two magazines and buy one new book each month. Meetings were held at the various member's homes and each two weeks, members put their books and magazines in a flour sack, mounted a horse which they rode side saddle and rode to the hostess' home, exchanging their books and magazines and discussing various articles which they had read and in which they were interested. The last meeting of this club was held on October 29, 1911.

Dennis Leman died August 20, 1920. Bessie had bought a house in town during his illness in 1920 and while she lived in town most of the time, she continued to manage the ranch with hired help in order to give her sons, James and Douglas, a chance to finish their education, but in 1926 she turned the management of the ranch over to her sons. They continued to enlarge the holdings of the ranch, buying land from Kennedy, the Bill Howard place from Glen Hudson and part of the Charlie Rice place from J. M. Stevens. Also, whenever possible additional land was added to their mountain summer pasture. Douglas Leman moved a house onto the Howard place and lived there until his death in July of 1969. His widow, Alice, some time afterwards purchased the home of Bessie Leman and now lives there. Bessie Leman died April 25, 1971. James Leman died on June 5, 1984. His wife, Lois, lives in Borrego Springs, California in the winter returning to the ranch home during the summer.

Some 35 years ago, Bessie Leman and her brothers and sisters scattered throughout the western part of the United States started a Round Robin letter which made its rounds in from four to six months. There remains today only two of the original contributors to this letter, Bessie's sisters, Mabel McArthur, who celebrated her 100th birthday in August of 1984 and Alice Goddard, aged

94 years. Both of these ladies have been in Douglas many times over the years. The Round Robin letter still makes its rounds as the second generation has taken up where the first generation was forced to stop and the third generation is beginning to take over from the second. The number who contribute to the letters averages around 20 now as several from some families write notes. The letter travels through Wyoming, into the state of Washington, down the coast of California, into Texas, and all over Nebraska before it heads back to Wyoming again. It keeps a great big family in touch with each other.

Bessie after moving to Douglas in 1920, was active in almost every phase of the social life of the town. I doubt there was ever a public card party which she did not attend. She was a member of the Douglas High School Board in 1925, became a member of the Episcopal Church and its Women's Guild in 1920, joined the Afternoon Card Club in 1922; became an Eastern Star in 1923 and later became Past Matron thereof; was president of the Carnegie Library Board starting in 1923; a charter member of PEO, and belonged to several other bridge clubs and played a number of foursomes. In fact, any time she could find three others to play with her she was ready for bridge. In 1964 she was nominated for "Mother of the Year" by Douglas organizations, headed by Converse County Cow-Belles.

The eldest child born to Dennis and Bessie was Grace, who taught school over on Wagonhound and lived at home, before she married Leonard Bartshe.

The second child, Edith, married Dana Browning and lived on a ranch on the LaPrele for a number of years. They had two children, Donna, married Don York and Marilyn married James Fitzhugh. Edith had been a legal secretary for Joseph Garst before her marriage and following the depression years and drought of 1936 she moved to town to get her older daughter in school, returning to her position as a legal secretary. After Garst sold his law practice to Dick Maurer she was appointed Clerk of Court to fill out a term left vacant by the death of the elected clerk. Afterwards, she was Deputy County Clerk and County Clerk for four years and in 1944 she purchased, from Mary Ryan and her associates, the Converse Land Title Company. In 1963 she sold a half interest in this business to Margaret Thurston and in 1970 she sold her remaining half interest to The Title Guaranty Company of Wyoming of Casper, Wyoming and retired from abstracting. Later she was hired as typist and executive director for the Housing Authority of Douglas and helped get the Irwin Towers project into construction. She finally retired in 1973. Her husband, Dana Browning, died August 2, 1952.

Ruth, the third child, married Charles G. Irwin.

The fourth child was James who married Lois Blenkarn and they had three children, Dorothy married Kenneth Taylor, Barbara married the late John Werner and James D. married Lois Vroman and at the present time live in Detroit, Michigan.

The fifth and last child was Douglas who married Alice Sullivan and they had four children, William married Maria Teresa Frenandez Leon, Thomas married Sherry Johnson, Mary Alice married Dennis Hand and Dennis Leman, who is unmarried, lives in Nebraska. It is interesting to note that the eldest child, Grace and the

youngest Douglas, were both born on June 13 just seven years apart.

Edith Leman Browning  
Dorothy Taylor

## Leuenberger, Fred and Maryann

Let us begin the story of the Leuenberger family with the arrival of Grandpa Fred Leuenberger in the United States. Fred Leuenberger left his home in Switzerland in January of 1884, and immigrated by sailing vessel to New York City. He came as a "bound boy" to a baker, and he served out the cost of his passage across the ocean by working in the bakery. He spoke many times of the manner in which he had to whip up the soap suds that were added to the bread to make it rise. After serving his bondage, he joined his sisters, Rose and Elizabeth, at the Fourmile Community, south of Humboldt, Nebraska, where he worked on a farm and later at the Luthy Mill. He was first married to Rosa Luthy, who died in childbirth after two years of marriage. The child also died, and both are buried in Nebraska.

In 1891 he married Maryann Minger of Bern, Kansas. Maryann was a tall and lovely redhead, and this red hair appeared in many of her descendants. They lived on a farm southeast of Humboldt where their first son, Edward, was born on November 19, 1892. In 1894, another son, Jesse, was born; and later a third son, Albert, in 1896. Twelve years later, in 1906, a fourth son, Elmer, was born.

In 1917 rumors of war were rampant, and the three oldest brothers were restless and bored with working on farms for others. They wanted their own land, and knew it would be impossible to earn enough money to buy farmland in Nebraska. They had heard about free homestead land in Wyoming and Colorado, and early in 1917, Ed and a good friend, Carl Steiner, went to Colorado. Unable to find homestead land there, they worked on a ranch putting up hay to earn the money to take the train to Wyoming. Douglas, Wyoming was as far as the money would take them, and since it was also the county seat, they could file for homesteads there. They filed in Township 34, Range 73. Ed filed about 12 miles northeast of the town of Glenrock, and Carl Steiner's homestead was one mile south. Jesse soon followed Ed and Carl to Wyoming, and filed about two miles west of Ed. That left a section to be filed upon between Ed and Jesse; and in 1918, their father and mother and brothers, Al and Elmer came and took up the land between Jesse and Ed. Al filed two miles south, adjoining Carl Steiner.

In 1918, all of the brothers went to the service of their country in World War I. Jesse, having always been an expert marksman, was sent to France as a sniper, and Ed and Al were stationed in the United States. Following the end of the war, both Ed and Jesse were sent to Fort D. A. Russell in Cheyenne for discharge and found each other there. They came home together for a joyous reunion with their parents, and Al was discharged later that year. Since the time they had spent in the army also counted toward the proving up on their homesteads, they were soon the owners of their homestead. Ed said, "We felt so rich."

Since there was no way of earning money on the homesteads, Ed went to work in Douglas for Carl LeBar, at the Ford Garage. In later years he told many funny stories about that period in his life when automobiles were just becoming popular. Many people would go into the garage to buy a new Model-T Ford, and then not know how to drive it home. Ed helped many residents of that era learn to drive. He often joked that the hardest thing was to teach his students to step on the brake when they wanted to stop instead of hollering "Whoa!"

Jesse went to work in Glenrock at the Continental Refinery and Al and Elmer stayed on the homesteads to help with the farming. The first few years that they farmed were spent in trying to raise the same crops that they had raised in Nebraska, and they had quite a few failures with corn crops until they decided to turn to the raising of cattle and grains more suitable to the harsh Wyoming climate.

In the winter of 1920, Ed returned to Nebraska to visit his betrothed, Ida Rinne. While they did not plan to marry until the following spring, Ida's father, being a practical man, said he thought they should "just get married while Ed is here." Thus, Ed and Ida Rinne were wed on New Year's Eve, December 31, 1920. Ed had only enough money for the return ticket to Wyoming and had to borrow money for the license and ring from his future father-in-law. Needless to say, he made haste to pay it back as soon as possible, so as to remain on good terms with Ida's jovial father.

Upon returning to Douglas, Ed and Ida stayed for a few days at the old LaBonte Hotel. They then purchased a small home, where three of their four children were born. Jean, Rita and Glen were born in the little home.

1929 was the year of the stock market crash and the beginning of the great depression. New car sales at the Ford Garage had fallen off so that there was not enough work for everyone, and Ed felt the time would soon come that his employer would have to lay him off. Jesse had also lost his job at the refinery and they all felt the only thing they could do was to return to the homesteads where Grandpa Fred, Al and Elmer still lived. Grandma Maryann had died in 1922 and Fred had become mother and father, cook and housekeeper. It was agreed upon by all that Jesse, also Ed and Ida and their children should move again to the homesteads, and that Ida would care for grandpa and "the boys" as well as her own family. So began the unique arrangement which was to endure for more than four decades. All of the Leuenberger family lived together - Grandpa Fred, Al, Jesse, Elmer, and Ed and Ida and their three children. Ida now became mother, cook and housekeeper for this huge family, and most winters, the school teacher also boarded with the Leuenbergers!

I have many fond memories of the entire family sitting around the big kitchen table together. The conversation was always lively and the food superb. Ida was a wonderful cook, and although times were hard and money scarce, there was always an abundance of food from the vegetables, fruits, beef, chicken and eggs raised by the family.

In 1936, another daughter, Joy was born to Ed and Ida. This tiny infant quickly became the focal point of the entire family, as grandparent, parents, uncles, brothers

and sisters vied for the privilege of caring for her. She indeed lived up to her name and brought much joy to the entire family.

Also in 1936, another event took place which caused much sadness in the family. Youngest brother, Elmer, left home and was unheard of for many years. In about 1944 he returned home for a brief visit and then disappeared again. Many years later, Ed and Ida discovered that he was living in Stockton, California, and went to visit him. At that time he promised to keep in touch, but again failed to do so.



Leuenberger brothers, 1912. Left to right, Al, Jesse and Ed.

All of the Leuenbergers were musically talented and played for many dances around the neighboring countryside. Al, Ed and Jesse had a small orchestra, and as Ed's children grew, they joined the musical group. I think the fondest memories of my childhood revolve around the many evenings when the entire family joined together in playing and singing. Those who did not play an instrument sang, and this custom has endured throughout the years whenever the family gathers.

All of Ed's and Ida's children attended the one-room Dry Farm School, located about two miles north of the home place. Most of the time, the children walked or rode horseback to school, but when winter blizzards were exceptionally cruel, their father drove them with team and wagon - one with a "bang-board" on the side to deflect the cold winds and snow. Many times the gentle team had to find the way home through the swirling snow. As they graduated from 8th grade, all four of the children attended high school in Glenrock.

The three sons and Ida formed a partnership on the homestead which was called The Leuenberger Banner L. Ranch. This partnership lasted 42 years. In 1969 they sold their place and all moved to Glenrock, where they lived

out their remaining years. All were buried in the peaceful Douglas Cemetery.

Ed and Ida celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1970, and I would like to quote here from a poem written for the occasion by Ida's sister-in-law, Ricki Rinne:

"Their days were not all sunny; years of toil and hardship too;  
But their love never wavered, those 50 long years through;  
They shared both joy and sorrow - sorrow that was hard to bear;  
When death took Glen from their midst and left a vacant chair.  
Friends and neighbors, loved ones, strangers came from miles to share  
Warmth and love and hospitality of this jolly, generous pair.  
With friendly brothers, Jesse and Al, they too shared their family love,  
Surely for all this kindness they'll be rewarded from above."

For the sake of brevity, I have omitted many happenings throughout the years, but the writing of this saga has brought me much pleasure. May we keep to the traditions of family loyalty, integrity, and honor that have sustained us in the past. May we build so that our future generations will be as proud of us as we are of our ancestors.

Jean Leuenberger Slichter

## LeVasseur, Jules and Florence

The present LeVasseur families are descendants of the nephew of Charlemagne, King of France, Roman Emperor of the West.

Jules LeVasseur was born in 1869 in Cacouna, Province of Quebec, Canada. He was the son of Benjamin and



Jules LeVasseur 1898



Mary Florence Briere LeVasseur 1898

Adele Voisine LeVasseur, the youngest of a family of six children, four girls and two boys. He received his education in Canada. At the age of 18, Jules came to Wyoming to visit his sister, Lea, who had married George Harry Cross in 1884. He was employed by his brother-in-law and paid a wage of \$20 per month. From the moment of his arrival, Jules was awed by the beauty and splendor of Wyoming and he wanted to make it his home.

By the year 1890 Jules had begun to purchase small numbers of cattle. He also declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States. It is written in his expense book that the fee for the declaration was \$2.00.

In the following year, he filed for a homestead in the vicinity of LaPrele Creek and gave up his job with his sister and her husband in order to develop his claim. The homestead was situated on Sawmill Creek, and near Cottonwood Creek. These creeks joined near the homestead and eventually flowed into LaPrele.

Indians had been fond of this particular location. They camped by the spring flowing from the base of the "Round Hill," Tepee rings are still in evidence to mark their campgrounds. When Fort Fetterman was being established, this was deemed a likely spot to set up a sawmill and a rifle range.

Jules spent a good deal of time cleaning up the refuse from the sawmill as well as from the rifle range. He piled up the debris and burned it. In doing so, the unspent rifle shells he inadvertently piled up with the other trash would explode. The result not unlike a Fourth of July celebration.

Pieces of the steam engine which powered the sawmill lay strewn about. Along with the stumps and rocks which Jules was obliged to move to clear meadow land, he also had to move the engine parts. Eventually he succeeded in developing the fertile valley along the creeks into hay meadows which produced winter feed for his livestock.



Jules returned to Canada where on December 8, 1898 he married Mary Florence Briere at Matepédia, Quebec, and brought his bride to the homestead cabin located at the edge of a meadow near Sawmill Creek. Florence was born in St. Charles Province. She was an accomplished tailorress; she was a perfectionist in any task she undertook.

Three children were born to Florence and Jules. All were born in Douglas, Wyoming. Ben, the oldest son, was born in 1903, and Ernest, the youngest, was born in 1913 and Alice's birthdate is November 1905.

The hay crop in 1913 was very good. Jules and the hired man were finishing the last stack late one afternoon. Unfortunately, Jules was the victim of an accident involving a work horse. He was seriously injured. Tom and John Sullivan came to help transport Jules to his home, and the following morning made a bed for him in the bottom of a wagon box. They took him and his wife into Douglas. Florence was about to deliver her third child and did so while Jules was confined to the hospital. Ben and Alice were taken by their Aunt Lea and Uncle George Cross to the Cross home to remain until Jules and Florence could return to their home. The family was reunited later that fall, but Jules hobbled about on crutches for some weeks after his release from the hospital.

Jules and Florence were quiet and unassuming people. They were good neighbors and parents. They did not criticize others, but looked for the good in all people. They taught their children to do the same. Both were lovers of nature, as were their children.

Florence LeVasseur passed away on July 16, 1938; Jules died in 1943. They are buried in the Douglas Cemetery. Ernest died June 21, 1971.

Alice LeVasseur Jensen

## Lindmier, William C. and Mabel

It was in the month of April 1916, that William C. (Bill) Lindmier board a Chicago Northwestern train in Omaha, Nebraska. He accompanied his employer, Ed Kauffold. Kauffold was a carpenter-contractor who had been engaged by a group of six men to build their homestead houses on claims in Wyoming. The Lindmier and Kauffold families, as well as the families of the six homesteaders were residents of a common neighborhood in Omaha. They had been friends for some years. Young Bill, listening to their enthusiastic plans, longed to be a part of this great adventure.

Bill had been born to Sylvester Lindmier, of German descent, and Susan Campbell, a full blooded Scots-woman, in Omaha in 1894. He was the second of a family of four children. He completed eight years of schooling there, and had since worked for his father who owned a masonry construction business. Now Bill, with his father's blessing, packed his belongings and headed west.

The journey by train ended in Keeline, Wyoming. At that time, the town consisted of a general store, which housed the post office, a hotel, a depot, and a lumber yard. From Keeline the remainder of the trip to the claim sites northwest of Keeline was made by team and wagon.



Keeline, Wyoming 1916

By the third of May, 1916, Bill had filed for his own homestead. He had discovered that there was an unclaimed tract in the heart of the TJ Bar range on Harney Creek. Most of the tract was situated on the bottom land adjacent to the creek but had very little live water on it. As was the custom, the big ranches held the good water by squatter's rights, thus enabling them to control the open range. The TJ Bar was owned by Addison Spaugh who had come to the Wyoming Territory in 1877 with a trail herd from Texas. Spaugh was aware that as the land became more populous, the cattle business as he had known it would no longer exist. Therefore, he sold the TJ Bar to an Englishman, John (Johnny Bull) Howard. Together with his brother-in-law, Cody Shippen, and the Wanek brothers, John used the open range after he purchased the ranch in the spring of 1916.

The homesteaders were most unwelcome. The cattlemen felt that their "good life" was being spoiled, as indeed it was. The cattlemen were required by law to suffer the intrusion, but they could cause the homesteader a lot of misery and hardship and most of them did just that.

By the end of the summer of 1916, seven frame homestead shacks dotted the range within an area of perhaps four miles square. Except for the Lindmier claim, the houses were built on the adjoining corners of the claims so that two or three families could live close together for company, and to share the monumental tasks of "proving up".

In order to be granted his homestead patent, a settler must construct some sort of liveable dwelling, be it a frame shack, a sod shack, or simply a cave dug into a bank and fitted with a door. The grandeur of the dwelling depended on the affluence of the owner. A homesteader must break up approximately 20 acres of virgin prairie and plant some sort of crop. Lastly, he must reside upon his claim for seven months out of every year for a period of three years. It is of interest that the cost of filing was \$12.00 with an additional \$14.00 being required for the issuance of the patent. The homesteader could apply for an additional homestead patent consisting of 320 acres, after he had filed for his original patent.

In September of 1916, Bill returned to Omaha to seek employment for the winter months. He married Mabel Tallman of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa on September 27 in Galesburg, Illinois. They had been "keeping company" for over a year.

The following spring, the Lindmiers returned to the



Bill Lindmier

homestead on Harney Creek. Life for these homesteaders was certainly not easy. Some were fortunate enough to be able to afford a team and wagon, while others must trade their labor for the loan of horses and simple farm implements. Fortunately, the folks from Omaha were compatible and worked well together.

The homesteaders could exist on what the land had to offer in the way of meat. There was an abundance of cottontail rabbits, jackrabbits and sage grouse. Strangely enough, there were no deer or antelope on Harney Creek at that time. Staples such as flour, sugar, salt and lard could be purchased at the general store in Keeline. It is interesting to note that white flour was in short supply. The United States was at war. Everyone was required to purchase a "flour substitute"; that is, if one purchased 10 lbs. of white flour, then he must also purchase 10 lbs. of the substitutes which consisted of rye flour, corn and oat meal, and macaroni, or a combination of any of these. Macaroni was a favorite among the settlers since it would not spoil or become full of weevils. Then too, it was the cheapest thing on the grocery list. Potatoes, which cost an exorbitant \$20.00 per hundred could also be had in Keeline, but the luxury items such as canned fruit and vegetables were "sent for" from the Sears and Roebuck catalog.

A rifle of some sort was a necessity for all families. The .22 caliber rifle was the most popular. It cost the least initially and the ammunition was reasonable.

Field corn and potatoes were the crops that Bill and Mabel planted that spring of 1917. If one peeled his spuds leaving a peeling of about one-half inch thick, he could eat the center, and plant the peelings. They had no money to buy fencing materials, so the grazing cattle from the neighboring ranches had free access to the crops. It was the law that the homesteader must fence his land or suffer the invasion of the cattle. The ranchers were not acting illegally when they drove bunches of cattle to the imaginary boundaries of the claim and left them there to "stray" across the line. This was a common occurrence.

Lacking a saddle horse, the Lindmiers must run the cattle off on foot. The semi-wild livestock paid the Lindmiers regular visits. One particular cow had developed a taste for green potato tops. She would appear nearly every day, and though she was stoned and cursed, her addiction to potato vines would always lure her into returning.

One hot day in the late summer of 1917, Bill went off to help a neighbor. Mabel remained at home to do her washing and to guard the crops. The Lindmiers had no water well of their own. They hauled their precious drinking water in barrels from a "drilled" well which belonged to a neighboring homesteader. The washing was done in water brought from Harney Creek. It was none too clean and contained too much alkali for human consumption. Repeated washings of any white article of clothing in the water resulted in turning the garment a miserable shade of gray.

Mabel had a crude bench outside the shack. It would accommodate two tubs, one for washing, the other for rinsing. The water was heated inside the house on a small stove of the sheep wagon variety. A washboard, bars of strong lye soap and a rope clothesline for drying completed her laundry equipment. Washing on the board was hot hard work. When Mabel finished the wash, she used the wash water to scrub the board floor of the shack. Since she had completed her work, she decided to sit on the shady side of the shack to rest. As she rounded the corner of the building, she was siezed by uncontrollable rage! That blasted cow was in the potato patch again! Mabel ran toward the cow, shouting and flapping her apron. The cow ambled out of the patch and stood chewing contentedly. Again, Mabel ran toward the cow which moved off a little further and stopped. Frustrated and thoroughly angry, Mabel once more charged the offending beast, only to have the cow move a short distance and turn to eye the wrathful woman.

Close to tears, Mabel ran into the shack. She yanked the rifle off the wall, loaded it and raced outside. She'd fix that cow! She would hit her in the leg, then the animal would depart to return for more. She raised the rifle and



Mabel Lindmier

fired the shot. There was a hollow ker-chunk sound. The cow humped her back in pain. Mabel's marksmanship was somewhat less than perfect. The shot fired at the cow's leg had penetrated the paunch. She watched helplessly as the cow, grunting in pain, shuffled out of sight around the base of a small hill. She returned dejectedly to the shack. She had really done it! A flood of self-recrimination engulfed her. What awful consequences would there be as a result of her fury? Maybe the cow was not hurt at all. Maybe she had missed her completely, but, maybe she would die.

When Bill returned home, she confessed her sin. After the subject was thoroughly discussed, they decided that the wisest thing to do was to wait and see what happened.

The following day a couple of riders appeared. The cow was discovered, and cut open. The riders did not approach the shack. They remounted and rode away.

About a month elapsed. The Lindmiers, though still somewhat apprehensive, were hoping that the whole incident would be forgotten. They were cutting corn one day when a rider appeared heading straight for the field. It was the owner of the ill-fated cow, Cody Shippen. After passing the time of day, Cody asked Bill if he had shot the cow. The answer was an honest "no". Cody told Bill that the slug which killed her was a .22 caliber, and that he knew Bill owned such a rifle. Bill retorted that every homesteader owned a .22 rifle and any of them might have shot the beast. Cody did not ask if Mabel had done the deed and she was not about to volunteer that information. It was obvious that Cody believed Bill to be lying, but he had no proof. He turned his horse and rode away. The incident was closed, but strangely enough the cattle were rounded up and driven to other parts of the range for grazing. There were potatoes to harvest after all.

Some of the homesteaders completed their "proving up"; others decided that the rigors of that life were too severe, and relinquished their rights, and still others mortgaged their claims and eventually lost them. Bill was the only one of the original group from Omaha who kept his land. He bought some of the neighboring claims to add to his own.

Mabel was 25 years old when she returned to Mount Pleasant, Iowa for the birth of the Lindmier's first child, Versa Virginia, who was born in 1921. In 1924, she made the trip again with little Virginia for the birth of the second child, Ruth Eleanor and once more in 1926 she returned for the birth of their first son, William Clyde Junior. Their youngest son, David Charles was born 16 years later in Douglas, Wyoming.

In 1927 when Virginia was of school age, the family left the homestead since there was no school nearby, moving to Douglas, where Bill started a plumbing and heating business. He kept his cattle, hiring a man to care for them. In 1931, the family returned to live at Harney Creek until the great drought of the 1930's drove them out of the cattle business and back to Douglas. Bill again went into the plumbing business. He held on to his beloved land through all the hard times. To sell it would be the same as selling a part of himself.

In 1955, Bill was elected to his first term in the State Legislature. He served six terms in all, acting as Speaker Pro Tem in 1963.

Bill and Mabel sold the land on Harney Creek to their daughter, Ruth and their son-in-law, Tom Mitchell, in 1955. The Mitchells continued the work started by Bill and Mabel. What was once an unfenced homestead claim is now a well-kept ranch headquarters. There are no longer patches of "peelings" or corn. The bottom land has all been developed into hay meadows.

Bill and Mabel have 13 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Versa Virginia, who was born in 1921, married Allen Lewis Swan in 1945. Allen and Virginia had six sons. The eldest, Stephen Paul, was born in 1946; James Allen in 1949, William David in 1951, Christopher Robert in 1952, Scott Lindmier in 1954, and the youngest, Lewis Alexander in 1956. James, William, Christopher and Scott are married. Jim has one son, Kenneth. Scott has a son, Frasier, and a daughter, Erin. Virginia died of leukemia in 1959. Allen's death was the result of a heart attack in 1971.

Ruth Eleanor was born in 1924 and married Thomas H. Mitchell in 1945. The couple had no natural children, but adopted a girl, Ruth Anne, born in 1954, and a boy, John Arthur, born in 1955. Anne has two children, a son and a daughter. John has one son. Thomas H. Mitchell died in 1979. Later, Ruth married Elmer L. Grant of Boxelder south of Glenrock. They make their home on Harney Creek in eastern Converse County.

William Clyde, Jr., was born in 1926 and married Vivian Irene Manning in 1948. They have three sons, Robert William, born in 1950, Thomas Allen, born in 1951 and Jeffery Leroy, born in 1953. All the sons are married. Robert has a son and a daughter, Thomas has two daughters.

David Charles was born in Douglas in 1942, and was married to Virginia Ruth Curtis in 1963. They are the parents of two daughters. Cindy Anne was born in 1965 and married to John Fitzgerald Harbarger in 1981. Amy Virginia was born in 1967 and is attending her senior year in Converse County High School.

Today Mabel resides on the land where she and Bill started their married life so many years ago. She is 88 years old. She makes her home with Ruth and Elmer.

Bill was confined in a rest home in Douglas for five years prior to his death on July 25, 1984. He is buried in the Douglas Park Cemetery.

Ruth is the present owner of Harney Creek, but the time approaches when she must turn over the operation to the next generation. Lewis Swan lives on the ranch and with his aunt Ruth manages the business of raising cattle.

It seems that the homestead will remain in the family for at least another generation, which is as it should be.

Mabel, who has supplied most of the information for this account, is positive that she and Bill would "do it all over again" though it was a hard, demanding life, but which offered rich rewards in satisfaction.



Ruth Lindmier Grant

## Lore, William H. and Effie Family

The Lores were pioneer settlers in Pawnee County, Nebraska with several branches of the family migrating to the Alliance area when Alliance was still a fort.

The older members of the William Lore family, Flossie Lore Lathrop, Floyd B. Lore and Faye Lore Bisiar came from Pawnee County, Nebraska to Converse County when the men returned home from World War I.

William Henry and Effie Morrison Lore (1865-1940 and 1870-1931 respectively) moved from Dubois, Pawnee County, Nebraska to Converse County with the two younger sons, Glenn and Virgil, in the early 1920's and settled in the Walker Creek area on what was called the "old Daddy Davis place". Flossie Lathrop was a widow with two small sons at that time and she lived with the family and was postmistress of the Walker Creek Post Office (in the home) for several years. As was the case with most families in those days, someone in the family had to work away from the farm to make money to feed the stock, and Glenn Lore drove the school bus in the Walker Creek and Dry Creek areas for several years. The family lived here until Mrs. Lore's death in 1931 when they moved to Douglas. They later sold the place to Fred Williams.

Flossie Lore Lathrop raised her two sons, William R. and Donald L. in Douglas. After moving to town she worked in one of the old landmark restaurants, the LaFayette Cafe for Alice Tevis; she also worked at the "Seed House" which was probably the first business to bring employment to many women in Douglas. In November 1940 she was elected Clerk of Court and served in that capacity until she retired in 1958. At that time she moved to Olympia, Washington to be near her sons. Mrs. Lathrop died in 1979.

Floyd B. Lore married Julia Eppenbach and they have eight children: Dorothy, Leonard, Mildred, Wayne, Valjean, Laurel, Frank and Floyd D. After leaving the homestead, Floyd and his family moved to Douglas. He was an expert plasterer and worked for the old contractors. One of his first jobs was with Fred Cannon when the Masonic Temple was built. Floyd was killed in 1946, the result of a very freak accident. He took a cow to the old slaughter house to be butchered. The man just ahead of Floyd shot his cow and the bullet ricocheted and hit Floyd. He died following emergency surgery. Mrs. Julia Lore was the cook at the hospital for many years, and still lives in Douglas. The eldest son, Leonard, is a prominent contractor in Douglas at the present time.

Faye Lore Bisiar and her husband, Charles Bisiar, lived in Casper and they had three children: Charlene, Charles and Virgil. Mrs. Bisiar died in 1983.

Virgil Lore married Lois Anderson, the daughter of Charles and Charlotte Anderson, also of the Walker Creek area and they had two daughters: Sandra Lore Bohart and Valerie Lore Borgan. Virgil was also a skilled plasterer and worked with his brothers. Lois died in 1958. In 1965 Virgil married Doris Little and they live in Casper.

Glenn Lore married Joan Miles and they have one son, Jack William. Glenn was also a skilled craftsman and worked in the masonry field with his brothers. During the housing boom of the 50's and 60's, the Lores

plastered almost every new house in Douglas. Down through the years it was a standing joke in the lumber yards that the Lores either plastered or stuccoed half of Converse County.

At this time, Glenn is retired and Joan Lore is Clerk of District Court. Jack Lore married Sara Crane, the daughter of Tom and Velma Gunstrum Crane of Douglas. They have two children and live in Casper.

Joan Miles Lore

## Lowndes, Joseph and Effie

Joseph Moyses Lowndes arrived in Douglas, Wyoming January 1, 1898. He was with Tom and Nellie McPherson until he settled in his own living quarters. Nellie McPherson was a cousin, being the daughter of Joseph's mother's aunt Sarah Moyses. He worked for Mr. Maurer in his bank, and had an interest in a band of sheep with Tom McPherson's father until a storm, April 13, 1912, killed four thousand sheep.

He joined Ashlar Lodge #10 A.F. & A.M., Masonic on January 21, 1901. Joe and his pals, Effie Daniels, Hiram Daniels, and Sophie Kimmey toured around Douglas, Natural Bridge and areas in the mountains.

Joe lived in Moingonna, Iowa during his school years. He graduated from Capitol City Commercial College in Des Moines, Iowa and worked in Des Moines for eight years. He played the bass drum in the Douglas band. They would play for the state fair in the early 1900's.

November 25, 1899 Joseph Lowndes and Effie May Daniels were married in the Congregational Church in Douglas by Reverend Stewart. They had three children, Frederick Daniels, Olive Irene and Joseph Hillard.

The family moved to Casper, Wyoming, March 10, 1911 after Joe went to work for C. H. Townsend in the Stockman's National Bank December 15, 1910.

October 23, 1915 Joe moved to Lander to organize the Stockgrowers State Bank, then moved back to Casper the spring of 1920 to work for the Casper Mutual Building and Loan Association and carried on full time as Grand Secretary of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Wyoming, having been elected to that office September 9, 1915.

Mr. Lowndes died in Glendale, California on February 6, 1943 while visiting his wife's sister. He was buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Glendale at that time.

Effie D. Lowndes died in Casper, December 9, 1977 in Casper, Wyoming and is buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Glendale, California.

Olive Lowndes Rue

## Lundberg, Carl and Izola Family

Carl was born at Bloomfield, Nebraska on January 5, 1896 the son of Victor and Marie Lundberg. After high school he served in the 88th Division of the Infantry in France during World War I. In 1919 he filed on a homestead on Willow Creek in the Walker Creek Community.

Izola Gilfry was born at Arlington, Nebraska on July 3, 1896. After graduating from Lincoln College she taught school until their marriage on September 14, 1920 in

Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

Their first child was the only one of five children to be born in a hospital. That was Duane - he married Vera Rogers Connor. Next, Lois - she married Jack Werner. Then another son, Lavaughn - better known to everyone as "Bud", he married Irene Johnson. Arlea decided she wanted Jim Smathers for her husband. Then the youngest - Marvalee, or as you know her - Punkie - thought a fellow from Kansas was very special, so she married Wayne Love.

The folks farmed "dry land" - mostly with horses. Lundberg Bros. had an Avery tractor that they shared for farming.

After a few years in a country school we changed to school in Douglas. We always looked forward to the weekends so we could go home to the country.

The whole family was involved in 4-H. At that time there were a lot of families in the community so people were involved in so many different activities. Dad played on the men's baseball team, their games were usually on Sunday. Then there were picnics - that meant a lot of good food, a ball game and then a dance. By daylight the next morning, everyone was ready to go home.

Dad and his brothers, Felix and Fred, known as the Lundberg Bros., played for most of the country dances. Sometimes even a wedding dance or for a political rally.

In 1945 the folks decided to move closer to Douglas so they bought a place in the LaPrele Community. By 1962 they decided they had worked long enough and retired. They enjoyed winters in Arizona and summers in Douglas. They didn't have too many years of "leisure living" before Dad was gone in October 1968 and then in July 1980, Mom was gone. Maybe people might say they lived a hard life, but it was a good one.

Lois Werner

## Lundberg, Felix and Dollie

Vyvienne and family returned to Douglas in 1963, Vyvienne having left in 1945 at the age of 20. Willis Lundberg (her cousin) drove them out to the old homestead. All that was left was a windmill, stock tank and a few trees.

Vi began to cry, for her parents and their 27 long hard years of sweat and tears to establish a home, and for what purpose? For herself, her brothers, sisters and the home they remembered so well, that was no more; for her baby sister Connie, who would never remember the home which was such a large part of her family's past; for the fields that had disappeared and the stubborn land that had returned as it was in the beginning. Then she remembered her Dad saying, "You can never go back." This, then is the story of Felix and Dollie Lundberg.

They had come as newlyweds in the spring of 1920, to prove up on the land Felix had filed on, on May 7, 1919. When they left March 19, 1947, their four older children had graduated from Converse County High School, the older three having already moved away. Felix, Dollie, their four youngest daughters, ages 19, 15, nine and one, a family dog the girls could not bear to leave behind, two old cars, a small house-trailer and \$700 in cash, heading

for the state of Washington. Dollie, for one, never looked back.

Felix's parents came from Sweden in the late 1800s in search of free land and a better life for their family. Felix was born April 2, 1891, near Bloomfield, Nebraska, in a dugout which was their home.

Dollie's family can be traced back to 1687 when Lewis Walker arrived in this country from Wales in search of religious freedom. A Quaker, Lewis joined others of his faith in Pennsylvania and there their family grew.

Our parents, Felix and Dollie, were wonderful storytellers and they made their young lives very real to us. Dollie left a handwritten autobiography for her children, and we will quote from her writings as her words tell their story far better than ours.

Dollie's Writings:

"On March 2, 1920 there was a bad blizzard, but Felix and I were married about noon by Rev. Van Valkenberg at Grandmother Brown's home in White River, South Dakota. We arrived in Douglas in April 1920. We had written Felix's folks, but the weather had been bad and the mail had not been delivered. We spent two nights at the LaBonte Hotel before his brother, Carl, came for us.

"We had our place 27 years in Wyoming and most every year it hailed, sometimes early or late in the year and it didn't hurt much. Usually it hailed during the growing season and there was a lot of damage to crops, even killing baby lambs and chickens. For about three years straight we had little or no rain.

"Every winter we had blizzards with the temperature falling as low as 40 below, wind coming through the cracks around the windows and doors into our house, snow drifting into barns and sheds. I remember during April of 1921, rancher Emery was bringing cattle out to the range when a blizzard hit. After it was over there were 96 dead cows on the one half section west of our house. They smelled all summer; every fly and mosquito we had, had been there first.

"Felix was out in one blizzard. He had shot a coyote and wanted the hide and bounty, so was tracking it. Finally realizing he was lost, he said 'Dell, (his saddle horse) take me home.' Dell made it home about midnight with Felix almost frozen as he didn't dare get off and walk in fear of losing Dell.

"Many the pail of water I carried from our little well down the hill east of the house. I use to know the number of steps, I still remember it took six pails for the baby's wash, two or three to fill the reservoir on the kitchen range and two for drinking. We also carried for the pigs, chickens and calves. Felix carried when he could and the older children as they grew stronger. First gallon cans and then two gallons, etc. Finally, when we had the money, we had a well drilled between the house and the barn.

"All of our wood had to be cut; pitch was hard to saw but we could split it and then break the pieces in two. Three loads of pitch, eight tons of coal, corn cobs and sagebrush would see us through the long Wyoming winters.

"We did have some beautiful summer days and nights, the sunsets and sunups were also pretty. The thunderstorms and cloudbursts were something else.

"I canned everything I could, my big year was 1,109



quarts. I canned vegetables and pickles from our garden, wild fruit from the mountains, windfall apples from Carehurst, beef, pork, chicken, antelope and deer.

"When Ben was one and a half years old, we were milking and had left the boys in bed. When we came back to the house, no Ben! Dad ran to the well and stock tank, I dashed to the hog pen, scared to death that I would find his little body torn to bits. Then I started to the pasture when I heard Felix call. Here came a little curly headed boy over the hill from the east with hundreds of cactus thorns in his little feet.

"During the depression, in 1932, the men rounded up 32 steers (three and four year olds), fat as butter, to ship to Omaha. When they were being loaded at Douglas a buyer offered \$500 for them. Felix insisted if they were willing to pay that much in Douglas, they should get more in Omaha. They received a \$295 check for prime beef (less than \$10 a head). Later the government paid \$25 a piece for culls which they killed and buried (it didn't seem fair). We were told we could dress out some of the meat for our own use, so I put up 200 quarts. This was a real treat as Felix would never kill a beef with a mortgage on it.

"You might ask how we survived in Wyoming. Well, we loved our children so much, also our love for each other, we had faith in God and we prayed a lot. I always said I never met an atheist on the prairie.

"It was hard to see your children leave, one by one. Felix would say; 'It is a wonderful feeling, Dollie, when you don't have to worry about a single one of our kids doing anything really bad.' As each one of you settled into your own home with your life mate, happy and busy, eager to create a livelihood for your family, we thanked God."

Our Memories:

We, the offspring of Felix and Dollie Lundberg, remember our years on the Wyoming prairie in a different way. It was mostly a happy time of living, loving and sharing.

We remember the beautiful summer nights, when the stars and the Milky Way were so close and so clear we felt we could reach out and touch them, the coyotes howling in the hills, the smell of the good earth after a much needed rain, walking barefoot in the puddles, the sweet, sweet smell of the Russian Olive trees in bloom.

We remember Happy Hollow School and our first friendships with the Mitchell, Helbig, Exley, Edward, Young, Lund, Henry, Hazen, and Miller children, and also the Miles and Lundberg cousins. Our first teachers were Edward Dolan, Alice McCoubrey and Tincye Wilson Murray (who still corresponds with our family). Later, as the population dwindled, the school was moved closer to our homestead and finally during the last years, Mrs. Wallace lived with our family, conducting school in our home for Marjorie and Lolita.

Remembering the calm after a blizzard, how beautiful to be on the inside by a warm crackling fire, looking out at the clean still world that looked so different. Then, after days of isolation, seeing the mailman coming and knowing once again we had contact with the outside world.

We remember the smell of clean bed sheets dried in the Wyoming wind and sun, the smell of fresh bread

baked in the oven of mom's Home Comfort Range and the fun of box and pie socials, school programs, summer Bible school. There was Fourth of July picnics at Walker Creek, baseball games with rival communities, and especially the political years when the politicians would bring cartons of candy bars to give to the kids.

We remember fishing for bullheads and the smell as mother rolled the fillets in cornmeal, fried them in butter, seasoned with salt and pepper and finally the actual testing and eating of the delicacy for which we had waited so long.

The long winter evenings of sorting navy beans, shelling and grading seed corn, carding wool, and tying quilts are good memories and the very special evenings of music when Dad would play his "fiddle" and we would dance and sing.

Dad was a real "character" and we loved to tell stories about him. We still remember his famous quotes: "Keep a stiff upper lip; Every little bit helps; You are no better than anyone else but by God you are just as good; A man's greatest possession is his good name; The only thing you can take with you when you meet your 'maker' is your name and what it stands for; People are like radios, you can't send and receive at the same time; There but for the grace of God go I; Where there is a will, there is a way; and last but not least, "Be yourself."

Three of our favorite stories about Dad are: (1) Mom had asked him to pick up some inexpensive nipples for the baby's bottle when he was in town. Dad had a Swedish brogue, so when he asked the druggist for nipples he said "sheep" instead of "cheap." Needless to say, we had to darken the room before the baby would use the long black sheep nipples. (2) The time Dad came running for the rifle as he thought he saw a rabbit, but he put a bullet through the bottom of a brand new slop jar that was being aired. (3) The night we were awakened from sleep to pull feathers on a bunch of Mom's ducks that Dad had mistaken for jackrabbits, as he made his nightly round with his shotgun around the haystacks. We always wondered if it was an accident, as he never really liked Mom's ducks.

Which reminds us of Mom making rounds of rooming houses in Douglas, looking for room and board for Ellis and Ben during the school year and not realizing she was speaking with a Madam at a brothel.

Oh yes, once we sent a "traveling preacher" to the cellar to see Mom and Dad, who just happened to be bottling home-brew.

Ardy and Vi went for milk cows, saw a lone duck floating on the north dike, Ardy teased Vi that she couldn't hit the duck because she couldn't hit the broad-side of a barn. Vi aimed the rifle, pulled the trigger, shot the duck's head completely off. Then Ardy laughed and threatened to tell Dad if Vi didn't retrieve the duck. Dad always said we had to bring home any wild game we shot, i.e. rabbits, sagehens, because, "It was a sin to waste the food God provided." Vi was so afraid of the water, but finally rode her horse, "Old Prince," into the dike after the duck.

Young and old remember the dances at Walker Creek, Dry Creek and LaPrele, especially when the "Lundberg Bros." played. The younger also remember collecting the tin cups for the ladies in the kitchen and

going to sleep on coats, piled high, behind the piano on the bandstand.

How much fun we had with our cousins, the children of Elof, Fred, Carl Lundberg, Ancel Miles, Lewis Hansen, Les and Harry Wileman and our aunt Alyce Lundberg at family gatherings. We also remember, with kind thoughts, some of our neighbors; Lund, Robinson, Edward, Swanson, Clausen, Hageman and Hublein families.

One of the most spectacular sights we remember seeing was on January 3, 1942 when Ellis and Ben were leaving with their buddy, Paul Sybrant, for the Army Air Force. We awoke that morning to see a herd of about 230 antelope bedded down west of our home, on a bed of new fallen snow. As the sun came up, the herd moved out, running, jumping, following their leader to the northwest. Our mom, with tears rolling down her cheeks, felt it was an omen from God. She knew her boys would be safe and return from the war.

When we think about our parents and their years in Converse County, it seems the "real meaning of their life" was in raising their children to be honest, upright, hard working, productive, happy individuals. This they accomplished so well. They encouraged each of us to be the best we could be and to do the best we could in everything we attempted to do. The two of them set an example that was hard for us to follow. For this we thank them.

The family of Felix and Dollie Lundberg

## Lundberg, Fred and Delia Family

My grandparents, Victor and Marrie Ellen Carlburg Lundberg, came to America from Sweden in the spring of 1883, settling in Moline, Illinois where my father, Fred, was born (March 22, 1888.) Shortly after his birth, the family moved to Knox County, Nebraska and took up residence on a farm eleven miles northwest of Bloomfield where they lived until 1919. Their next move was to Scottsbluff, Nebraska where daughters Alyce and Anna had a millinery shop. In 1920 they moved to Douglas where they lived until grandmother died in 1924. Grandfather was an invalid in a wheelchair for the last 26 years of his life and lived with his children until his death in 1928.

Fred married Emma Adelia Oak at Harrington, Nebraska, June 12, 1919. Delia, as she was called, was born in Cumming County, Nebraska, October 22, 1889, the daughter of Oscar and Anne Sophia Oak. Her family were also pioneers to this country coming to America from Sweden in the 1840's, moving from Illinois to Iowa in 1849 and to Burt County, Nebraska in 1855. One of the first settlers in the area, John Oak became the first official postmaster of May 11, 1868 in the town of Oakland, named after him.

Fred and Delia came to Converse County in 1919 and homesteaded north of Douglas near Lightning Creek, neighboring with the Herman Wulffs, starting their life in a sod house until more suitable accommodations could be built. Fred Willis was born while they were living in the sod house, January 15, 1921. Also, a cousin, Ellen



Fred and Emma "Delia" Lundberg

Marie Lundberg, orphan daughter of Elof and Hulda Lundberg, born March 15, 1913 in Bloomfield, Nebraska lived with us part of the time. She was like a member of our family and loved by all. I remember the folks telling about Ellen at age eight, lying on a bed in the sod house and seeing a snake come crawling down the wall, and Mother finding a rattlesnake in Willis' sandpile after he came in the house insisting there was a "rat" out there.

We later moved farther east across the road from the Felix Lundberg homestead. While living there, I (Norma Lee) was born March 18, 1924. In the spring of 1927 we moved to Gurley, Nebraska to join Felix and farm some land the Lundberg Bros. had there. While living in Gurley, Delores was born July 21, 1927. So much time was spent traveling between Douglas and Gurley, they finally decided to get rid of their land in Nebraska; and in about 1930 we and the Felix Lundbergs moved back to Douglas where Stanley was born July 13, 1931.

Willis was especially glad to be back to his old school friends and Happy Hollow School, where I started my second grade. Those were fun times, we had a lot of school programs which all the parents and neighbors attended, sometimes having oyster or carry-in suppers for a more social occasion. Two of our teachers were Edward Dolan and Alice McCoubrey.

About 1934 when the Lundberg Bros. dissolved their partnership, we moved farther south to the old Miller place west of Flattop. It seemed like the end of the world to be so far away from our relatives and old neighbors, however, we still went to Happy Hollow school. Howard Young was our bus driver. Some of our new neighbors were the Exleys, Bill Halls, Hagemans, Mitchells, Munkres, Gillespies, McColls, Mays and Porters.

When I started the fifth grade we had to transfer to a new school, Laramie View. Skirlo Walkinshaw was our first teacher and later taught us geometry in Douglas

High School. He also taught three of my sons, Jeff, Randy and Eddie George. Gretchen had him for a teacher when she took driver's education. My parents lived there until my father's death in 1946, then my mother moved to Douglas and lived here until she passed away in 1972.

Everyone worked hard and had their share of chores to do every day but we have a lot of fond memories: No electricity or telephones, sitting around the dining room table in the evenings doing our home work or playing cards or games by a gas lantern or the old Rio lamp, listening to Amos and Andy on the radio. The old Home Comfort Range with a reservoir for heating water, on bath nights the kitchen door was closed and everyone took their turn in the old washtub. Gathering around the old pot bellied stove to get warmed up before going out to do the chores or going to school. The long winter underwear we had to wear that never fit around the ankles and always made a bulge in our socks. The nice clean air and Dad taking us to school in a sleigh when the snow was too deep to walk the two and a half miles to school at Laramie View.

I have memories of the dances at Walker Creek and Dry Creek when Lundberg Bros. orchestra played, Dad and Felix on violin, Carl on piano and Ralph Randall on drums. The dances were always a family affair, the younger ones sleeping on benches or coats when they finally gave out. Dad always played with his eyes closed and was always kidded about not knowing when the dance was over. We found out that wasn't always so, as he always seemed to know if any of us were up to any mischief.

There were the ball games at Walker Creek and Dry Creek, everyone rooting for their home team. There was usually a picnic with plenty of fried chicken and home-made ice cream. We had big holiday gatherings of family and friends, Dad checking with Larry Olsen before Christmas to make sure he had ordered his lutefisk.

It was an unwritten law that even if we weren't home the doors were never locked as someone might be lost, need refuge from the weather or have car trouble. Mom always had the coffee pot on for anyone stopping by, and on Sundays we never knew how many people we would have for dinner.

I remember the neighbors helping each other out during harvest and shearing, the women helping with the cooking and having a good visit. I remember the wild horse herd in the north country, and taking a .22 rifle with us while trailing sheep or rounding up the cows at milking time, sometimes bringing home a duck from the dikes or a sage hen.

Dad's sense of humor, ready wit and cheerful outlook on life helped us through a lot of bad times. He always taught us to look for the good in everyone and everything whether it be the depression, a blizzard, hailstorm or drought; that no matter how tough things got, there were a lot of things to be thankful for and there was always someone worse off than we were. He said that if you tried to live a good life and follow the golden rule and had faith and trust everything would work out. I remember their faith during the war when Willis was in Guam and we hadn't heard from him for over three months. One of Stanley's school mates told him some Jap had probably gotten him. He came home and surprised us on

Christmas Day. I remember the time Delores had a runaway with a load of hay. The front wheels came off the hayrack and she decided she would do like they did in the old westerns riding on the front wheel to try to stop the team and almost killing herself, almost scaring Stanley to death watching it all.

Our parents' hard work, honesty, understanding, trust and encouragement played a very important part in the development of our lives. We indeed have a lot to be thankful for.

Norma Lundberg George

## Lutcavish, Charles and Lovina

Charles Lutcavish's father came from Poland, his mother from Ireland. The name at that time was spelled Lutkiewicz, pronounced Lutcavish. There were ten children in Charles' family. One son, Joe, continued to spell his name Lutkiewicz while another son, Lester, changed the spelling to Lucavish.

Mary Lovina Rice was the second child and oldest daughter of the six children of Edward Rice and Elizabeth Westfall Rice who lived on a farm near Dahinda, Illinois. Edward died when his younger children were quite small and Elizabeth raised the family by herself.

Elizabeth is remembered as a jolly lady with a good sense of humor who was always busy knitting or reading during her leisure hours. She would turn to the back of a book to read how the story ended. If she liked the ending, then she would read the book. She died in 1914 or 1915.

Lovina was obliged to go away from home to work at the age of 15. She was employed by a family named Harrington. She worked for them until 1891 and was paid a salary of \$2.00 per week. Lovina met Charles Lutcavish while he was also employed by the Harringtons.

Lovina Rice and Charles Lutcavish were married May 6, 1891 and lived in Yates City, Illinois. Their children, Bertha Elizabeth, Harry Archie, Anna Marie and Trella Lovina (born April 27, 1903) were born there.

In 1904, the family moved to Nebraska and later to a farm near Woodruff, Kansas where Robert Earl was born in 1906. In 1907 they moved nine miles northeast of Cambridge, Nebraska. Edith Lillian was born there on November 7, 1909. They moved four miles south of Cambridge in 1915 and lived there until January 1917 when they moved near Lisco. In 1922 they moved to a farm east of Dalton and lived there until March 1926 when Charles, Lovina and Edith moved to Wyoming to homestead north and west of the Dry Creek community close to the Cheyenne River.

Anna Marie Lutcavish married James Franklin House on March 18, 1920. Their son, Robert Perry, was born July 22, 1921 in Kansas City, Kansas. Anna and James were divorced in 1923. On August 7, 1924, Anna married Frank E. Kemper. Their first son, Kenneth Dale, was born July 25, 1925. The Kempers lived in Broadwater, Nebraska until 1926 when they homesteaded in Wyoming near her parents (on the north side of the Cheyenne River). Their second son, Ronald Fred, was born August 20, 1928 at Dr. Lynch's home at Dry Creek. The Kempers moved to Laclede, Idaho in the fall of 1934.

Frank died February 20, 1951 at the V. A. hospital in Spokane, Washington and is buried in Laclede, Idaho. Anna sold the Idaho farm in 1955 and moved to Mercedes, Texas. She married Jesse Bell Alliss at Sterling City, Texas on May 5, 1958. They lived at Weslaco and Mercedes, Texas. "J. B." died January 30, 1983 and Anna presently lives in Springfield, Missouri.

Trella Lovina Lutcavish married Cecil Clarence Oskins (born April 8, 1897 at Tecumseh, Oklahoma, the son of Wayne and Martha Staten Oskins) in the fall of 1920. They were the parents of three children: Eleanor Marie (born July 1, 1922), Leonard Raymond (born July 25, 1924), and Helen Louise (born September 6, 1928). In the late 1920s the Oskins also homesteaded near her parents. Cecil died January 12, 1936 as a result of a hunting accident which happened the previous fall. Trella married Wilson S. "Red" Grable in July 1941 in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. They lived in the Torrington area. Grable died in May 1982 and Trella passed away October 25, 1984 in Casper. They are both buried in the Fort Laramie Cemetery.

The Oskins' home was moved to 704 Hamilton Street in Douglas. It was later remodeled by Lincoln and Ruth Pellatz.

Helen Louise Oskins married Harold A. Schmidt, son of Ted and Veronica Fitzsimmons Schmidt, on April 6, 1947 in Douglas. Harold works for Amoco Pipe Line Company as Division Right-of-Way Agent and is also in the ranching business. They have the 6B Ranch east of Dull Center and a ranch south of Glendo by the North Platte River. They live in Casper and in Denver. Their children are James A. Schmidt, Janet M. Schmidt Egecombe and Michael A. Schmidt.

Edith Lillian Lutcavish married Thomas Howard Shaw (born in 1894 in Copperas Cove, Texas, the son of John and Eva Witt Shaw; Tom came to Douglas about 1907) on April 7, 1930. They had one son, David Lee. The Shaws were divorced and Edith married Henry Albert "Hank" Eberspecher in Cheyenne on July 28, 1951.

Tom Shaw died January 30, 1959 in Douglas.

David Lee Shaw presently lives in Glenrock.

Sometime in the late 1930s, Charles and Lovina Lutcavish moved to Laramie, Wyoming where Charles died June 8, 1940 and Lovina died October 17, 1944.

Anna Lutcavish Alliss  
Ruth Johnson Pellatz  
Helen Oskins Schmidt

## Lynch, Dr. H. G. and Jerusha

Horace Greeley Lynch was born in Columbus, Ohio in 1850. He graduated from medical college in Ohio and began his medical practice in Greenfield, Iowa (Adair County). He was also editor of the "Greenfield Transcript" there.

He married Anna Stahl. Two sons were born to them: Roy Lynch on July 29, 1879 and Eldon R. Lynch on July 11, 1884. In 1887 Anna Lynch died from an accident leaving two small sons, Roy and Eldon.

In later years Dr. Lynch married Jerusha May Busby, a school teacher. To this union two sons were



Dr. H. G. and Rhue Lynch on their golden anniversary.

born: Donald Lynch and Edgar Lynch. The doctor continued to practice medicine and although his office was in Greenfield he still drove his horse and buggy to make house calls in adjoining towns and counties.

Roy Lynch became an Iowa farmer. In 1900 he married Sarah (Sadie) Johnston whose parents lived near. Sadie had gone to Chicago where she became a stenographer and a model in one of the large department stores. Roy and Sadie moved to Creston, Iowa (Union County) where Roy became a barber. Later he owned the Union Hardware Store. In 1904 a son, Lysle Raymond, was born and in 1909 a daughter, Anna Lenore. Lysle had a short life. He died in 1910. Daughter Anna Lynch Owen is still living and remembers well making rounds in the buggy with Dr. H. G. Lynch. She was his first granddaughter.

Roy's younger brother, Eldon, at age 17, became a fireman for C.B. & Q. Railroad, shoveling coal. He stayed and became an engineer for 47 years. Eldon was married and had two sons, Gene and Raymond and two daughters, Mildred and Eldona. After Eldon's retirement they moved to California. He was preceded in death by his wife and his son, Raymond. Eldon died in 1965.

Donald Lynch was a newspaperman most of his life. When he died in 1954 he was with the paper in Sheridan, Wyoming.

In 1917 Dr., Mrs. Lynch (Rhue as she was known) and Edgar decided to move to Wyoming due in part to H. G.'s failing health and his love for the great out-of-doors. Wyoming climate certainly did benefit him for he reached the ripe old age of 92 before he died in 1942.

He and Rhue filed on a homestead 40 miles north of Douglas, later known as Dry Creek community. They donated the land on which the Dry Creek Hall still stands. Edgar Lynch was a linotypist. He worked in Douglas for Mr. Clough, who owned the "Douglas Enterprise" for a number of years. Edgar married Virginia Orwin whose father built most of the older houses still standing in Douglas. Edgar and Virginia moved to Guymon, Oklahoma. He remained a newspaper editor until he died in 1960.

Only another homesteader knows the trials and tribulations that Dr. and Rhue experienced those first years. Town was 40 miles away with only a team and wagon for transportation. Neighbors were few and very far between. The Lynchs lived in a tent until they hauled

enough lumber and supplies to build one room. Wyoming winters were not conducive to living in a tent. Even in Wyoming people got sick, had babies, met with accidents (including gunshot wounds) and they kept Dr. H. G. so busy he couldn't seem to get in enough crops to feed two people and two horses. There was no buggy to make house calls. Usually a horsebacker rode up and said, "We need you! Can you come with me?" If patients were able, they were brought to the doctor. Money was not only in short supply, there wasn't any. But as more people came, some of them helped Doc build on another room for an office and for patients to stay (his former office is Web Stoddard's granary). Dr. Lynch and friends organized a Sunday school in a little Fairview School house east of present Dry Creek. Years later Dry Creek Community Hall was built and Sunday school was held there. Mrs. D. W. Ballard was a faithful superintendent for years.

Meantime, back in Creston, Iowa, Roy Lynch and wife decided to come to Wyoming. Anna had graduated from high school and completed two years of junior college. She had always wanted to be a teacher and thought Wyoming would be exciting. So in 1927 three more Lynchs came to Wyoming.

Roy and Sadie lived at Fiddleback Ranch on Box Creek where Roy was foreman. Anna lived in Douglas where she worked for Mr. Clough at the Enterprise for 35¢ an hour mostly folding newspapers and odd jobs and took a fifth year normal training course taught by Mrs. Scott Layton. Miss Maud Dawes was County Superintendent and Mr. Raymond White was Superintendent of School District #17, (including Douglas and many small rural schools).

So in September 1929 Anna began her teaching career which lasted for 45 years. (In fact she is still going to Middle School helping kids who need help!) Her first contract was for \$640 a year for eight months school. The building was located about ten miles west and three south of Dry Creek Community Hall. It was a small dilapidated building, built for a granary, that had been moved back and forth over the prairie several times. Anna stayed at Amos Stone's home and walked six miles a day to and from school. Twelve students came, including five Reeds: Earl, Ellis, Wesley, Richard and Murray. Later in the year Violet Reed (Strand) joined. Also two Edwards boys, Warren and Arthur, two Hyltons, Fayne and Wilma (Amos Stone's stepdaughters) and three Hendricks girls. Many fun times were shared there as well as a few not so fun. One of these remembered by all who participated: a real old-fashioned Wyoming blizzard came up suddenly. During the daylight hours, teacher and pupils dragged what coal was in the shed and filled every available inch not occupied by twelve kids with winter clothes and the teacher, who kept the pupils all night in the afore described building. It was pitch dark by four p.m. The temperature was minus 30 degrees. No lunch, no water, no electricity or light whatever. Just a red hot stove with no grate. Of course the parents had no way of knowing whether kids had left the school house or not. They couldn't find any horses in the storm. They tried walking but after some frozen fingers and toes and being lost, they gave up. A little after noon the next day, the kids were rescued via a hay ride, none the worse for wear, except cold, ravenously hungry and grateful for the

comforts of home.

Next year Mr. White, quite flabbergasted by the condition of buildings in rural district #17, caused to be built, his first consolidated school on land donated by Dr. Lynch—a beautiful new building with two rooms and a basement full of coal. Years later it burned to the ground so the one in use presently is made up of two old buildings moved in. There were buses on mud roads even worse than the one to Douglas. Glenn Lore drove one bus; Fred Reichelt another; Roy Shelden a shorter route. Later Babe Reed drove another, Emmett Carver taught grades six, seven and eight in one room and Anna Lynch taught grades one through five in the north room. Sometimes as many as 40 children came. After Emmett went to Douglas to teach, his brother, Scott Carver, came to teach grades six, seven and eight and one year of high school. Scott married Lois while at Dry Creek.

Anna bought the old Ballard School House (about 15 miles south of Dry Creek) and got Jim Stevens to move it to the corner beside Dry Creek School. It is the house Munkres occupy today. Anna took up a homestead (under Taylor Grazing Act) so she drove her second hand Model A Ford (from LeBar Motor Company) three times a week to the homestead (ten miles west and three south of Dry Creek near Funk's homestead.) She stayed at Dry Creek the other nights especially during stormy weather.

By that time a great many tons of coal were being hauled from the Antelope Coal Mine (Jess Morsch) into Nebraska and other destinations. It was hauled in Model A and other small trucks (by today's standard). They could not make it from Douglas and back on one tank of gas. Roy and Sadie joined Anna and made a deal with Conoco (Slonakers) to deliver gas. Oscar Wysong was the driver for a long time. Thus Dry Creek Filling Station was established. If you look in the cement you can see 1930 scratched there with a stick by Anna in 1930. Of course the pumps were operated by hand as electricity had not yet arrived. Now the truck drivers stopped for gas all hours of the night. They were always hungry and asking for Bull Durham. Sandwiches, tobacco and cold drinks appeared (hauled by Anna in her Model A from Wyoming Grocery in Casper.) The tin building housing the store presently was bought from Boehler up at Verse by Anna Lynch and moved to Dry Creek. Thus Dry Creek Community Store began.

Next came the demand for a post office. When Lynchs applied, the inspector from Washington came and said, "It costs a lot to create a new post office because all the maps in the United States would have to be remade to put Dry Creek on it." At that time there was a small post office called Bill in the home of C. C. Dickson (six miles from Dry Creek). Why can't we pick up Bill and move it to Dry Creek? "You can if you call it Bill (six miles won't interfere with Washington's progress) but it has to be housed in a separate building and it has to be called Bill." Anna moved her homestead house over to Dry Creek and Dry Creek became Bill, Wyoming.

In 1938 Roy Lynch lost his eyesight and the store was sold to R. H. Stoddard, who became the new postmaster. Roy and Sadie moved to Douglas where Anna was teaching at South Grade. She taught in District #17 for 27 years before she moved to Cheyenne where she taught at Fincher School Grade Five for twelve years. Meantime



Dr. H. G. Lynch had given up his practice and moved to Douglas where he died in 1942. Sadie had a heart attack and Anna returned to Douglas to be with her. She died in April of 1954. Anna was elected County Superintendent of Schools for Converse County. She received a Coe Fellowship for outstanding service, made Who's Who of American Women and earned a Civil Service Rating GS-9, called Education Research and Program Specialist (earned by meeting educational standards, teaching at least 25 years, furnishing ten written recommendations from superintendents, etc. for whom you have worked and five character references, and passing a difficult civil service exam).

In 1955 Anna and Charles "Clinton" Owen were married and moved to his ranch 50 miles northeast of Douglas. No more school she said. But within six months she was teaching Nachtman School 15 miles from home. Nachtman School (including Linda, Jerry, Lona, Susie and Jimmie) and teacher, were invited by the State Department of Education to come to Cheyenne and give a classroom demonstration on Cheyenne television. In 1964 Mr. and Mrs. Owen moved to Douglas where they still reside. In 1967 they were saddened by the death of Roy Lynch who died at the age of 87. Roy and his seeing eye dog had become a familiar sight in Douglas and is missed by many of his old time friends.

Now fancy cars go speeding down the oiled highway, past the old homestead where Doc and Rhue struggled for an existence. You can't tell they ever lived there, reminding us that everything, even life itself, is for a little while. But even progress itself cannot erase the memories, held in the hearts and minds of so many people, of the babies delivered, family members nursed back to health, numerous ailments cured, along with emotional and spiritual help, all given with love from an old country doctor.

Anna Lynch Owen

## Madison, Edward and Mary Lucas, Reuben and Lena

Edward Walter Madison, born in 1846, was married to Mary Emma Duchouquette. Mary was born in 1848 in Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri. To this union three children, Lena Sarah, Edward Walter, Jr. and John Frank were born. Edward and Emma came to Fort Fetterman where they lived until they moved into the new town of Douglas. Douglas, a tent town, gradually gave way to a small cluster of wooden buildings. Later some new buildings made of brick were erected.

Mr. Madison was appointed "Receiver of Public Monies" at Douglas by President Grover Cleveland on April 17, 1894. In addition he was the owner of a hardware store located in the Bolln Building. He served as Justice of the Peace and was liked by everyone who knew him. Judge Madison is remembered as the gentleman with the white goatee. Edward Walter died on November 16, 1916, his wife on September 24, 1910.

Reuben Black Lucas was born in DeKalb County, Missouri on April 3, 1863. He moved to Colorado where he lived as a youth, later trailing cattle into Wyoming. There



Edward Madison in front of the Madison Hardware Store.

he worked up from a common ranch hand to manager and foreman of several of the more prominent cattle and sheep outfits in Converse County.

Reuben started an outfit of his own on Antelope Creek in the northern part of the county and built up an extensive operation.

He was married to Lena Sarah Madison. To this union two sons and two daughters were born. Emma Laura married Ralph Merritt and was the mother of one son. Cecil Madison married Josephine Donan Gerber and to this couple one son was born. James C. Lucas died in infancy. The fourth child, Margaret Mary, was married to Ben LeVasseur and to this union two children were born.

Reuben, who died December 20, 1939, is remembered for his favorite saying, which was: "People are more like sheep than sheep are!"

Margaret LeVasseur



Emma Lucas

## Madsen, Mart

Mart Madsen arrived in Douglas before the turn of the century. He played a vital part in the growth of the town and Converse County.

Mart was a native of Denmark and was born on October 22, 1860. He came with his parents to America in 1886 and found employment in a Wisconsin lumber camp. In 1887 he went to Nevada where he worked at various jobs until 1888, when he went to work for John R. Morton in the sheep business near Rawlins.

He came to Douglas in 1891 as a herder. About this time Mart started working on shares for Morton. Taking advantage of the opportunities offered him, Mart, by the latter part of 1892, went into the sheep raising business for himself.

Within a comparatively few years he became one of the county's principal sheepmen.

In 1918 he formed a partnership with Andrew and Rhea Tillard and formed the present Mart Madsen Sheep Company. Mart owned part of the Fiddleback Ranch at one time. He also owned the Tom Fleming place at Orpha.

Mart was an easy touch when it came to buying stocks and bonds. He owned many, many shares in a host of ventures, such as gold mines, copper mines, oil and gas, hotels, etc. One of the interesting stocks he owned was in the Douglas Good Roads Club. The president of the Douglas Good Roads Club was Jess Morsch, another early pioneer of Converse County.

Mart never married. At the time of his death he had a sister still living in Denmark. Mart died on February 14, 1942. He was laid to rest in the Douglas Cemetery.

Bette Tillard



Mart Madsen

## Magee, William and Mabel Family

William "Bill" Ward Magee of Peoria, Illinois and Mabel May Thompson of Iowa were married in 1902. Bill was a former streetcar motorman. They homesteaded in the Wagonhound area near Douglas and were the parents of six children: Roy, Raymond, Wesley, Lucille, Fred and Leland. Mabel died in 1918 during the influenza epidemic. At the time of her death, Leland was only a few months old, and William allowed him to be adopted out. As a result the other children lost track of their youngest brother.

Raymond Cecil was born in Douglas on July 28, 1913. When he was 14 years old his father married Emma Murray who had two children of her own, John and Mae. Mae later married Art Berry.

Raymond joined the C.C.C. in 1934, spending one year in Arizona helping to build roads through the cactus and desert. Later he moved to Laramie, Wyoming to live and work. In 1938 he was united in marriage to Patricia Spracklen, daughter of Willis Spracklen.

Raymond returned to Douglas where he was employed by Lee Reno, later by Roy Combs, and still later he worked as a cook in Lee's Tavern, a cafe and bar owned by Lee Peterson.

Raymond served for four years and nine months in World War II, being a member of the 115th Cavalry. He served in the capacity of cook for his entire tour of duty, receiving his discharge in November of 1945.

His law enforcement career began in 1950 when he was employed in Newcastle, Wyoming. He acted as police chief for two years under Mayor Tye Thomas. He then worked as a police officer in Glendo and in 1957 he returned to Douglas where he served under Bob Ainslie until 1970. At that time, after suffering two heart attacks, he was forced to retire. He served 23 years as a police officer.

Raymond and Patricia had no children and were unable to qualify to adopt since Raymond was a policeman and the couple made their home in a trailer-house.

After retiring from active police work, Raymond was employed for seven and one half years as a school bus driver for the Douglas school system.

Roy Magee is living in Rockford, Illinois, Wesley in Seattle, Washington. Fred passed away in Santa Rosa, California, Lucille in Iowa, several years ago. Raymond's step-brother, John Murray, is now deceased as well, but his step-sister, Mae Berry, lives in Douglas, Wyoming.

Patricia Spracklen Magee



L. to r.: Ray Magee, Robert Ainslie and Jay Main.

## Magnussen, Seth and Emma

Seth S. Magnussen was born in Chicago, Illinois on April 24, 1879. In 1895 he moved to Chapman, Nebraska with his parents and lived there until 1898 when he went to Janesville, Wisconsin to take a course in telegraphy. He held various positions in railroad work throughout the middle west before coming to Orin, Wyoming in April 1913 to be the agent for the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad.

On April 2, 1913 Seth was married to Emma Singby of Hutchinson, Kansas. Two children, Ruth and Charles were born to them.

They owned a farm near Orin and also had a town house located about three blocks east of the school, with a barn, corral and shed for their carriage. The carriage was the envy of the neighborhood. It was a two-seated affair with a fringed top. On Sundays, the Magnussens hitched their handsome team to the carriage and went visiting in the neighborhood.

On June 13, 1922 there was an incident in which he was fatally wounded. It happened when a shoot out occurred at the time Ernest E. Tubbs and his wife, Jessie, were holed up in Orin after trying to evade imaginary pursuers. Seth, at the depot, heard the commotion and left the depot, walking along the wooden platform toward the store. Though Seth was not actually involved in the incident, he was in the line of fire when the argument erupted into violence and was shot in the abdomen.

They loaded him into a car and started for Douglas. It was a rough, slow trip and Seth, in agony, begged them to go even slower. The road followed the railroad to Carmins Hill and then proceeded north to a ford across Sand Creek and then over the big hill east of Douglas. Seth lived only a few hours after he arrived at the hospital.

Mrs. Magnussen lived at the farm after the death of her husband. The land, which had been irrigated from a ditch carrying water from the Platte River, no longer had the luxury of water during dry weather because the ditch was not kept up. Mrs. Magnussen took care of the farming and managed to keep her children in school until the "dirty thirties", after which she gave up trying to dry farm and moved away.

Ruth Grant  
from notes by Earl Gaylord

## Manning, Aubrey and Marie

Aubrey Manning was born in Marengo, Indiana on November 12, 1892 where he grew up and farmed on his father's farm. He was the youngest of the five sons of William and Martha Manning.

On June 1, 1918 Aubrey went into the army where his job was saddle breaking and generally taking care of the horses for the U.S. Cavalry. I do not know where all he was stationed, but do know that at least part of the time he was in Kentucky. When he was discharged from the army after the armistice, he came back to his homestead on Bear Creek northwest of Douglas. For some time after that, he owned teams of horses and did a lot of freighting; quite a lot of it over in the Salt Creek area



Marie and Aubrey Manning

around Midwest, Wyoming. It was during this time that he met and courted Marie Spellman.

Marie Spellman was the daughter of George B. and Florence Spellman. She was born at Emporia, Kansas on March 17, 1903. She later lived in Parry, Saskatchewan, Canada and Los Angeles, California. While in California, she took piano lessons and was proficient enough that she was qualified to teach piano. She also played the ukelele to some small degree. In the early 1920's her family moved to a homestead in the Bear Creek area near all of the Manning homesteads. She was working in the ranch home of the LeRoy Moore family at Ogalalla at the time she was dating Aubrey Manning. Her parents did not approve of Aubrey. For what reason, I do not know.

Aubrey and Marie eloped by train to Chadron, Nebraska and were married there on December 27, 1922. Walt Forbes, also a Bear Creek homesteader, went along and stood up with them for their wedding ceremony.

They immediately returned to the Bear Creek area. They lived for a while on the homestead of Aubrey's father, William Manning. Sometime in between 1923 and 1927 they leased a small place on the Cheyenne River where they raised sheep. During this time, Aubrey and brother, Carl, were in partnership in their sheep business.

Aubrey and Marie had three children; Edith (now Mrs. LeRoy Lewis) born on Aubrey's 33rd birthday, November 12, 1925, Robert was born on November 7, 1929 and Irene (now Mrs. W. C. Lindmier, Jr.) was born on December 23, 1930.

In the spring of 1935, Aubrey and family moved onto the old Vincent place that Carl had bought in 1929. It was



Bear Creek Store second from left: Lanore, fifth from left: Ed, seventh from left: Marie and far right Aubrey Manning

one mile south of the Bear Creek store. In later years, Carl and Aubrey dissolved their partnership. Carl moved to Skunk Creek and Aubrey kept the Vincent place and Aubrey's, Carl's and William's homesteads. The Vincent place was Aubrey's and his family's permanent home.

In the late 1930s and early 1940s Aubrey bought the George W. Pike ranch bordering him on the west and the Curt Sears ranch bordering him on the east. He raised both cattle and sheep. He loved his land and his livestock and gave them the very best possible care. He took great pride in topping the Livestock Sales Market at Sioux City, Iowa several different years.

Marie suffered a severe stroke at the young age of 28 in 1930 which left her badly handicapped, but it never dampened her love of life! Her cheerfulness and enthusiasm were greatly admired by all who knew her. She was able to maintain her home and raise her children in spite of her handicap.

When Edith was ready for high school in the fall of 1939, Aubrey and Marie bought a home at 403 South Fourth Street in Douglas. Marie and the children resided there during the school months and then moved back to the ranch in the summer months. This continued until all three children had graduated from high school.

Marie permanently moved into the house in town on a full time basis around 1950. Robert married Mae Ann Amend on February 11, 1951 and they made their home in the old family ranch home. Aubrey made his home in both the ranch home and the town home.

In the fall of 1952, Robert and Mae Ann bought a place on 20 Mile Creek, 20 miles north of Lost Springs, Wyoming and made that their home. He and Aubrey continued to ranch together.

Around 1969 Aubrey went into a semi-retirement and Robert took over almost full management of both places.

In 1970, Marie suffered another severe stroke and never fully regained her health. By this time, Aubrey had already made his home strictly in the home in Douglas. Marie passed away on January 7, 1972. About one and one half years later, Aubrey's health too, gradually failed and he passed away on January 1, 1980.

Edith married LeRoy Lewis on November 14, 1946. They made their home in Douglas and have resided there

ever since. Shortly after they were married, LeRoy went into the automobile sales and service business as Douglas Motors. They sold that business in 1955. In 1956, LeRoy opened Bear Alignment Co. which he operated until ill health forced him to sell and retire in 1976. They have three children: Linda Ashmead Eaton, Daniel Lewis and Connie Jolley and four grandchildren.

Robert and Mae Ann still live on their home place on 20 Mile Creek. After Harry Manning's death in 1976, they bought his ranch. Then following Aubrey's death in 1980 they bought his ranch. They have a son, Alvin Wayne, and a daughter, Debra Murray and three grandchildren who all live on the "Manning Spread."

Irene married Wm. C. Lindmier, Jr. on June 23, 1948. First, Bill was in the plumbing business with his father. Later, he opened his own shop, Bill's Plumbing and Heating, in Douglas and managed that until February 1981 when he retired and they moved to their present mountain home near Laramie Peak. They are the parents of three sons; Robert, Thomas and Jeffery and have four grandchildren.

Edith Manning Lewis

## Manning, William and Martha

I am Ferol Manning Baker. My grandparents were William and Martha Jane Sloan Manning. They were married at Elmira, New York where Grandpa lived. Grandma was from Marengo, Indiana and as all of her folks still lived there, she and Grandpa gradually made their way back there in the next ten years. They lived on a small farm there for over 25 years.

Five sons were born to them; Ed (1882), Fred (1883), Harry (1887), Carl (1890) and Aubrey (1892). My dad was Ed Manning.

In 1904, Ed, my dad, married Flosse Temple. Her folks, the Hughes and Temples, came from near Marengo. Dad farmed a few acres that was the homeplace of Grandma's family. He also taught school. We three girls, Georgia (1904), Lanore (1906) and Ferol (1908), were born there and went to school, taught by Dad, along with 37 other children in all eight grades.

Fred and Harry finished school and left to go west. They made their way to Douglas, Wyoming by hopping



Front row: Betty Mason and Walter Schmuck. Back row: L. to r. Loella Schmuck, Velma Schmuck, Irma Schmuck, Ferol Manning, Fermin Arquella, Jim Mason and Bill Mason.



freight trains. There they worked on the building of the LaBonte Hotel. They helped dig the basement. They also worked on the LaPrele Irrigation Project at Bedtick, where a crew had been hired to dig a tunnel through the mountains. While there, they acquired a piece of land on Dogie and Deadwood Creeks. They bought a few teams and a couple of wagons and began running freight and hauling wood for ranchers. In 1911 they sold their ranch to C. W. Horr, a pioneer rancher, and were later hired to work on a general land survey.

The survey started at a point near the old stockyards northwest of Douglas, and went 24 miles south to Laramie Peak region, west 48 miles to the edge of the plains and 48 miles east back to the stockyards. It also included Boxelder and Casper Mountain areas.

Carl was threatened with tuberculosis. As some of Grandma's brothers and sisters had died with it, and as Wyoming had a dry climate, the opposite of Indiana's damp climate, Carl went west and joined his brothers. He worked on the survey with them.

They all three made a few widely spaced visits back home, but Grandma was very unhappy with them being so far away. In 1913, Grandma and Ed made a visit to Wyoming to see the boys and see the country. As Ed's daughter, Lanore, had weak lungs, they all decided to go to Wyoming where homesteads could be obtained. The land was better than the poor rocky soil of southern Indiana.

Those that were left in Indiana; Grandpa, Grandma, Ed and family and Aubrey, held a sale to get rid of what they couldn't take with them and loaded their belongings, which included twelve hens and a rooster each for Mom and Grandma, on an emigrant train car and took off for Wyoming in April of 1916. That is, the three men did. We womenfolks arrived on June 16, 1916. Dad and Fred met us in Douglas in a nice rented three seated buckboard and we went out to Bear Creek the next day. Grandpa was just coming home from Ray Vincent's place a quarter mile east of them. He'd been down to help water their garden.

We lived on Carl's homestead that summer as he had a house on it. The house had just one room about 12' x 16'. We cooked and ate in it and Grandma and Grandpa slept in it. Dad, Mom and we girls had a tent to sleep in.

We girls had a great time that summer! Carl had some greyhounds, a mother and four grown sons, and we would take them and go hunting jackrabbits. We carried a long slim stick and as the dogs caught the rabbits, we'd slice a slit in the leg tendons and slide them on the stick. Rabbits were plentiful and lots of days we'd have 12 or 15 to take home. Then we'd feed them to the hounds. We only had one rule to obey, "Never go outside the fence," but when the rabbit and hounds went under the fence we went under too. But I don't think we went out of sight of the fence. We didn't let that be known at home.

Grandpa, Dad and Aubrey built Grandpa's house and ours first. They hauled logs from the Laramie Mountains. Lots of cattle ran on the open range. As the men were returning home one evening, the aforementioned hounds following, a bunch of cows took after the hounds. The hounds took after the men for protection and the men ran for the fence. Luckily, Mr. Vincent had his land fenced. Just before reaching the fence, Grandpa fell down so he



L. to r.: Georgia, Lanore and Ferol Manning 1909

just rolled the rest of the way under the fence. Grandpa was 67 years old then.

We moved into our house that winter and Grandpa moved in theirs before too much snow fell. Carl, Aubrey, Fred, Harry and a couple of men that worked with them, Fay Harris and Joe Wright, moved in with them. The men each had a round-up bed which they would unroll at night and sleep in and then roll it up next morning and pile them to one side. As soon as they got Fred's house built, Fred, Harry, Joe and Fay moved into it.

Grandpa's and our houses each had two rooms 15' x 15' with a cellar dug underneath. Between the two rooms was a space three and one half feet wide where the cellar door was. We cooked, ate and Mom and Dad slept in the kitchen. In the living room were us girls' beds, a heater and rocking chairs.

We could get coal at several places near us. But we got ours about three miles west of Carl's place. It seemed to be a large vein but not too thick. It was along the creek under a bank. Several people got their coal there. Most of them spent a lot of time getting the coal uncovered and blasted loose, then hauled to their homes.

To have a school we had to have six students and furnish a school house. As there were only the three of us Manning children and one Vincent child we didn't have school the first year. The second year, Dad built a school house out of logs and the school district hired one of the Ryan girls (Emma, I believe) to teach. She brought her little brother and sister along to make the six pupils. They stayed as long as needed to qualify for the school, then went back to their home. The County Superintendent visited our school. It was Maud Dawes and she came out with a team and buggy and a driver. It was 40 miles out there, but they'd come out one day and go back the next.

We had good gardens in those days. We watered ours



from our windmill well near the house and grew most of the vegetables they had grown in Indiana except sweet potatoes. Mom and Grandma canned all the vegetables they could. We ate a lot of navy beans in those days. We also had bacon, gravy, potatoes, sometimes antelope, there was no season on them then, and the canned stuff or fresh garden stuff.

In the early days the antelope herds were much smaller than now. And as the hordes of homesteaders came in, they got smaller and smaller. With no season and the homesteaders being poor, the antelope meat was a big help. I knew one homesteader who boasted that he never shot antelope one at a time. He lined up at least two of them and killed both with one bullet. But, as with many things, they became too greedy and only took the choice parts when they killed an antelope, leaving the rest to rot. So as the antelope became so scarce the Game and Fish put a closed season on them for several years.

The mail came out three times a week. At first they carried it in buckboards and teams, changing horses at Sage Creek, Eighty Eight Ranch and Ross. Then the following day they returned to Douglas changing horses at the same places.

We traveled in a farm wagon or rode horseback. We had one buckboard which could be used to make a trip to town if in a hurry. Otherwise, we used the bigger wagon to haul supplies. Mom got sick one summer and had to be taken to town and kept there for a month. Georgia got bucked off a milk cow and her shoulder thrown out of place, so she got a trip to town in the buckboard.

Harry, Carl and Aubrey were in World War I. Harry was the only one to go overseas. He helped take care of the horses and learned to mend harnesses and saddles. He was sent overseas with a shipload of 1700 head of horses and the Armistice was signed on the way over. So they took care of the horses and saw the sights and came back across in the spring. Carl and Aubrey were sick a good part of the time they were in the army.

My mother passed away on January 16, 1919 from uremic poison. We girls went to live with Grandma's family. Dad went to Lance Creek to work in the oil fields and Grandma took us down in the fall so we could go to school. We came back to Bear Creek for the summer.

Dad got real good wages for those times. He worked as a toolpusher for two years and saved his money and then came back to Bear Creek in the spring of 1921. He built a store and became Postmaster to the post office in his store. He ran this store, with us girls' help, almost the rest of his life, about 25 years.

Harry and Fred had a good sized bunch of horses when we arrived and Carl and Aubrey got the fever and went into raising horses in a big way, but it wasn't too profitable so they sold them and increased their cattle. In the late 20's Carl and Aubrey went into the sheep business too.

Aubrey married Minnie Marie Spellman on December 27, 1922. He and Carl bought the Vincent place and they moved there to live.

After we came back from Lance Creek, Lanore and I rode to school over to Cheyenne River. There was a school at the Harland place. Georgia had graduated the last spring we were at Lance Creek. Lanore and I only rode until Christmas vacation, then the weather got too

bad, cold and lots of snow. It was six miles each way. We started in the next year going to the same school and driving Grandma's horse and buggy. But that year we only lasted until Thanksgiving. Then the school board got us a teacher and we had school from the 20th of January until the 4th of August, when we graduated. That winter we went to Douglas to high school and worked for people for our room and board. It was a long four years as we only got to come home at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Grandpa (William) died on June 29, 1937 and Grandma (Martha) on October 19, 1930.

Georgia became Dad's assistant in the store and post office. She also did most of the cooking. Lanore and I didn't fare so well as cooks. We made lots of cakes, but most of them were failures, so we just ate them before Dad and Georgia came down from the store. If we stewed anything, it was sure to go dry and burn. We took cooking and sewing in high school and improved somewhat.

There were several homesteaders living in the area at the time and because of the convenience of being able to get their mail and groceries close to home, Dad did quite well with his store.

The cattle on the open range were a bother. They were used to grazing in this area before homesteaders fenced the land and they continued to come back. Some of the ranchers moved their cattle back towards headquarters in the fall, some didn't and some cattle were missed in the fall roundups. We usually had quite a few strays, and as winter set and it was cold and snowy and grass outside grew short, we had trouble keeping them out of our pasture. Some were Texas Longhorns and fences meant nothing to them. I had a horse to ride but no saddle. As I tried to chase them out, my horse, which was a good cutting horse, could turn on a dime, and when he did, I went off. He wouldn't leave me but I'd have to lead him to the fence and climb up the wires and jump off on him, which I did in a great hurry, as I had great respect for those long horns! But none ever chased me.

In the early 1930's we had both cattle and sheep; and during a dry summer, Carl leased some land up in Montana and took the cows up there. The grass didn't last long and it got so bad up there that Carl and Aubrey killed their calves as they were born to give the cows a chance. That fall the government bought cattle, paying \$12, \$16 and \$20. Dad sold all his that he brought back from Montana except one two-year-old heifer. He had refused to let the boys kill his calves, as he didn't think it was that bad. He got \$12 for his calves. But Beryl Musick wouldn't sell his cattle to them and shipped them to Sioux City, Iowa. They sent back for shipping charges as the cows didn't bring enough to pay it.

Fred and Harry sold their ranch in 1927 and bought another place down on Twenty Mile. They had to move their cows down to Wounded Knee Indian Reservation in South Dakota in 1934 as the grasshoppers cleaned out all the grass. They were down there for three years.

Fred married Imo McCreery in 1930. He wasn't too well the next few years and they made their home in Douglas until his death in 1937.

Harry continued to ranch on the Twenty Mile place his remaining years until he finally moved to town and lived in an apartment at the LaBonte Hotel until he was

no longer able to care for himself. Then he moved to Michael Manor and passed away in 1976.

Carl married Genevieve Heine in 1937. They had four sons, Donald, Roy, Warren and Harry. Donald and family live in wheatland. Roy was killed in a mine accident in Colorado. Warren and wife Judy Russell and two sons live on the home ranch on Skunk Creek. They raise sheep and some cattle. Judy is a nurse. Harry and wife Veletia live on a ranch south of Wheatland. They raise cattle. Carl died on July 20, 1958.

Dad married Eulalah McMichael from Milltown, Indiana on June 18, 1931. They continued to run the store and raise cows. He bought another ranch, Tom Fleming's place on Cheyenne River in 1942. Since he wanted to move down to the new ranch in the winters, he closed the store as it wasn't too lucrative a business any more. He enjoyed his cattle and sheep on the new ranch for another five years and passed away September 13, 1947.

Georgia went to California in 1925 to live with Grandma Temple Stroud. She worked in a hotel there until she married Claude Berry from Texas. They came back to Wyoming and tried ranching for a while, but returned to California and went into the motel grocery business. They had three children; Everett, who lives in Yuba City, California with his wife, Liz. He is an engineer and builds bridges, roads, etc. Liz teaches. They have two children, Bridget and Scott. Paul lived in San Diego after spending 20 years in the navy. He passed away on July 2, 1980. Patricia married Terry Ewoldt, an electrician. They have three children: Kevin, Tamara and Allison and live in Colfax, California.

Lanore and I taught school for many years. Then she married Harvey Middaugh, a jack of all trades, and lived mostly around Gillette except for a few years when they lived in Douglas with Harvey barbering and Lanore working in the seed house. They had twins, Ruth and John.

Ruth married Earl William Lensen and they had two children. After she divorced Earl she married Clarence Richards and they have a son, Alvin. Alvin married Rebecca Bennet of Grace, Idaho, and have twins, Kandi and Shantel and live in Idaho. Earl Jr., her older son, married Norma Forney. They have three children; Penny (Warren), Wayne and his second wife, Beverly Achenbach Lenzen, have a son, Harvey Adam Lensen. Earlene has two children, Robert Ray and Amer Lanore. She is married to Bill Ferguson.

John married Jeri Collett of Cokeville and they moved to California with the Baren Company where he worked as electrical engineer. He's worked for them for many years flying all over the world to check out and install their equipment. They have five daughters: Michele; Julene Jolley who has two children, Sarah Lyn and John Mackay; Kristine Sandoval has a little boy; Pamela; and Kimberly.

I married Roy C. Baker from Lusk in 1942. He came back to Dad's ranch in 1944 and worked for him until he passed away in 1947. Then we bought out the girls' shares and ranched with my stepmother until we bought her out in 1968. Our two children, Ed and wife, Linda, and their two sons, Rick and Tim and our daughter, Kathy, and her husband, Dave Blaylock, and children Wendy, Ranae and Davy all live here at the ranch, one family on each side of

us. Kathy has some horses and Dave works as a pumper on nearby oil wells. Ed has a tractor with a snow plow and has spent the last six weeks plowing roads free of snow for in and out traffic for these oil companies and to get hay to the cattle.

Ferol Manning Baker

## Marburger, George and Addie Family

George and Addie Marburger came to Converse County, Wyoming from Keya Paha County, Nebraska in March 1916. They loaded an "emigrant car" on the Northwestern Railroad at Burke, South Dakota with household goods, farming tools, two milk cows, three horses, barrels of cured pork and several sacks of flour and potatoes. Addie's brothers, Orlando, Carl and Harold Cram came with the car and looked after the stock. George, Addie, their daughters, Gladys, Alice, Althea and sons, Roy and Fred rode the passenger train to Shawnee. They rented a house in Shawnee so that they would have a place to live until their home was completed on the homestead about four miles west of Shawnee. Their home was partially underground with a log house on top about 12 x 42 and they lived in the "dug out".

The four older children drove to Fisher where they went to school for five years. Roy drove the buggy to school. They later attended school at Shawnee until 1924 when the family moved to Careyhurst. Gayle, the youngest member of the family, was born on the homestead with Addie's mother, Lorinda Cram, acting as midwife, on April 4, 1922.

In 1933, the family moved to the Hamilton place near Natural Bridge where Gayle attended Pleasant Valley School and Fred rode horseback to the Jenne place to catch the school bus to attend high school in Douglas.

In 1940 they moved to the Stewart place on Irvine Road. Gayle had taken a teaching position at Willowdell School out of Glenrock and later went to Lander to teach. She met Jack Armstrong while in Lander. They were married in 1941 at her parents' home in Irvine. She worked several years in the Fremont County Sheriff's Office, retiring recently.

The Marburgers moved from the Irvine Ranch to Mortons Ranch to work as cook and chore hand until 1949 when they moved to Fred's ranch on the North Platte River west and south of Orpha.

George and Addie worked in the LaPrele community, helping to build the LaPrele Hall and assisting at many of the dances that were held there. They celebrated their 50th wedding at the hall in 1953.

Addie received the Quealy Award for Outstanding Homemaker in 1948.

Fred married Hazel Wright in 1935. They met when she came to the Pleasant Valley School in 1934 to teach. After George's death in 1957, Addie lived with Fred and Hazel at their ranch until they moved to Douglas in 1959 and she lived in a house close to them. Addie died on December 19, 1967.

Fred and Hazel lived at Careyhurst working for Gladys and Floyd Cady until September 1936 when they moved to Dubois, Wyoming. They left Dubois after Georgia was born and moved to the Rookstool place out of Douglas. In 1939 they moved to the Unland place, where

the KOA Campground is now and in 1941 moved to the ranch on the North Platte River, west and south of Orpha. He drove the school bus for his children and many of the children to attend Orpha School. Later he drove the bus to Douglas for all of the children to attend grade and high school in Douglas when the Orpha School closed.

He was very proud that he got to escort all of his daughters down the aisle to be married in the First United Methodist Church in Douglas. Each of the girls was given to a Robert!

During the '49 blizzard, we were snowed in for six weeks before the county plowed us out. We were able to get around and feed out stock with a team and hay rack. All of us went as we were afraid to leave the children at the house with coal and wood fires. We kept warm by clapping our hands and jumping up and down. It was impossible to keep them all filled up as the cold weather seemed to demand a constant food intake. We ran out of coffee and butter. Fred and the kids skated up the river to our neighbors, Adolph Whitings and they gave us the butter and coffee until we could get into town. We were snowed in from January 1 to February 22, 1949. It was a happy day when we could get out and also to get the children to school.

Fred was killed by lightning on July 7, 1976 on Walt Reynolds Ranch, while riding his horse after working livestock.

Hazel Marburger

## Margritz, George and Dorothy

George Oliver and Dorothy Elizabeth Dahl Margritz came to Converse County, Wyoming from Stuart, Nebraska in about 1915. They were farmers in Nebraska and came out to get a homestead in Converse County. They had eight children. One child had died very young. The other seven children were all grown by the time they went to Wyoming. The youngest of the children was Earl Forrest who came out to Wyoming a short time later. He made the trip out with a nephew, Forrest Dawe.

George and Dorothy Margritz took a homestead as did a daughter, Grace, and her husband, Fred Dawe. A nephew of George and Dorothy Margritz named Ed Walter and his wife, Mildred, also took a homestead. When Earl Margritz arrived in Wyoming, he took 320 acres and after he had proved up on it, he received the other 320 acres. These four homesteads adjoined each other and were located about twelve miles east of Douglas.

Earl Margritz and Forrest Dawe came out to the Douglas area in a covered wagon drawn by horses. They shot rabbits and prairie chicken to supplement their food supply. Sometimes they would get a rancher along the way to trade a rabbit for a chicken. When they reached the Wyoming line, they had to wait several days for a veterinarian inspection.

The Margritzes built a log cabin first and had a well drilled for water. In time, they built some more buildings for their livestock and chickens. They went over to a ravine with a wagon and dug coal out of the ground to burn in their stoves. They had a garden and raised sheep, goats, ducks and chickens.

Whenever some of their family came out to visit

them, they would take them to Ayres Natural Bridge because it was the main geological attraction. They also went to the Wyoming State Fair. The women in the family did fancy work and made butter and canned goods to be displayed at the fair.

After Earl Magritz had been in Converse County about four years, he built a small one room log cabin for himself and then went back to Stuart and married his childhood sweetheart, Lela Florence Bailey, and brought her out to Wyoming. They drove a Model T Ford car out and when some of the hills were too steep for the car to go up, Earl would back it up the hill because it had more power in reverse. They arrived in the night time and ever since, Lela was turned in directions.

In their small log cabin, they had a bed in one corner, one little cupboard made out of the table leaves, a little table that belonged to Earl's mother and a broken down stove with only three legs. They put bricks under the one corner where the leg was missing. The wood box was under the window and they just opened the window and threw the wood into the box.

One day, Lela decided to change the furniture around and accidentally pushed the corner of the table through the window. She baked her own bread and mixed it up at night. She put the sponge mixture in fruit jars and put the fruit jars in a suitcase then put the suitcase under the covers at the foot of the bed in order to keep the dough warm.

One time when Lela went back to visit her parents in Stuart, Earl built on a nice back bedroom and dug a hole under the house for a food cellar with a trap door. Lela was pleased when she came back to her little cabin. One day, Lela stepped back, forgot the trap door was open, and fell through. After that, they always shut the door.

The ducks and the billy goat didn't like Lela. Their wash house adjoined the house with just a small space between them. The billy goat took a notion to chase Lela one day. She ran between the wash house and the house and the billy goat got his horns caught between the buildings. They finally sold the billy goat and Lela was glad.

On the homestead where George and Dorothy lived, there was a huge outcropping of rocks. When relatives came out to visit them, they took pictures of the people on the rock pile. On the flat plateau overlooking a large valley to the north were many circles or rocks where Indians had pitched their teepees in years gone by, so they could have a good view of the valley below them. The Indians laid rocks on the bottom edge of the animal skin walls of their teepees to hold them down. Earl Margritz found many arrowheads in this area.

After about four years of married life, Lela got pregnant and went to the doctor. All the doctor did was tell her she was pregnant and gave her a string to measure her stomach to see if it was growing. She was afraid out there away from her family and she was sure she was going to die when the baby was born, so Earl and Lela moved back to Stuart, Nebraska.

Earl's mother, Dorothy Margritz, had heart trouble. The doctor said she couldn't live out there anymore, so then George and Dorothy Margritz came back to Nebraska also.

When George and Dorothy Margritz died, their homestead was split up between the children. Earl and Lela rented their homestead to a neighbor, Henry Reese, who grazed sheep on it for many years. After Henry Reese died, they rented it to Mrs. Reese and later to their son. Then later, it was rented to Lester and Grace Wintermote. Since Lester's death, it has been rented to Grace Wintermote.

Earl Margritz died on January 12, 1971 and Lela Margritz died on July 24, 1977. The homestead was passed on to their three children, Jean Ingram Margritz Walker, Robert Earl Margritz and Glenn Edward Margritz.

Robert E. Margritz

## Marsh, Clarence and Anna

Clarence Milton Marsh was born on December 20, 1875 in Kansas City, Kansas, the son of Frank and Emma Marsh. After his father passed away, his mother married George Goodwin in 1891 and moved to Wyoming bringing Clarence and his sister, Dell, with them.

He attended a photography school in Kansas City; and after coming to Wyoming, he followed the photographers trade. Many of his early photos are marked with the address of Guthrie, Wyoming on them. Later he also had a photo shop in Douglas and also operated a "three-for-a-dime" booth. For many years the Marsh Studio was the only photography shop in Douglas and for many years took all the school pictures.

Mr. Marsh married Anna Hildebrand Pexton, the young widow of Glen Pexton and daughter of Fred Sr. and Mary Hildebrand, on April 14, 1920. Clarence and Anna became the parents of three children: Edward F., Clarence M. and Mary Ellen.

The Marshs purchased a farm under the LaPrele Dam located immediately south of Chalk Buttes, southwest of Douglas where they lived for a while. The Glen Russell family live there in 1985.

The Photo Studio was located in the Goodwin Rooms Building. Mrs. Marsh also ran the Goodwin Rooms for many years.

Clarence died on February 18, 1960: Anna died on April 8, 1971.

John R. Pexton

## Martin, Harley and Nellie

My father and mother, Cal and Annie Martin moved to Wyoming from Minnesota in June 1917 with the four of us kids. There was my brother Charlie, my sisters, Dicy and Adeana and myself, Harley. We homesteaded north and east of Glendo where we went to school in a little log school house. There were twelve kids in the school including the teacher's boy. The teacher's name was Elvira Shull.

The spring when I was 15 I went to work for Platte Valley Sheep Company as kind of a roustabout. I was helping at about everything that had to be done around the Muddy Ranch. The last job was herding buck sheep. When they were put in with the ewes in December, I left

and went home to school.

The next spring I went back to work for them the first day of May. I was to help with the lambing. We pushed the sheep onto Indian Creek. The coyotes were so bad everyone had to sleep out with the ewes and lambs and we used lots of lanterns. When we were through lambing we worked the sheep up country and finally landed in Morrison Valley for headquarters. The Wilsons had three bands of ewes and lambs that summer. I helped at moving camp and hauling sheep, salt and groceries. It was all done with horses and wagons. The distance between McKinley Ranch and the sheep wagon seemed a million miles.

That summer we had some trouble with the bears. We put out lanterns and that didn't stop them. We tried sleeping out with the sheep, but that didn't stop them so we had to move the sheep out of that camp. That fall when we were loading lambs on railroad cars at Orin it rained steady for a day and a night. Everyone was soaked. That was the fall when they had the Cole Creek flood. That winter I stayed on at McKinley Ranch. My job was to haul hay to eleven hundred ewes and odds and ends of cattle. Each night I took the mail to Spur. That winter they shipped lots of wool blankets out of McKinley. I'd come back and milk cows and take care of the team and two saddle horses. The next spring the Wilsons decided to lamb on the Muddy Creek. It rained a lot that April and there was no bottom in what roads we had. Anytime you went between the ranches you had to pull someone out with a car out of a mudhole. There weren't many cars in those times.

We started to lamb just west of Jewell Springs and everything was going just fine until the tenth of May, 1922 when we got one of the worst blizzards I ever saw. The drop herd was southwest of Sturgis Lake up on a bench. Of course the night herder couldn't hold them so he got inside a small sheep tent and stayed until next evening when the wind went down.

I was sleeping with a bunch of ewes across Muddy Creek and never got out of bed until the next afternoon. There wasn't a sheep in sight. Our sheep boss, John McKinsy, started drifting with the drop herd trying to hold them together, but he was losing them all the time. At two o'clock he got into Fay Lewin's homestead cabin. They begged him not to go out again, but he was bound to try to find the sheep. He wasn't found for twelve days after the storm, frozen to death under the snow. Two weeks after the storm we were still digging sheep out of drifts and skinning sheep and pulling wool.

Later that spring someone pulled a sheep wagon in on Willow Creek just below Ernie Adams' cabin, bringing a herder with a bunch of yearling ewes. The herder wanted to quit so Byron Wilson told me to take another herder down and bring the other one back. I hitched up the buckboard and hauled the herder down. As it was only three miles to my folks' place I decided to go over and spend the night. The next morning Willow Creek was like the Platte River. I had to go a quarter of a mile downstream to find the wagon. When I was able to get across the herders told me they woke in the night and thought the wind was blowing the wagon. One of them opened the door and the water rushed in and leveled off right under the bottom of the bed, and the wagon settled and

stopped. If they had gotten in the main current it would have been bad. As it was, all the grub was ruined and I had to go right back to McKinley for more.

The next spring we lambled in February. I was doing the night work. We had a good lamb crop, but had to put the sheep out on grass too early because we ran out of feed and lost some lambs because of it.

I quit that fall and decided to help my father and brother with some dry farming. We raised some wheat and quite a bit of corn. We picked all the corn by hand and would start in October and work till December. At that time people were giving dances all across the country. My brother and I went quite a bit on saddle horses and had lots of good times. I went to work on the highway one winter when they were building it from Glendo to Orin. They had tents put up on Elkhorn Creek. That was where we camped until we got as far as Shaw's and then we stayed there. We used mules. They had three old trucks but we couldn't keep them running. Red Cole and Happy Mick were two guys who worked with me. Baggly from Wheatland had the contract.

Nellie McCormick came out there in the fall of 1925 to teach school. We started seeing each other and on February 12, 1927 we were married. That spring we moved on Spanish Creek. We bought the Bud Gill home and lived there for 28 years, where we had six children, four boys and two girls. We had some hard times and went through 1934 when the government bought the cows, as I remember twelve dollars for old cows and eighteen for young ones. They killed the old ones right on the place.

But from then on things picked up. We began to buy more grassland. The loan companies were glad to get rid of it for \$1.50 to \$2.50 an acre. In 1954 we sold out to George Reese because we were having so much trouble about school. About that time our oldest daughter, Dorene, married Don Craft and moved eleven miles east of Hat Creek Store. We bought the old Bill Riff farm south of Wheatland and were there two years. We moved from there to Douglas, first on the Eastman place, then on the Anthony place. This was around 1956 and I rode ditch one summer there. In the fall I helped Etta Nichols get her hay in.

We moved from there to a place south of Casper, then on to Pavillion, Wyoming where we bought a small farm and lived there from 1960 to 1977 when we moved back to Wheatland. We have raised registered Corriedale sheep since 1950 and are well known all over the state for our good rams.

My grandfather told us that his father and some neighbors moved from Kentucky before the war between the states in covered wagons and homesteaded in Iowa. The wagons were pulled by oxen and they drove a herd of white hogs with them. My grandfather only had one brother and he was killed in the war.

My children are:

Don Martin .....	Gillette
Dorene Martin Craft .....	Lusk
Sherman Martin .....	Guernsey
Albert Martin .....	Hartville
Mary Martin Foy .....	Evanston
Calvin Martin .....	Ft. Sumner, NM

Harley Martin

## Martin, Tom and Hazel Family

Tom Martin was born in Westfield, Massachusetts on June 29, 1871. His grandfather, George Martin, died in 1845 in County Meath, Ireland at the time of the Irish potato famine. After selling their land, Tom's Grandmother Ellen (Emma) Martin brought her son, Philip, and six other children to America where they worked and bought land and farmed. Philip, Tom's father, went west to the gold rush, then later returned to Massachusetts and married an Irish lass, Rosanna Dugan, January 19, 1864. The fourth child born to their marriage was little Thomas. The family remained in Westfield, Massachusetts until Grandmother Ellen (Emma) passed away. Then, Philip sold his farm and took his wife and six children west about 1879. They traveled by railroad into Missouri where a seventh child was born and then on west to Sheridan County, Kansas where the family settled. Here they built a soddie for their home.

Tom's father got the wander-lust again and soon took his young son west to work in the mines of western Montana. When they returned to Kansas, Tom was still in his teens. Tom liked the mountains he had seen and soon left home to see more of the Rocky Mountain area. About 1890 Tom worked as a cowboy helping to trail the big herds of cattle being brought north from Texas into Wyoming. In 1895 he joined Peck Harris in Deer Creek



Thomas J. Martin 1905



Park where they ranched, bought and sold cattle. In 1906 Tom bought out Mr. Harris' share of the ranch and the ranch became known as the Tom Martin Ranch located in Deer Creek Park of Converse County (where the VR has their cow camp now).

From this point on in my story I'll call Tom Martin "Dad" as this is what he was to me.

There was a cabin, shed, small shop and other buildings on Dad's ranch. He had a desert claim where he raised hay and grain. Dad prospected the Deer Creek Mountains for any minerals that could be mined. A fortune teller once told him that he would make his fortune from the ground. Dad interpreted this to mean mining but his life was devoted to the soil, ranching and farming, and he was successful at that.

Dad had many friends in Converse County. Among them were Peck Harris, Tom Robinson, Sr. and Buzz Philbrick. Dad said that as young men they thought nothing of riding 30 or 40 miles horseback to a Saturday night dance.

Dad loved his horses and cattle. He bought and sold cattle and strove throughout his life to build a high quality breeding herd of Hereford cattle.

One summer Tom Robinson, Sr. worked for Dad during haying. At the end of the summer Robinson received a team of horses for his summer's work.

Dad bought horses from the Indians and carried whiskey in his roundup wagon to trade for the horses. If the whiskey wasn't hidden, the Indians would raid his camp and steal the whiskey. Dad would dig holes in the creek bed, put the jugs of whiskey in the holes and cover them with the creek gravel. They were well hidden as the creek soon covered any trace of the digging. After the horse trading was done and the Indians were paid for their horses there was still a challenge to outsmart the Indians as they would happily steal the horses back at night. Dad and the hired man would start trailing the horses home but when they corralled them at night, one of them would sleep in the corral gate so they would be awakened if the Indians came for the horses.

Trapping was another of Dad's interests and he was good at it. He trapped for beaver pelts. With so many different streams and so many miles of stream to search for the beaver in the fall of the year, Dad soon learned to do a good bit of his searching with field glasses. He would study the distant creeks looking for a leaning tree with dried browned leaves which contrasted sharply with the green and gold foliage of the live trees. This brown leafed tree was a sign that beaver had tried to fell it but it had hung up in the other timber. Then Dad would ride to that area, locate the beaver dam and set his traps for a successful trip.

One time Dad spotted such a place but when he rode into the site, he found a dead trapper sitting upright leaning against a tree. The old man was in the process of skinning a beaver when he died and he had several pelts on willow stretchers nearby. The man had apparently died of exposure or a heart attack.

Men who worked for Dad always liked him. He was never too busy on a hot summer day but what they could take a break to go fishing or take a dip in a nearby stream.

Dad always had a pistol nearby, even under his

pillow at night. There were snakes, bear and other undesirable creatures in the early days, even unfriendly Indians. One moonlight summer night he was aroused from a deep sleep. Something white moved ominously in his open bedroom window. He quickly drew his revolver and fired but it turned out that his intruder was only a white faced steer. Dad frequently told that story on himself and enjoyed a good laugh.

On June 3, 1915 he planned to be married to Hazel Dell Stephens, whose father had homesteaded in Deer Creek Park. A wedding reception was planned and arranged for at the apartment of Hazel's sister, Bess, and her husband, Carl Price, who lived in Casper. When it came time for the wedding, Hazel's father refused to sign the papers as Hazel was not yet 18. Consequently, the reception refreshments were stored in the icebox while Hazel and Tom boarded the train for Harrison, Nebraska where they could be married without parental consent. They returned the next day to participate in the postponed reception. Mom and Dad made their home in Deer Creek Park.

My brother, Tommy, was born in 1916 and my sister, Edna, was born in Denver in 1918, the year that Tommy died. I was born on the ranch in Deer Creek Park in the summer of 1920. When I was not yet three, Dad sold the ranch and we moved to Denver for a brief time. Then Dad bought the George Martin Ranch in Bates Hole of Natrona County. We were not related to the former owner. We moved there about March of 1923. I was three that summer and my younger sister, Laura, was born in November. Sometime later Dad bought cattle from Texas. They were mostly horns. They were supposed to be two-year-olds but they had horns that were two to three feet long. Dehorning them was a wild and bloody mess, and I wasn't allowed to watch.

Bates Hole was not unfamiliar to Dad when we moved there. Even before he was married he had made a special and difficult trip to the area. Rancher John Tobin offered him a considerable sum of money to bring his grain separator, better known now as a threshing machine, into Bates Hole. It was a very large, top-heavy, cumbersome piece of equipment and it took several teams to get it there. After leaving his ranch the teams pulled the separator up the west fork of Deer Creek to Camp Rock, then to the head of Smith Creek and to Dead Cow Spring, and through to the old Medicine Bow Road which is now called Bates Creek Road. When the side hills were very steep, Dad would hook several teams to the upper side of the separator and the teams would have to walk sideways, pulling against the weight of the machine to keep it from tipping over. It was a treacherous but successful trip.

Dad was a member of several pioneer organizations: The Old Time Cowboy Association, a life member of the Wyoming Pioneer Association, the Wyoming Stock Growers and an organizing member of the Wyoming Production Credit Association.

Dad ranched in Bates Hole for the remainder of his life. He bought and fattened Longhorn steers, traded horses and continued to improve the quality of his Hereford cattle. The apple and cherry orchards provided cash crops during the depression of the '30s. He saw to it that his children got the education he never had. Then, while I

was in the service during World War II, Dad suffered a series of strokes. I saw him only once after my discharge. He died October 28, 1945 at age 74, a proud and honest man.

Myron Martin

## Masek, John and Della Family

*"Della Strickland= Expect to be there this evening arrived McCook with love= Jack"*

It's a simple enough message, but this is no ordinary telegram. It's an invitation to a wedding.

On January 15, 1931, Miss Lu Della Strickland and Mr. John L. Masek were married in Lincoln, Nebraska at the home of close family friends, Mr. and Mrs. Charles VanPatten. The young couple, having met several years earlier at a dance held at the Summit Inn, located between Cheyenne and Laramie, Wyoming, had discovered an immediate dislike for one another. It wasn't until six months later that either one of them was willing to chance a second date. This time they attended the Cheyenne Frontier Days and it was love at second sight.

During their courtship and for a short while after they married, Miss Strickland, better known as "Della" to family and friends, worked as an obstetrics supervisor at Memorial Hospital in Cheyenne, Wyoming. She had obtained her job at Memorial after graduating from the University of Nebraska in June 1928 with a degree in nursing. Her specialty, obstetrics (the care of pregnant women and new-born infants), would prove to be a long-lasting and rewarding career.

John Masek, also known as "Jack" or "Doc", was similarly involved in providing health care as a chiropractor in Sterling, Colorado. He had received his education at the National College of Chiropractic in Chicago, Illinois and at the Denver College of Chiropractic, Denver, Colorado. His career, too, would span decades and provide many rewards, the least of which were monetary. In the early years of his practice he was as likely to receive a chicken or sack of potatoes in payment as he was to receive cash.

When Della, as a new bride, joined her husband in Sterling, Colorado, her knowledge of infants and infant care was invaluable, even though she was not employed as a nurse during their stay in Sterling. She and John had started their own family and were blessed with their first child, Rosemary, on September 7, 1931. Their second child, John Alan, was born a year later, on September 14, 1932. It was a time of happiness, the hopeful beginning of a new family, but it was also a time of despair, the frightful beginning of the Great Depression.

Money was scarce, with little or no work for a chiropractor. Fortunately for the Masek family there was an alternative means for survival. If John couldn't support them by practicing chiropractic in Sterling, then he would take them back to the land, back to his homestead in Wyoming.

On December 21, 1922, John Masek, then 21 years old, had received a grant of 640 acres, 14 miles east of Douglas, Wyoming from the President of the United States, Warren G. Harding. The land was designated as a "homestead." Young John was positive there was oil on the land and that someday he would see wells drilled on

it. Several pieces of correspondence, dated in 1935 and 1936, illustrate John's interest in seeing "geologizing and drilling operations" begun on his land. However, back in 1922, before he could realize his dreams of discovering oil or see to his education as a doctor of chiropractic, he had to meet certain requirements in order to retain his homestead. He had to "prove up" and that he did, where among other things, he built a small one room house. It was back to this setting that he moved his young family in the spring of 1933.

Their mailing address was Shawnee, Wyoming. They owned one milk cow (bought with four tons of coal) and one Chevy coupe. The car was cantankerous in the winter and the cow spent more time wandering the prairie than she did in the barn. One day, while Della was searching for the ever-roaming cow, little John and Rosemary, "a mischievous pair, who took every advantage", got into the stove blacking and before their mother returned home, they had completely covered themselves in the black goop. Della was forced to give them a bath in kerosene before she could give them a water bath. She recalls being annoyed at having to waste "all that good water" which had to be hauled to the house by hand. Rosemary recalls that she and John had "lots of fun."

It was during this time that the elder John operated a coal mine on the homestead property in order to pay the bills and "keep his family in groceries." Paying bills presented a special problem with creditors having to wait months before receiving payment for goods.

As was true with the majority of Americans during the depression, the getting of food for oneself and one's family was a daily struggle. There were times when the only food in the Masek house was oatmeal and that was what the family ate three times a day. It was on just such a day, toward evening, that Della noticed an old car coming up the road to their place. Having been convinced that "western hospitality" dictated that you always shared a meal with company when they showed up at meal time, she worried out loud, "We haven't anything to feed them." Three year old John overheard his mother and took matters into his own hands. Before he could be stopped he ran out to the car and exclaimed to the strangers inside, "We haven't anything to eat!" As it turned out the people in the car were selling melons. Touched by the child's candor and being generous in nature they gave the family several free melons.

Generosity during those hard years often meant the difference between living a day with hope or living it with despair. During 1935 the Maseks had virtually no money, and at Christmas time that year, with the temperature at 40 degrees below zero, there was no chance of reaching the Shawnee Post Office or grocery store. The Chevy coupe wouldn't start and for John to walk the seven miles to Shawnee and back, even with his booted feet and legs wrapped in gunny sacks, was out of the question in the freezing weather. Just when it seemed that the situation was indeed hopeless, a neighbor, from several miles away, came by in his truck and offered to take John to town. When he returned home, he was laden with packages and the makings of a simple Christmas dinner. It seemed relatives and friends, far and near, had remembered them in their isolation. There were warm clothes and toys for the children. It was indeed a happy, hopeful

Christmas.

By the fall of 1936 conditions had improved a good deal for the Masek family and they were able to move to Casper, Wyoming. Rosemary was old enough to start school. Dr. John Masek was able to resume his practice of chiropractic and Della was able to resume her nursing at Memorial Hospital in Casper. On September 27, 1940, a third and last child, Tommy David, was born to Della and John. As for John's dream of discovering oil on the homestead property, "Well just like they say, thar are gold in those hills, if you know where it is..." Joseph Neuzel wrote to his cousin, John, on November 23, 1935. And there was gold "black gold", in those hills outside Shawnee. Ironically, however, oil wasn't discovered until 1981, twelve years after John's death. But, as Joseph also reminded his cousin, back in 1935, "A fellow is never lost until all hope is lost. But let's keep up hope and then some more hope." And John Masek never gave up hope.

Kelly K. Masek

## Mason, Clarence, Velma, and Ruth

My father, Fred D. Mason, was born July 4, 1877 in Franklin County, Iowa. He died April 18, 1938 in Sioux County, Harrison, Nebraska.

My mother, Carrie A. Frazier, was born December 14, 1876, in Missouri Valley, Iowa. She died March 13, 1950 in Natrona County, Casper, Wyoming. She was Scotch and Irish descent. My father was English descent.

Fred D. Mason and Carrie A. Frazier were united in marriage January 13, 1898. To this union were born three children: Beatrice Fern, born November 4, 1898, died January 5, 1943; Clarence Sampson, born December 10, 1902; and Margarete Kathryn, born September 21, 1905 and died in Luray, Virginia.

I, Clarence Sampson Mason, was born near Fort Robinson, Nebraska on Soldier Creek where my folks ranched at that time. I grew up in that community and my early education was in a country school near our home.

When I was eleven years old my mother and father separated and divorced. I went to Petes, Colorado to live with my father's brother, Lester Mason, who farmed. I worked in the harvest fields until that seasonal work ended, then I worked on other farms in that area for about three years. In about 1917 I came back to Andrews, Nebraska to live with my father and his second wife, Victoria Sundstrom. Father was maintenance foreman for the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad at Andrews, Nebraska then.

At the beginning of World War I, I was drafted on the labor force on the railroad until the Armistice was signed November 11, 1918.

On November 11, 1918 I was working on a small extra gang repairing railroad track at Node, Wyoming. To celebrate this happy event we took about 75 old ties from a pile near by, set them on fire. Nearby ranchers and farmers seeing the smoke thought the Node Post Office and store was on fire. They came as an army. When they learned the true motive, food, music - everything was quickly recruited and what a celebration we had. We



Shoveling out Northwestern snow plow 1949 blizzard L. to R.: Clark White, Clarence Mason and Miles Bradbury.

danced right on the ground until wee morning hours.

This same fall I quit working for the railroad and worked on farms and road grading crews around Harrison, Nebraska. Then May 2, 1923 I went back to work for the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad.

November 14, 1923 I married Velma Alice Wright of Harrison, Nebraska in Hot Springs, South Dakota. This same fall I took the foreman's job at Fisher, Wyoming located seven miles west of Shawnee, Wyoming.

To this union were born two children: Dorothy Jean, born December 29, 1925 at Fisher, Wyoming and died February 14, 1983 at Forsythe, Montana; Donald Lee, born May 22, 1934 at Fetterman, Wyoming.

We lived in a boxcar at Fisher, Wyoming. I was stationed there for three and one half years, then we moved to Fetterman, Wyoming. In the years that followed, we moved 17 times in 19 years, being located as far east as Crawford, Nebraska, and as far west as Natrona, Wyoming. In 1939 we moved to our first location in Shawnee, Wyoming. We saw some real hard times, used orange crates for cupboards, spike kegs for chairs and ate many rabbits and sage chickens. But by staying on the job we had enough to keep us going.

Three events were outstanding experiences during this entire period of time:

In the fall of 1946 the whole area of Douglas and east to include the Shawnee area, suffered a destructive and killing rain and hail storm. The hail was as large as baseballs - killing calves, lambs and any kind of birds, hawks, etc. Roofs were battered and the overhang of eaves were broken as though one had taken a sledge hammer to break them. Needless to say, the rodeo and afternoon program at the Wyoming State Fair came to a sudden end. People in the grandstands fainted from shock and fright. Much track and many bridges were washed out from Casper, Wyoming to Crawford, Nebraska.

The second event - The Lost Springs track foreman, Dan Tracy had his handcar on the track and was giving it a push to get it started to go west. He stubbed his toe and fell. The car started and got away from him. It ran to Orin Junction, Wyoming, where a section crew derailed it

and got it stopped.

Third - The never to be forgotten blizzard of January 3, 1949. Velma and I had also established a residence in Douglas, Wyoming so she could send Donald to school. I had taken them to Douglas and by the time I got back to Shawnee the snow was so deep I drove in second gear. Many cars and trucks were stuck around Shawnee. About 50 people were stranded there and stayed at the Cunningham Store and individual homes for four to five days.

The snow was drifted from five feet to 25 feet deep. It took two steam engines and snow plows 17 days to go the 29 miles from Shawnee to Lusk, Wyoming. The wind blew so hard it drifted the snow back into the cuts as fast as we could clean them out. This deep snow and wind was a real problem until the first part of May.

Since 1949, I've heard folks comment that a specific storm was as bad as the blizzard of 1949, but I do not believe they saw the part of the 1949 blizzard that I saw. I've never seen a storm that bad before or since.

My first wife, Velma, died March 10, 1951, Converse County, Douglas, Wyoming.

In 1952 I married a longtime friend of Crawford, Nebraska, Mamie Jensen Bridge. She died in 1956.

In 1956 I married a local friend, Ruth Shippen Cherrington.

I retired from the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad April 2, 1957 after 35 years of service.

We devoted our full time to ranching then on the ranch Ruth had at Lost Springs, producing sheep.

In 1967 we sold our ranch, but reserved the privilege of living there. In 1969 we bought a home in Manville, Wyoming where we now reside.

The equipment that is used on a railroad today is a far cry from what we used to do our work in the 1920's and 1930's. In fact, the continuous advancement in mechanized machinery is almost unbelievable. One piece of machinery does the work of many men. All of our work was done the hard way; by pick and shovel, now it is all done by pressing a button and pulling a lever.

As I look back, at the age of 81 years plus, over that vague and foggy road of yesteryear, I am enjoying taking life a bit slower and counting my many blessings.

Clarence S. Mason

## Mason, Louis J. and Betsy Family

Louis Joseph Mason was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, August 8, 1880. He became an orphan when under three years of age. He was placed in a Catholic orphanage from which he was adopted by an elderly man with a grown family. He was known as "Old Man" Mason, (William?).

The sons were Jack Mason who was said to have settled near the Canadian border and Jim Mason who went to North Dakota. The daughters married name was Cartwright, (Cartright?). It is believed she went from Michigan to North Dakota.

"Old Man" Mason died when Louis was under ten years old. Louis went to live with the sister, probably in North Dakota. Life was hard for the young boy. He had so many chores to do he couldn't get to school until 10 o'clock or later. He quit school after the third grade.



Louis Mason

When he became old enough to leave home he went to work for his brother Jim Mason who had a large farm of around 1200 acres. Louis worked around the stock and when an epidemic of nose flies showed up in the horses, no one knew what it was. Jim's wife, (Jim had married his housekeeper scolded him severely and unjustly for neglecting the horses.

Louis got mad and headed south as far as he could go and ended up around Brownsville, Texas near the Mexican border. He rode the freight trains and walked the tracks. He said the rattlesnakes ran him off the tracks and the wild Texas Longhorn steers ran him back onto the tracks.

Louis returned to Michigan and went to the orphanage to see if he could find records of his birth and relatives but found that the orphanage had burned along with all the records.

Around 1915 he went back to work for his brother Jim and at this time he met Betsy Kaarbo, a Norwegian immigrant who was working as a kitchen helper for Mrs. Jim Mason.

Betsy Kaarbo was born in Norway not far from Narvik. Her father died when she was small. Her mother married again when she was about nine years old. They moved to Holandshann, Lofotan, Norway, (an island north of the Arctic Circle).

Betsy had four half-sisters all much younger. Times were tough, so alone, she traveled to the United States; her destination Hallock, Minnesota. She arrived at Ellis Island, New York City, in November 1904.

Betsy worked at a poor farm and other places around Hallock including being a substitute mail carrier. In 1908 she went to Daggett, Michigan, where she worked as a cook. She spent one winter in Winnipeg, Canada.

In 1910 she was back in Hallock, Minnesota. In 1914 or 15 she started to work her way to Seattle. On the way she stopped at Ellendale, North Dakota where she went to work for Mrs. Jim Mason. There she met and married Louis Mason in 1915.

Shortly after they were married they continued west together. In March 1916 they took a train to Douglas, Wyoming looking for a homestead.

A. P. Knight took Louis out in a buckboard to look for land suitable for farming. Louis saw the land at Brown Spring Divide two miles south of the 88 Ranch and decided it was what he wanted. Louis and Betsy bought a team and wagon and moved onto their homestead the tenth of May. They were caught in a late spring snow-



storm at the lower Sage Creek Crossing. One horse had a colt that night and kicked the dickens out of everything, including the other horse.

They lived in a tent until they had built a house and barn.

That same summer the Henry Liggetts homesteaded two miles south. Eph Knight homesteaded one half mile north. On the Knight place, freighters had developed a spring and well from which the Masons carried their water in a wooden barrel.

Louis cut posts at Pine Ridge that summer and fall of 1916. During the spring he had plowed a small field. The next year he plowed more and built a fence around it.

In October 1917 their first child, a boy, was born. They named him Lewis James.

More homesteaders were coming in and the Masons began to have many neighbors. They were: Floyd Turner, Carl Hornbeck, Carl Judson, Ruth Judson Osburn, Hank Lander, A. D. Fisher, Charles Schmuck, Ada Fleetwood, Fred Strey, Billy Johnson, Earl and Lucretia Lenzen, Fred Finger, Monica and Oscar Burkner, Elmer and Sid Cronk, Harry Duggans, Hoopes, Shipps, Charley Stricklers, Hiscocks and Ed Hower.

This was the Brown Springs Community. The 88 Ranch to the north and the ranches of Sears, Wheeler Eskew, Williams' Duck Creek Ranch, Fleming, Amspoker and Dick Hornbuckle.

The summer of 1919 was dry and hot with very little grass. The following winter was very hard. In December, another son was born, William Henry.

During that winter they ran low on hay for their eight head of cattle. Finally Louis was able to get to town to buy more hay. He fed them too much, and the cattle got sick and most of them died.

Liggetts had a little store on their place where they sold sugar and flour. The Masons ran out of flour so Louis hitched up his team to the sled and went over and bought some at double the price.

One Longhorn steer died just outside the house in a violent spring snowstorm. At that time the range was mostly open and livestock could drift for miles. A lot of cattle died that winter.

In 1921 a baby was stillborn to Louis and Betsy. It was buried on the homestead.

A daughter was born to them in 1923. They named her Betty Virginia.

In the fall of 1924 Louis and Charlie Schmuck and others moved the old Harlan School from Cheyenne River to a location half-way between their homesteads on to the Eph Knight's place. The first teachers at the Brown Springs School were Mr. Bowman, a Mrs. Hayhurst (she later married Chess Negley) Beulah Fisher, Mrs. Avaneil, Ferol Manning, Ruth Numrich and others.

Rains were plentiful and crops were good. Louis was now farming 40 acres of land. The community was now having Sunday School and picnics, etc.

In 1925 Louis became sick and on October 4 died of typhoid fever. Fred Domsalla and Carl Hornbeck were taking him to Douglas Hospital but he died near Mortons Ranch. Betsy was pregnant at the time; and on February 8, 1926, Lois Patricia was born.

With help from the neighbors, crops were put in by Floyd Turner, A. D. Fisher and Earl Lenzen until the boys grew up enough to do the planting.

The house burned down in the fall of 1933. A sewing machine was saved with two albums and some papers. A lot of keepsakes and pictures were lost. The neighbors all helped find a house to replace the one lost in the fire. Charley Schmuck found one in Glenrock, and it was moved to the homestead.

This was in the depression. About this time, Fred Finger, a bachelor, was run over by his hay rack and was found dead. Also, during this time, Mrs. Eph Knight died. She was very religious.

In 1934 Liggetts moved to Washington. In 1935 the Ray Weavers went to the Pacific Northwest. 1935 saw the Schmuck family move to Pavillion. Also, the Fishers left. Eph Knight and Willis moved to Glenrock. Billy Johnson sold out to Judsons. The Loyd Hutchison family moved on to the Eph Knight place for a couple of years. He was a government trapper. Later, the Floyd Turners moved to Douglas.

In 1937 Betsy became ill and on December 11, 1941 passed away and was buried in the Douglas Park Cemetery. At this time, Jim was in the army stationed in Fort Lewis, Washington. He flew home to join his younger brother and sisters.

In 1943 Bill joined the Marines, returning in 1946. Lois and Betty stayed on the homestead until Betty married Jim Gwartney in February 1948.

In September 1951, Jim Mason married Priscilla Brown. Lois married Orville Hakalo in July 1965.

Bill married Mrs. Laura Smith in 1974. They still own the old homestead that Louis and Betsy homesteaded 68 years before. This is in 1984.

William H. Mason

## Maurer, Charles F. and Mabel

Charles Maurer was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on August 19, 1861, the third child in a family of seven. His parents were Henry F. and Henrietta Miller Maurer.

Charles spent his childhood on the family farm, being educated in the public schools in Iowa. He received his higher education from Coe College in Cedar Rapids after which he read law in the offices of Rickel, Stoneman and Eastman and those of B. F. Heins during the period from 1881 to 1883. He graduated from the University of Iowa



Betsy Kaarbo carrying mail, 1904.



School of Law in 1884 and for a short time was engaged in his own practice in Cedar Rapids.

In 1885, Charles was in South Dakota looking after lands for some of his clients when he heard of the building of the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad to "Fetterman Country." He determined to try his fortune in the west and so came to Douglas in 1886.

Charles was married to Miss Mabel Parsons, a native of Iowa City, Iowa in 1887. One son, Richard C., was born to this union on September 12, 1899.

In the company of other early settlers, he took part in the development and building of Douglas, Wyoming. He entered into a law partnership with Daniel Pillott for several months until the death of Mr. Pillott. Then he continued practicing on his own. In 1916 he entered into partnership with Floyd A. Walker, forming the law firm of Maurer and Walker. This partnership continued until 1927 when Charles' son, Richard, bought out his father's interests in the firm.

Charles Maurer never had the inclination to hold public office since he regarded the pursuits of his private life of prime importance. He did, however, serve two terms as County Attorney, but declined to become a candidate for the bench. He served as city treasurer from 1890 until 1894. He was president of the Good Roads Club for a time and was largely responsible for the founding of the Carnegie Library in the city. He was a director of the First National Bank, served for 21 years on the local school board, acted as the local representative for the Pioneer Townsite Company and was the father of the Wyoming Pioneer Association.

Privately, he invested his money in ranches and livestock with great success. In addition to being retained by the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad as their attorney, Mr. Maurer was identified with many corporations in the area in a legal capacity, and at one time, Charles conducted a loan and brokerage business.

In the company of John Morton, John T. Williams, Jacob Jenne, Mart Madsen and A. D. Chamberlin, Maurer was one of the prime movers in forming the Unity Temple Building Association which established the Unity Temple Business Block on Center Street.

Fraternally, Mr. Maurer was a member of the Masonic Lodge, belonging to the Mystic Shrine and in the Scottish Rite he attained the 32nd degree. He was also a member of the Odd Fellow and Elk Lodges.

Mr. Maurer is remembered as one of the community's finest citizens, staunchest friends and most splendid builders.

Charles F. Maurer died in Denver in 1931 and is buried in the Douglas Cemetery. Mrs. Maurer who was born in 1866 died in 1956. She is buried beside her husband.

Richard married Lenore Jolley on January 25, 1923. Two sons, Richard and William were born to them.

Richard Jr. graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy. William is an officer in the U.S. Army.

Richard Sr. died in 1963. Lenore died in 1973.

Ruth Grant

## McCartney, G. H. and Lula Family

George, G.H., McCartney was born in Chappell Hill, Texas on April 14, 1864. He married Lulu Townsend, daughter of William Townsend, on April 24, 1889. Lulu was born in Texas on March 20, 1871.

G.H. and Lula had 14 children of whom three died at an early age.

They moved to Wyoming in 1915 bringing William, James Edward, Julia, Chester, Gus, Jessie, Flora, Albert and Minnie with them. They filed on a homestead northeast of Douglas on Lightning Creek.

The family lived in two dugout caves at first until a log cabin could be built. The caves continued to be used for sleeping quarters.

G.H. died on November 3, 1943; Lulu on May 22, 1943.

Julia married William Rankin. They had three children, Kathryn, Wanda and Roy. Kathryn married



L. to r.: Phyllis McCartney, Ernest Beaver, Frances Beaver, Ed McCartney and Lawrence McCartney.

Robert Jenne and Wanda married Clinton Copeland. Julia died in 1945.

Chester married Lucille Meisner, daughter of Tom Meisner. They had one daughter, Jane, who married Bill Harrop and after his death married Dennis Irwin.

Jessie married Frank Batton, an early time cowboy and later time Sheriff of Converse County. Their children were Alva, Mona and Frank Jr. Alva married Bob Wilson, Mona married Merle Dunham and Frank Jr. married Helen Yardley.

Minnie married Wayne Batton.

James Edward "Ed" was married to Helen Keller. Their children were Jimmy, Marjorie, Phyllis and Lawrence. Phyllis is married to John Rickabaugh. Ed died on August 1, 1974. Phyllis McCartney Rickabaugh



## McCarty, Tom and Anna

Thomas Ford McCarty was born to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Patrick McCarty at Neligh, Nebraska on November 22, 1887. His father was a lieutenant colonel in the Civil War. Tom attended public school in Neligh and then attended military school. On June 10, 1910, he was united in marriage with Anna Sievers of Ewing, Nebraska.

Anna was born to Theis and Katherine Sievers in Ewing, Nebraska on February 18, 1890.

The McCartys moved to Douglas, Wyoming in 1920 where they homesteaded ten miles east of Douglas on the old Shawnee Road, what is now County Road #52.

Tom and Anna legally adopted Byron Muck as their son. Byron was the son of Charles "Chuck" and Nellie Hartford Muck.

Anna McCarty taught school several years during the early years to help keep "the wolf away from the door."

They continued to ranch until 1957 when ill health forced them to sell their ranch holdings and move to Douglas. Don and Donna York now own their property.

Tom served four years as Converse County Commissioner and also as a member of the Converse County Airport Board. He speculated in livestock buying and selling.

Tom passed away May 10, 1964, and Anna passed away in January 1976.

The McCartys were good neighbors and would help anyone in trouble if they possibly could.

Doris Nielsen

## McCrillis, Matthew, D.D.S. and Emma

The grandfather of Matthew, Thomas McCrillis (McCrellos) age 34, arrived in New York Port on the ship Wilmington, after leaving Belfast, Ireland July 9, 1803. Though shown on the boarding list as a farmer, he was reported on the census later as being engaged in commerce in Perry County, Ohio where he married and reared a family. Records show he purchased eleven acres of land there in 1826 for \$59.50. One of his five children, David, a teacher, married Margaret Pence and David fathered six children, losing three of them before they reached the age of three. David himself died of measles at age 43 while in the Ohio Infantry. His wife died two years later, leaving Joseph, 13, Matthew, age nine and Martha Jane, age three, to be raised by grandparents Isaac and Katherine Pence. At age 21, Matthew went to Findlay, Ohio to study dentistry. After traveling to California for further study, he returned to Somerset, Ohio where he took over the practice of a Dr. H. C. Greiner, who had been elected as a State Representative for the second term. It is stated in the history of Perry County "Dr. McCrillis has taken full charge of the extensive and growing business of the firm during the temporary absence of his distinguished partner and is noted for the correctness of his habits, for devotion to his chosen occupation and that gentle charity which makes him a favorite in the best social circles of society."

In May 1884, when he was 28, he married pretty Emma Catherine Jackson, age 26, who was the youngest

of eleven children. To them three children were born in Somerset, Ohio, Wm. Wallace, John Joseph and Mary Margaret. This family arrived in Cheyenne, Wyoming in 1893.

Setting up his practice in Cheyenne, Dr. McCrillis also traveled the railroad all directions out of Cheyenne on designated days, doing his work at hotels. He carried a folding wooden cabinet with his instruments and materials, a clamp-on headrest that could be used on an ordinary high-back wooden chair, and a foot-pumped engine for running the drill and polisher. Among the materials in the case was the rubber to be vulcanized for the denture plates; an alcohol lamp; sheets of gold for crowns and a roller to roll gold coins to the correct gauge should he not have enough sheets; and laudanum, a tincture of opium, for pain. He wore a high-top silk hat, a beard, and his clothing, even for the office, was a wool suit and white shirt.

While the family was in Cheyenne, three more children were born; Beatrice Catherine, a boy who died before two, and Phillip M. As soon as the eldest, Wallace, was old enough to be of assistance he often was taken on the train routes, causing him to miss school, but all of the time he was learning about dentistry.

Dr. McCrillis was attracted by the new town of Douglas and decided to move his family and practice there. He purchased Lot 10 Block 16, October 1898 and personally began construction of a small house with the front to be used as a temporary office. It sat back on the lot enough to allow an office to be built onto the front and against the street. The office had a large skylight as he needed light since Douglas had no electricity then. (This building, on the south side of Center Street in the 300 block, was known in the 50's as the Style Shop owned by "Shorty" Brooks and is presently the office of Robert Wilson, Attorney.)

While living there, Beatrice recalled that the sink water ran into a cesspool, Douglas having no sewer. Tadpoles would hatch there in the summer. One day, when she was playing alone she reached too far to grab one and went in head first. She had the terrifying experience of the black mud at the bottom holding her head tight as she struggled until, with a sucking sound, it released and she popped up. She recalled having bum lambs to feed and fatten and a milk cow picketed to help with the family fare. In winter the most remembered fun for the children was sledding down the hill, later known as the "David Hill", (subsequently owned by Eleanor Williams) until total exhaustion and aching legs sent them home.

By 1907 Douglas was getting electricity and the doctor needed a better equipped office in anticipation of his son, Wallace, becoming a dentist and joining him. He purchased a lot around the corner on 4th Street, Lot 29. A house on a basement having indoor plumbing and a central furnace was then built with the new office attached to the northeast corner projecting toward the street. It was the talk of the town, being circular, surrounded by windows of which the frames were curved requiring curved glass. It had its own turret roof. (This house later became three apartments then later was moved to 522 South Eighth to make room for the Safeway Store.)

In 1908 Wallace graduated in Douglas at age 20

having missed school while apprenticing. He went on to the University of Illinois for his formal studies, returning in 1912 as a D.D.S. He practiced with his father until he married Dema George of Douglas in 1914 and moved into his own home and office. In November 1917 he volunteered to be a dentist in the army. Dema stayed behind until the birth of her daughter, Mary Margaret, in December and then with two year old son, Wm. Kellerman, joined Wallace. This was the first of many moves, as Wallace remained in the government services as a D.D.S. for 39 years, retiring at Thousand Oaks, California where he died December 14, 1974. He is buried at Sawtelle Military Cemetery.

Daughter Mary also graduated in 1908, soon afterward marrying a Douglas lad Luther Blaine. They moved to the Blaine family ranch northeast of Lusk almost to the Nebraska line, then Spencer Post Office. Son Russell was born in 1910. Life was so hard for Mary in this lonely dry country that Dr. McCrillis first set them up in the grocery business, which in short order did not succeed, so he decided he could send Luther to dental college since Wallace was just finishing.

Beatrice, my mother, remembers these as lean years, the new home being meagerly furnished, rooms rented out during state fair week while the family slept where they could, old clothes being made over, and singing in the choir of different churches and a stroll to the library as "fun". The \$40 her father charged to pull a set of teeth and make the dentures had to go many ways. Especially the country people many times paid on "time payments," bringing in milk, butter, eggs or meat until the bill was satisfied.

The meager budget did not allow for Mary and son to accompany Luther to college, as married couples do today. She stayed with her parents and worked in the Federal Land Office. She would take orders to make linen maps for people on her own time. Before Luther graduated he asked Mary for a divorce as he had another love. She didn't grant it. She later was transferred to Salt Lake where she contracted Black Smallpox, dying February 2, 1923. Her 13 year old son, Russell, had been vaccinated so didn't become ill. He was raised by his Grandmother Emma McCrillis and his Uncle John until he made his way at an early age working with radio. He taught electronics in a junior college during World War II while he worked on attaining a belated high school diploma.

John, the third in the family, graduated in 1910 and began teaching school. His career was shortened when he contracted diphtheria while teaching and living at the Sullivan ranch on LaPrele some 20 miles into the mountains. Dr. McCrillis borrowed a team and buggy (or wagon) and went to bring the boy home. It must have been a very trying trip to transport a fever ridden, violently ill person over the rough roads in cold weather, for the trip back would have taken at least three hours. The illness left John unable to walk because of paralysis for a while and a strained heart. He could play the piano very well which helped him to recuperate. He filed on a homestead and received his patent to the N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$  Section 10-32-71 (just east and north of D Hill) on December 23, 1914. The following May, Grandfather McCrillis, while walking to the homestead to enjoy working with the animals kept there, picked up a tick on his clothing which

bit him, giving him Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever from which he died June 14, 1915.

John managed somehow to get through veterinary school at Ohio State, perhaps with some aid of Ohio relatives. He started his practice in California, never returning to Wyoming even to visit. His mother was under his care until her death in Pasadena in August, 1936. John practiced until his death in 1968 and was buried in Sawtelle Military Cemetery.

Beatrice had graduated in May 1914 and was married that November to James A. Moran of a pioneer Glendo family. She lived 45 years on the ranch at Horseshoe Creek, raising her four daughters; Margaret (vonForell), Mildred (Twiford), Doris (Cundall), and Barbara (Tichac-Clay d. 11-79) on the ranch then retiring to Glendo to a custom made home built by their son-in-law, Robert Twiford in 1959. She was almost 90 at her death, August 1983.

Matthew McCrillis' death left his wife, Emma, the responsibility of closing a practice and without means of support. John sold (or gave) her his homestead in 1916 and volunteered for the cavalry. Phillip, at 17, hadn't been attending school very regularly and felt it unnecessary to stay around to finish. He took out on his own, learning telegraphy and finally settling in California where he worked for years for the Southern Pacific Railroad until he retired. He died in Santa Ana, July 1981. Two sons, David and Robert, survive him.

In recounting the events in the life of the family of Matthew McCrillis, who was dead before my birth, I find him to be just as was stated in the History of Perry County, Ohio... "Noted for the correctness of his habits, for devotion to his chosen occupation, and a gentle charity which makes him a favorite..." When I took census in 1970 I met a man who, knowing I was a granddaughter, pointed to a big crowned molar in his mouth and told me it had been placed there 60 years before by Dr. McCrillis.

Mildred Twiford

## McGehee, George and Ella Family

George R. and Ella McGehee and their two small children, Elta and Elbert, boarded a train in Richards, Missouri with high expectations. They came to Wyoming and homesteaded two miles west of Shawnee in April 1915. Their home was a one room frame building.

Coming from a state with sufficient rainfall to a state with a semi-arid climate, George decided that he needed to get work while proving up on his homestead, so he secured work with the railroad. He later worked for the O.L. Walker Lumber Co. in Glenrock. While working there he received word that twin daughters had arrived at his house. He immediately went home to see them. He waded the North Platte River which had slush ice on it to meet the Burlington train to go home. The trainmen saw him coming so they held the train for him. He rode the train to Orin Junction, then walked to his homestead. His daughters, Pauline and Corrine, arrived in April 1917. Ella related that she took care of the livestock on the homestead. She said, "I carried a shot-loaded whip when I was riding which I used to keep the coyotes



McGehee family 1927 l. to r. Back row: Elta, Ella, Mable and George. Bottom row: Nona, Elbert, George Jr., Pauline and Corrine.

from running the dog under my horse."

The McGehee family moved to Lost Springs during the winter months to send their children to school. The first year they attended school in Lost Springs. The school was a two-room school, grades one through eight with about 60 pupils in attendance. A Mr. Adler taught Upper Grades and Miss Lillian Meinzer, a sister of Art Meinzer, taught Lower Grades. Elta and Elbert attended there two years. George still worked for the Walker Lumber Co., only the branch where he worked was in Lost Springs.

After George and Ella sold their homestead, they moved from Lost Springs to a ranch-farm five miles north of Lost Springs in 1921 which was located in both Converse and Niobrara Counties. They farmed approximately 300 acres of small grain with horse-drawn equipment and had some cows and sheep. By this time they had three more children, Nona, George and Mable.

Dry farming did not suit them so in March of 1926 they moved to a small irrigated ranch southwest of Glenrock owned by I. G. Phillips which they rented for five years. They sold vegetables to the grocery stores in Glenrock. Part of the truck patch was used for potatoes. After the potatoes were harvested they found many Indian arrowheads. Their youngest son, Silas, was born there. The school was located on the ranch and Georgia Eggleston, then known as Miss Woolf, was one of their teachers. She taught all grades needed from first through two years in high school.

In the spring of 1931, George and Ella bought a ranch from one known as Zoraida Hutchinson, that was located on Little Box Elder Creek. They again raised cattle and sheep. They also milked cows and sold about 20 gallons of milk per day and grew a small acreage of sugar beets to help pay expenses. Their children attended school at the Careyhurst School one-half miles west of the old highway to the south side of Box Elder Creek. Their oldest daughter, Elta, took out a homestead while they were living there. Her homestead was located in the mountains near the Phillips place where George acquired other land also.

In 1937 George rented the Riverview Ranch across the river from Irvine for five years. Because of inconvenience of travel he and O. D. Ferguson traded ranches. George traded his ranch on Little Box Elder for a ranch

located on Lower Wagonhound Creek. He moved to this ranch in the spring of 1941. George and Ella lived on this ranch until retirement.

They moved to Douglas after retiring. Ella died in 1965 at 79 and George died in 1968 at 81. Of their eight children, only one son Elbert now lives in Wyoming.

Lois Neely McGehee

## McGowan, Wm. Henry "Shug"

George Willard and Sarah Ann McGowan were the parents of nine children, William Henry, Melinda Ann, Estella Elena, Floyd Milton, Millard Wilbur, Clara Delome, Percy Herold, Charles Clifton and Frank Amos. The first four children were born in Nebraska, the next four in Douglas, Wyoming and the youngest in Canada.

George was born in Logansport, Indiana on January 30, 1849. He died in February of 1936 in Duffield, Alberta, Canada. His wife, Sarah Ann, was born on August 24, 1868 in Amish, Johnson County, Iowa, and died on December 1, 1944 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

George's father operated a wagon train, hauling freight for the army. He was married to a woman whose maiden name was Grant. She was a native of New York, purportedly a cousin of Ulysses S. Grant. Eventually, George's father migrated into Nebraska, making his headquarters in North Platte. George began his freighting career at the age of ten years, helping his father drive the teams of oxen. In the interest of saving time, George's father traded all of his ox teams for teams of horses which could travel almost twice as far as the oxen could in a day's time.

On the morning that George and his father were to begin their first trip with their newly acquired horses, young George was sent out to corral the animals. He was absent for a long time, finally returning with only one horse. He had been unable to locate the rest of the herd so his father then left to search for the stock. He never returned and though George hunted for him for three days and nights without resting he found no trace of his father.



Henry McGowan, l. to r. Kit Swan, Anne Mitchell, Lewis Swan, Scott Swan and John Mitchell.

George's mother pleaded with George to give up his search, being of the opinion that her husband would eventually return. She was sure that the stock had been rustled by either Indians or thieving white men and that in time George's father would find them.

George disagreed with his mother. The two had a violent argument which resulted in George leaving his home and family. He did return some months later, bringing his mother and the family a load of provisions, but he did not stay.

In 1896 George and his family left Nebraska and came to Wyoming where they settled in Douglas. George started his own freighting business, making Douglas his headquarters. He made lengthy trips sometimes, traveling from the Texas panhandle to the gateway of Yellowstone Park.

The McGowan family lived about a mile north of the school in Douglas. When her husband was absent from home, Mrs. McGowan locked all her doors, placing a gun by each to protect herself and her children from the trailhands and cowboys who came into town at night.

George worked at various jobs in Douglas when he had no freight to haul. He and his eldest son, Henry, dug basements for houses and laid slab rock sidewalks in the vicinity of the school. The McGowan family lived in Douglas for about twelve years after which they moved to Canada to make their home.

William Henry McGowan was born in Unadilla County, Nebraska on September 15, 1886, coming with his family to Wyoming at the age of ten. Evidently Henry left home to make his own living when he was in his teens. It is not clear when he made his way to Lost Springs but it is known that he worked for the railroad there. He had the job of switching the loaded cars of coal from the Rosin Mine onto the main track of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. He used a single span of mules to move the heavy cars.

It was during this time that Henry acquired the nickname "Shug," by which he was known all his life. He said that the nickname was originally "Sugarfoot" which was shortened to "Shug," though he would never say why he was called "Sugarfoot."

When Shug was about 32 years old he enlisted in the army. He was shipped overseas where he was a cook for his division. Mustard gas was being used by the enemy and Shug and his outfit were the victims of such an attack. He was hospitalized and after a time he was returned to the United States. He was to suffer periodically from the recurrence of "spells" for the rest of his life brought on from being "gassed."

After he returned to Wyoming Henry took a homestead. He met and courted a school teacher and they made plans to marry. They bought some cattle, borrowing the money to pay for them. They planned to pay off their debt on the livestock and then marry.

All of the cattle died the following winter as a result of heavy snows and bitter cold weather. Shug also suffering a debilitating attack from the mustard gas. He had not gotten a medical discharge so he was obliged to pay all his hospital bills. This, coupled with the loss of the cattle, evidently was the reason that Shug and his intended bride never married.

Later Shug applied for and received a medical

discharge from the army and when he was stricken with the illness from the gas he would go to the Veteran's Hospital in Cheyenne for treatment.

Shug tried his hand at various occupations during the years that followed. He owned and operated a billiard parlor in Lost Springs at one time. He was the caretaker and janitor at the Lost Springs Town Hall. He was also an employee of Art Meinzer, who owned the Springs Garage, acting as janitor and handy-man helper.

Art had an old "barber's chair" which was situated in the small office in the front part of the garage. It was in this chair that you were apt to find Shug when he had finished his work, napping or swapping yarns with folks who came by. When Mabel Lindmier asked him how it was that he never wore out the seat of his pants since he sat around so much, Shug, with a twinkle in his eye, replied, "I sit still."

Shug was a big man, standing over six feet in height, with large bone structure. His face was interesting, etched with many deep vertical lines, his nose was prominent, and his mouth large. He had dark hair, which was greying and piercing eyes. He moved slowly, talked slowly and seemed to accept any problems which he encountered with stoicism. When there was a very dry spring in Wyoming and no prospect of rain, a farmer was worrying about putting seed in the ground for fear it would not sprout. Said Shug, "Well, if you leave it in the bin, it darned sure will not grow." Though he had no children of his own, Shug seemed to love kids. He amused them, rocking the younger ones, reading to the older ones.

Shug loved to eat. Among his favorite foods was lemon meringue pie. When he stopped by the Lindmier place to visit, Mabel almost always found time to "build" a lemon pie for Shug.

Eventually, Shug leased the Rosin Mine property and moved from Lost Springs to the mine to make his home. He built a log cabin and in addition, dug a hole in a bank which he fitted with a door to house his automobile. He spent some time digging coal out of the abandoned mine shafts on a small scale, since his health prevented him from doing much hard physical labor. He spent long hours sitting by the cabin door, chair tilted back and with his eyes closed.

Shug finally purchased the building which had housed the Jack Wright Mercantile business in Shawnee and moved there to make his home. Shug died in his bed at home on June 12, 1970. He is remembered by all of us who knew him with affection and respect.

Ruth Grant

## McGrew, Delford and Julia

Delford McGrew was born in Marshall County, Indiana, July 30, 1877 to a Scotch father and Irish mother. He had three half brothers, one brother and one sister.

He married Julia Shafer in approximately 1899. She was one of seven children, six girls and one boy. The father was German and the mother was Holland Dutch. Delford and Julia lived in Walnut, Indiana where Delford worked as a carpenter. Their daughter Sina was born August 12, 1900 and their son Wayne was born September





McGrew farm 1914. L. to r.: Delford, Sina, Julia McGrew, Mrs. Galbraith. Wayne McGrew and Alice Galbraith on ground.

24, 1908.

Many Indianians, including Delford, decided to go west to Wyoming where homesteads were available and try farming. So early in 1910, Delford and Elijah Cannon with Elijah's sons, William and Ollie, arrived by train in Lost Springs, Wyoming. Delford homesteaded 320 acres six miles southeast of Lost Springs on the Converse County side of the Converse/Niobrara County line. Elijah homesteaded three miles south of Lost Springs. Later in the spring, Julia, Sina, Wayne, Mrs. Cannon and her daughter, Bess, arrived by train along with some livestock and chickens. One cow and some of the chickens belonged to Delford.

Meanwhile Delford had built the Stub Moore house where he housed his family while building a house on his homestead. The homestead house was a two story building with one large room both downstairs and upstairs. The outside was covered with black tar paper with a small shed built on the west side for storing the winter coal supply. The coal was hauled from the Onyon Mine north of Lost Springs by wagon which was an all day trip in those days.

The chickens were housed in a piano box at the Moore place. In a spring blizzard which came shortly after Julia's arrival, about half of the chickens perished. After moving into their unfinished house, Delford built a cellar which was used to house the chickens until a chicken house was built some years later.

Delford either built or helped build many of the homes in the area including the Burkholder, Dieleman and Frosheiser homes, walking to and from work. He later rode their first horse, a sorrel named Dolly, to work. Dolly was acquired from Pete Olsen in exchange for Delford's carpentry work. The first few winters the family returned to Indiana where Delford worked to provide for his family and to buy farm equipment.

Their daughter, Blanche, was born January 22, 1915, the only one of the children to be born on the homestead. Sina stayed with her mother while Delford hitched the horses to the sled in the middle of the night and went to get Mrs. Crabb, who lived on half mile east, to help with the birth.

Eventually the farm was fenced and with the first harvest a straw shed was built to protect the farm animals during the cold winters. Pigs were kept in a pen

and shed behind the chicken house. Delford was an experienced butcher and each fall a pig was butchered, the intestines cleaned and stuffed with sausage. The sausage and hams were smoked in a large wood container. The balance of the pork was put in a brine or canned since there was no refrigeration. One of Delford's favorite dishes was sauerkraut and sausage so each fall a large barrel of sauerkraut was also made. During the early years many rabbits were eaten. Milk and butter were kept cold by submerging them, in their containers, in the drinking water barrel. A dog was a necessity to help bring in the cattle at milking time, keep the coyotes away and as a playmate for the children. The dog and cats lived on table scraps, milk and the mice they could catch. Those times were hard but there always seemed to be food on the table albeit little variety but all healthy and made from scratch. Flour, sugar and salt were the main store bought groceries. Most of the women's and girls' clothes were homemade.

Sina attended Prairie View School and at age 17 started teaching school. Her first teaching job was at the French School which was located south of the highway between Lost Springs and Keeline on the French farm. She rode a horse to and from school except during real bad weather when she boarded with the Balls and Olsens. Margaret Ball was one of her pupils at the French School. She then taught at the Prairie View School which was located in Niobrara County one-half mile north and one mile east of the McGrew home. She walked to and from school while teaching at Prairie View. A church was located near the school as well as the local cemetery.

A garage was finally built on the homestead, probably after the first car was bought. This first car was a Model T Ford with no top. Delford never seemed to be able to stop the car at the proper time and usually drove through the closed front gate. Wayne drew a large picture on the back of the chicken house with black paint, depicting this phenomenon which still remained when the farm was vacated by the family.

Wayne started school in 1915 at the Prairie View School. James Brink, who lived about two miles north of our house, was his first teacher. The Hoosier School, aptly named because of the large number of Indiana families that had homesteaded in the area, was then built in our district. Delford helped build this school which was located on mile west and one mile north of his house. Wayne then attended the Hoosier School. Starting about 1921 Delford and family moved to the Salt Creek Oil Field where Delford did carpentry work during the winter months, returning to farm the homestead during the summer. Blanche and Wayne alternated during the school year between Salt Creek Schools and the Hoosier School. During the trips to and from Salt Creek, Wayne and Blanche would sometimes have to sit on top of Delford's large wooden tool box for the entire trip, no matter what the weather.

Donald, the youngest McGrew child, was born in Salt Creek March 30, 1923. Sina, who was working at the cook-house in what was known as the Inland Camp, met and married Charles Harvey June 30, 1923. Their son, Don, was born September 13, 1927 in Douglas, Wyoming.

Social activities were limited mostly to visiting neighbors and occasionally a barn dance with music fur-

nished by a local fiddler. In later years dances were held in the Lost Springs or Keeline town halls with music often furnished by local talent. Delford bought one of the first radios in the area, about 1925 or 1926, from Clyde Howell, another Indianian who, with his family, ran a hotel in Lost Springs. The Howells also owned a farm two and one half miles from our house. Usually the only time we attended church was when a traveling minister arrived in the community and held services in the Prairie View Church. They usually didn't stay long and only during the summer.

During those early years our mailing address was Keeline, Wyoming and mail was delivered to our homestead by Judson Watson. His buggy drawn by one horse was a welcome sight each day. About 1927 or 1928, our mailing address was changed to Lost Springs and we received our mail at the post office. We had a telephone for a period of time until about 1927. Since we were the only family in an area which required maintenance of about three miles of extra telephone line the telephone company thought it too expensive and removed the line. This was regretted as it cut off valuable contact with the neighbors.

In 1924 Delford bought 40 acres of farm land in the Salinas area of California and the family moved into a rented house there. Delford again did carpenter work but after only two months he became homesick for the Wyoming homestead, which they still owned, so they returned to Wyoming. From then on the winters were spent on the farm.

About 1925 the Hoosier School was closed permanently; and the children were transported by bus to school in Lost Springs. Delford became the first bus driver and drove the bus until 1928. Wayne was attending Lost Springs High School so he drove the bus many times for his father. Sometimes when snow was so deep that the roads were impassable a sled pulled by horses was used to transport the children to school. This also was impractical at times so the children were boarded in Lost Springs. In about 1931 the high school was closed in Lost Springs and the students were bused to Shawnee, Wyoming.

Wayne graduated from Lost Springs High School in 1927. During the summer he farmed with Delford or worked on highway construction jobs. He also worked at the Lost Springs Bank for a short period of time before it went broke. He drove the school bus from 1928 to 1931.

Julia developed cancer in 1928 and died August 9, 1929. She is buried in the Prairie View Cemetery.

Sina and Charley were divorced in 1939 and she and Don returned to live with the family on the farm. She returned to teaching and taught at various schools including the Stewart and McKibben Schools south of Lost Springs, Lindmier School north of Lost Springs, Stallman School north of Manville and the Lost Springs School.

Blanche married Carl Reuber January 7, 1933. They have two sons, Carl Jr., born January 1, 1934 and Jack, born December 23, 1937, both born at the Lusk, Wyoming hospital.

Before the 1929 depression Delford mortgaged the homestead to buy more land. Crops were very poor during the drought years of the depression and the home-

stead was lost due to non-payment on the mortgage.

Delford, Wayne and Donald moved to Shawnee in 1936 where Wayne leased and ran a filling station. Delford did carpenter work in Douglas until 1940 when he moved to California continuing to do carpenter work. Wayne left the filling station and joined his father in California where he went to work in January 1941 as a welder for Douglas Aircraft. Donald stayed in Shawnee to finish school, living with Lyle and Mae Cunningham who ran the Shawnee store. He graduated from Shawnee High School May 22, 1941 and joined Delford and Wayne in California where he went to work for North American Aircraft.

Blanche and Carl Reuber, who had been living in Lance Creek, Wyoming since 1936, also moved to California in 1941 where Carl went to work for the Calship Shipyard.

Wayne and Jill Collins were married October 20, 1942. They had met in Shawnee where she was teaching school. They have two daughters, Patricia, born May 18, 1944 and Beverly, born March 31, 1945.

Sina and son, Don, moved to California in June 1943. They lived in Inglewood where Sina still lives. She worked at Centinela Hospital for many years retiring from there in 1968.

Delford remarried in 1944 and lived in Long Beach, California. His health started to fail in 1949 and he died April 18, 1952. He is buried in the Inglewood Park Cemetery, Inglewood, California.

Donald served four years in the Merchant Marines during World War II. He then returned to work for North American Aircraft. He married Ruth Lanman, November 24, 1961. They have three children, Clark, born April 13, 1964, Donna, born November 17, 1965 and Dale, born November 9, 1969. Donald left North American Aircraft in 1967 and went to work for Los Angeles County. He retired in 1979 and lives in Palos Verdes Estates, California. Wayne retired from Douglas Aircraft in 1971 and lives in Lytle Creek, California.

Blanche retired in 1972 from Norton Air Force Base, San Bernardino, California where she worked as a civil service employee for the Air Force. She and Carl also live in Lytle Creek, California.

Don Harvey died April 11, 1976 of a heart attack. He is buried in the Inglewood Park Cemetery, Inglewood, California.

The homestead became part of several large acreages bought by large land holders. The buildings were torn down and nothing remains but the memories.

Blanche McGrew Reuber

## McKibben, Milford and Ada Family

Milford McKibben, the oldest son of George McKibben, was born in Cleveland, Ohio, August 10, 1872. They moved shortly thereafter to Zanesville, Ohio where he grew up. His father worked in a pottery mill.

Ada Douglas was born in Ohio, also in 1867. Ada and Milford were married in 1895 in Ohio.

Milford McKibben came to Wyoming in 1910 by train to file on a homestead near Lost Springs, Wyoming. He

worked on a log cabin and buildings for his family and then sent for them a year later in 1911 when he had things more comfortable.

His wife, Ada, and their six children, Fay, eleven, Douglas, nine, Mary, seven, Kenneth, five, Harriet, four, and Jesse, three years old, came in the emigrant car. They rented a team and wagon to get out to the homestead.

They homesteaded on 360 acres seven miles south of Lost Springs. They weren't able to bring too much with them but Ada did bring a rhubarb plant clear from Ohio which she transplanted in her garden and carried water from the well they dug. The rhubarb really flourished and starts were transplanted by friends. Mildred AuFrance of Douglas still is growing rhubarb from the original plant.

The Milford McKibbens didn't have a car or even a horse on the homestead so Milford had to walk the seven miles to Lost Springs to buy groceries. He told of carrying a fifty pound sack of flour on his back from Lost Springs. His wife, Ada, baked bread every other day for their large family so she used lots of flour.

The children walked three miles to school. Fay tells of carrying extra pairs of long stockings to school when they walked in the winter time because they got soaked from the high drifts.

Later on, the McKibbens were able to get some horses and a lumber wagon and could go to Douglas to buy clothes such as shoes, coats, overblouses, etc. at Gentle's Golden Rule Store. Most of their clothes were made by hand by Ada at home however. They sent for material to make their clothes from the Montgomery Ward catalog. They also had to buy all their winter groceries because to go to town meant a three day trip to Douglas.

Milford plowed the land with one horse and a hand plow and cultivator. He planted oats and grain with a hand seeder. Their garden, together with sage hens and other animals they hunted, was their food for the winter. One time when Ada canned corn, some of it spoiled and, not thinking, she fed it to her chickens. She didn't realize it would hurt them, and several chickens died. This was a big loss to them, especially in those days.

Milford and Ada had another child, a little boy, Milford Jr., who was born on the homestead in Wyoming, but he died at birth.

Milford also worked as a carpenter; as soon as he could, he built onto their one-room house. They added a large living room to their kitchen and two rooms upstairs. Many years later they built two more bedrooms and had a screened-in porch. Milford also built homes for other homesteaders and worked on construction work in Douglas to help provide for his family.

Ada was a very good cook, but had to cook under trying circumstances as her stove didn't work very well. She had to bake her bread about half an hour, then dump it out and bake it half an hour more on the other side to have it baked through. She cooked lots of beans, potatoes, etc. for her family of eight.

Jesse McKibben, the youngest living son, was born January 15, 1908 in Ohio and was raised in Lost Springs on the homestead.

He finished the eighth grade in country school and then went to Midwest to work in the gas plant. He met Florence Hagen, daughter of John and Anna Wasser-

burger Hagen in Midwest. Florence's mother, Anna Wasserburger, of Montrose, Nebraska and her father, John Hagen, of Wien, Missouri were married the 15th of October 1912 at Montrose, Nebraska. They had three children; Florence, Dora and John. They lived in Nebraska on a homestead. When Florence was eleven years old, Dora was five and John, Jr. was just a baby. The family moved to Midwest where the father went to work as a pumper in the oil fields. They moved from a nice ranch home in Nebraska to an oil field shack, so it was quite a difficult move for Anna.

After quite a while in the oil fields, John Hagen, Sr. ran a filling station in Edgerton, Wyoming. Florence met Jesse McKibben at a New Year's Eve dance in Edgerton on January 1, 1932. They were married just a month later, February 1, 1932, in Casper in the house of Father Reilly. Her parents were witnesses. They moved from there to Lost Springs in 1938 when their daughter Patty was five years old and son Kenneth was two years old. They bought 640 acres there and raised cattle. Later they bought Grandpa Milford's ranch of 320 acres, also. Jesse drove the school bus there and was the town barber. They had an old barber chair in Art Meinzer's garage and when Jesse had to stay in Lost Springs until school was out, he cut people's hair.

Dan and Cora Dieleman, Roy and Bernice Pennington, Anne and Roy Nance, the Ed Kamps, Zadah and Stub Moore, Bill and Chloe Miller, Yank and Leola Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Stewart, Dorothy and Raymond Reese, the Kornegay family and the Brights (who still live there) were some of their neighbors.

They sold the place when Jesse's legs got bad from a pinched nerve. They then moved to Shoshoni in 1948. Jesse drove a gravel truck there for about two years while working on the Boysen Dam.

In 1950 they moved to Bill, Wyoming where they leased a place belonging to Mary Oakley (the Oakley place.) Patty went to high school in Douglas and stayed with Grandma McKibben. She graduated from Douglas High School in 1952 and married Albert Meier, Jr. of Douglas shortly after. The Meiers and their two girls and their families live now near Meeteetsee. Kenneth went to school at Bill, Wyoming and attended high school there. He married Linda Brannan, daughter of the late Opal Ireton of Douglas in 1954. The Kenneth McKibbens and their three children and their families live now on Deer Creek Road near Glenrock and one daughter lives west of Douglas.

While the Jesse McKibbens lived at Bill, Wyoming on the ranch, they ran sheep and Jesse drove the school bus to the coal mine and out to Haefeles and back to the Dry Creek School at Bill. Florence and Jesse boarded the school teacher at their home.

Florence had always been a very good cook and was offered a job at the state fair in 1949 as head cook. At that time they cooked for about 500 4-H and F.F.A. members. They peeled a ton of potatoes a week, about 100 to 150 pounds a day, by hand and washed all the dishes and pots and pans by hand. It was a 16 hour a day job. They really enjoyed Florence's cooking. She has kept that job for 35 years. She received an engraved silver tray in 1984 for 35 years service to the state fair. She and her crew now cook for 2,000 children and leaders a day, but they have all the

modern conveniences, so it is quite a bit easier now.

The McKibbens lived on the Oakley Ranch out north for about seven years and then moved west of Douglas, where they bought a ranch. They ran cattle and raised chickens. They gathered about three hundred eggs a day and delivered fresh eggs in Casper and Douglas. They lived on this ranch about six years, then bought a ranch on the North Platte River west of town from Fred Marburger. They lived there and ran cattle and sheep for about seven years.

When Jesse died in October 1972 of a heart attack, Florence continued living there. She finally moved into town to her present home at 907 Riverbend in Douglas.

Florence is best known for her cooking and has been the head cook not only for the state fair for 35 years, but also has cooked for the police academy for seven years. She is still cooking for the Douglas Livestock Exchange Salebarn Cafe, Boys State and many other banquets, weddings and other celebrations in and around Douglas.

She has been an active lifelong member of the Catholic Church and the Dry Creek and later the LaPrele Homemakers Clubs of Douglas. She collects antique tea pots, does fancy work and paints ceramics besides her busy life as a cook, mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

She has always enjoyed life in Wyoming and has been very blessed by God, she says. Even though she has done some traveling to other places such as Hawaii and Seattle with her daughter, Patty, she is always glad to get back to wonderful Wyoming and her many friends here.

Faun D. Cole  
as told by Florence McKibben

## McWhinnie, C. H. and Caroline

Campbell Holt McWhinnie was born near Bushyheath, London, England on September 7, 1861, the son of John and Mary McWhinnie, the father being a native of Ayrshire, Scotland.

The lifetime career of C. H. was one of change. After attending school in Germany, Switzerland, Italy and England he commenced the study of medicine, but failing to acquire interest in it he threw aside his medical volumes and enlisted as a sailor in the merchant marine service, visiting many countries aboard the sailing ship "The Torrens."

At dusk on an early October evening in 1886, after a long trip by boat and train from his home in England, Campbell McWhinnie landed at Sherman, between Cheyenne and Laramie. His first night was spent in a primitive lodging where his initiation was a snow storm drifting through cracks in his "hostelry", and covering his pillow. After some five to six years at Sherman and Laramie he homesteaded near where the LaBonte flows into the North Platte River. This homestead property was later sold to a fellow Englishman, A. W. Phillips in 1899. Lloyd Nunn lives here today.

At the Charles A. and Sophia J. Pollard home (known as the LaBonte Road Ranch), Campbell Holt McWhinnie and Caroline Jones Pollard, daughter of Charles and



Campbell H. McWhinnie 1942      Caroline J. McWhinnie 1942

Sophia, were married on December 16, 1896 by the Rev. O. L. Corbin of the Congregational Church. Arthur W. Kenyon and Jennie Olivereau (later Mrs. Harry Pollard) attended the bride and groom.

The Campbell-Caroline McWhinnie family included six children, two daughters and four sons. Three were born at home on the ranch, two at home in Douglas, only the younger being hospital born at the original Douglas Hospital on North Sixth Street.

These Converse County natives of our family, the third generation, include the following as listed, beginning with the oldest:

- Ralph E. - DHS 1916 - M 9/24/32 - Bernice Appleby (D) 10/9/72
- Charles J. - DHS 1918 - M 12/7/29 - Edna L. Barnes (D) 11/15/77
- Arthur K. - DHS 1919 - M 12/26/29 - Roberta Brannan (D) 5/15/57
- Helen C. - DHS 1922 - M 6/2/26 - Donald Ricker
- Mary J. - Cheyenne HS 1925 - M 8/26/29 - Peter Hutchison (SD) 1950
- Campbell H. Jr. - Cheyenne HS 1928 - M 12/42 - Sue W. Anderson

Following their 1896 marriage, the McWhinnie residence in Converse County extended through 27 years before changing to Cheyenne in 1923. Family residence in the county was re-established in 1928 when daughter Mary returned as a public school teacher after her first two years at the university at Laramie. Her marriage to Peter Hutchison in 1929 again made Douglas her home for almost 30 years.

Successive places of residence during the 27 years mentioned include the LaBonte Road Ranch, eight years plus. Next was seven months tenure in what was then listed as Rutherford House on the west side of the 300 block on North Third Street, Douglas. The ranch was again home during the months of April 1905 to February 1906. Then the Todd residence in the 400 block of South Fourth comfortably sheltered the family, at that time totaling six, until October 14, 1906. On that date, the fifth birthday of our late brother, Arthur K. (Jim), 403 North Fourth became home until July 1923.

Our family's Converse County history hinges on the changes that marked our father's more than half a century in Wyoming. In that span of years he was a (1) ranchman, (2) Wyoming Oil and Development Company general manager, (3) County Treasurer, (4) State Fair Board member-Secretary, (5) merchant, (6) salaried worker in various county offices, (7) State Land Commissioner, 1923-27 and 1935-39 and (8) Board of Equalization member 1927-35.

Under the Governorship of Wm. B. Ross, "Dad" McWhinnie was appointed State Land Commissioner in March 1923, resulting in the family move to Cheyenne the following July.

He ran unsuccessfully for state offices in 1914 (Auditor) and in 1926 (State Treasurer).

The six months annual community service ("labor of love") he contributed as Board Member-Working Secretary of the state fair during the four years 1908-11 is not readily understood in comparison to today's fair organization built up through the years with more adequate funding. A modest compensation of \$100.00 a month for six months which he received for the 1911 fair subsequently made the Board Secretary a political appointment for the next few years.

In the tradition of Attorney Fred Harvey, the pioneer Mayor of Douglas credited with starting tree planting on Douglas Streets, McWhinnie, as fair secretary, initiated and promoted the tree planting, expanded in later years, that makes our state fair grounds so attractive.

Regarding community service, history records show that C. H. McWhinnie served on the first library board in Douglas at a time when a single room in the first (1905) courthouse housed that facility. Other community endeavors included several terms on the school board at different times.

Serving as Mayor of Douglas was a mixture of rewards of friendship and goodwill as well as a few rocky experiences. Reconciling ardent "do-gooders" to the sometimes conflicting customs and practical ways of human behavior hardly qualifies as one of life's pleasures. Another nerve-wracking development as mayor was the temporary closing of a local saloon in which personnel were allegedly guilty of misconduct.

Our family relationship to Christ Episcopal Church, to the Masonic and Eastern Star organizations including the Scottish Rite bodies in Cheyenne and to the first Boy Scout Troop in Douglas all touch on early day Converse County history.

C. H. McWhinnie was one of the first scoutmasters of the first Boy Scout Troop. First in the county and possibly first in the state was a ten-day outing at Esterbrook over the 1911 Fourth of July holiday break. Refreshments enroute, at the ranch home of General H. B. Freeman, aided the weary lads on the second day of the three-day 30 mile trip. A lumber wagon drawn by a gentle, but at times balky, team hauled tents, bedrolls and groceries for the hikers.

Family history has a dramatic touch with the parents playing lead roles and the children as the supporting cast, carried over into succeeding years and generations. Our dad was a very gifted, compassionate gentleman and a great father. The supportive role of our mother was, and

is, invaluable and indispensable.

As an emergency ranch hand when help was short, as an experienced but unlicensed practitioner of medicine for ailing youngsters, as a cook or director of cooks for hungry ranch hands or threshing crews, etc. early day Converse County wives and mothers wrote the unrecorded history. In Converse County and elsewhere in Wyoming there are and have been many unusual wives and mothers, all deserving the halos of history. Caroline Pollard McWhinnie was one of them, a loyal and steadfast wife and a precious mother.

Campbell and Caroline McWhinnie passed away in Cheyenne in 1944, he on June 1 and she on December 1. They are at rest in the Pollard-McWhinnie section of the Douglas cemetery.

Three of the six Converse County natives listed near the beginning remain in Wyoming while two reside in Colorado, with one a blessed memory. Comment following later reveals generations four, five and six totaling seven grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren and eight great, great grandchildren.

The University of Wyoming has provided an education and a life time career for Ralph, sometimes self-dubbed "a campus hanger-on of 68 years" and by some others as "Mr. University." He maintains that, "the best years of my life" were those 39 years (1932-1971) shared with his late wife, Bernice, memorialized by two annual scholarships awarded annually in her name.

Charles J. McWhinnie was the first boy from Converse County to go to the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating in 1922 and serving until he retired with the rank of Rear Admiral, having been awarded three combat decorations in WWII.

Thus endeth the McWhinnie Converse County history account of March 1984.

Mary McWhinnie Hutchison  
Ralph McWhinnie

## Mecham, Melvin and Georgia Family

Melvin Monroe Mecham and Georgia Smith Mecham came to Douglas from Omaha, Nebraska in March 1928 with four of their children: Lyle, born - 1910; Dale - 1913; Persis - 1916 and Alla Mae - 1925. He worked at various jobs in Omaha and was Chief of Police in Havelock, Nebraska before coming to Wyoming.

His eldest son, Vernon - born in 1907, was already in Wyoming, having come out to visit his aunt and uncle, the Jake Schneiders. He liked it so well, he decided to stay and persuaded his father to move out, too. Vernon had leased a farm just west of Douglas and the family settled there for a while. Mr. Mecham worked as a carpenter for Guy Squires and others and also for the City of Douglas. Later, he worked for Maud Dawes, who had a dairy farm and they lived there. Mrs. Mecham died March 12, 1931. Later, Mr. Mecham and Persis went back to Omaha for a short time and then back to Douglas. Then he went out to California where he lived until his death in 1952.

Vernon and Lyle worked on several ranches south of Douglas. Later, Vernon worked for the Standolind Pipe Line Co. (now Service Pipe Line) for about 30 years and



took an early retirement and then worked for the City of Casper for ten years before retiring. His first wife was Velma Henley and they had three daughters, Joyce, Betty and Dorothy. Velma died in 1944 and he later married Edna Eccles, a daughter of Jonce Eccles of Powder River. They live in Casper.

Dorothy and Betty Mecham were excellent horsewomen and were in a horse race from Gillette to Douglas. Dorothy probably would have won if the spectators hadn't rushed onto the race track, frightening her horse to the side and causing her to dismount. Her father got her back on the horse and led it across the finish line just a minute after the winning horse.

Perhaps some of you have heard that Vernon won a Readers Digest Sweepstakes contest several years ago and receives \$100 per month for life.

Dale worked for the City of Douglas. He married Viola Johnson. They had two children: Judy (Bocox), who lives in Cheyenne and Edward, who is retired from the navy. Dale died of a heart attack in 1975.

Persis married Stanley Tschovosky in California and they had five children. She later married Walt Mulholand and lived in Oregon until her death in 1981.

Alla Mae married "Babe" Marsh in Douglas. They had two children. She is now married to Wayne Stamper and they live in Redding, California.

Lyle married Helen Nix in 1932. He operated a dairy farm near Douglas then became foreman on the CY Ranch at Careyhurst for eleven years. After leaving the CY, he purchased a ranch west of Douglas and he and his wife operated the Douglas Coffee Shop. She passed away in 1962. Lyle and I were married in 1965. We had a few dates when I was teaching school south of Douglas, never dreaming we would meet again much later. We have lived in Casper ever since.

Lyle died in 1985.

Edith Hakalo Mecham

## Meinzer, Frederick and Maria

Frederick Wilhelm Meinzer was born on February 13, 1865 in Brownsville, Minnesota, the son of John and Louise (Nagle) Meinzer. John was born in Germany. Frederick married Maria Reils who was born in 1866.

The children were:

- Fred W. (1891-1982)
- Lillie Anna (1892-1971)
- Arthur Carl (1894-1977)
- Edna Stella (1896-1916)
- Lula Alma (1900-1971)
- Louie Emil (1906-1983)
- Mamie (Sister Francita)
- Mildred (Bricker)

The Meinzer family moved to Wyoming in 1916 from Omaha, Nebraska to homestead north of Lost Springs.

Fred was the last Meinzer to live on the homestead. He lived there until his health failed and was forced to move to a nursing home in Lusk where he died in 1982.

I, Dolly Spellman Meinzer, married Louie in Casper on November 19, 1927. We first lived on a ranch that Louie had leased in 1926 from R. R. "Dot" Smith 18 miles north of Lost Springs. We moved back to the Meinzer home



Frederick W. Meinzer family, 1916. Top row, left to right: Arthur, Edna, Mamie, Fred. Bottom row, left to right: Lula, Frederick Sr., Maria, Mildred and Louie.

ranch where we lived from 1932 to 1934. Louie and I were blessed with the birth of one son, Kenneth.

After living for a while at my parents ranch we moved to Shawnee where Louie found work in the oil business there. In 1942 we moved to Douglas where Louie did custom trucking until our move to Casper in 1953. We retired in 1962 and moved to Canon City, Colorado where I still live. Louie died in 1983. Kenneth married Betty Story. They live in Casper.

Dolly Spellman Meinzer

## Meisner, Thomas and Anna Family

Thomas Jefferson Meisner was born on January 6, 1881, in Nemaha County, Kansas. He was the oldest of the nine children of Carlos and Rosa Minger Meisner. He received his education in the local schools, completing his education at age 16 with a teacher's certificate. However, he liked to farm and since his help was needed on the family farm, he became a farmer and later a cattle feeder. On August 26, 1903, he married Anna Barbara Stauffer Fankhauser. Anna Barbara Fankhauser was born on December 15, 1880 in Richardson County, Nebraska. The families of both Thomas and Anna Meisner immigrated from Germany and Switzerland; Anna's parents came to Nebraska from Berne, Switzerland.

Tom and Anna Meisner farmed on the Rosa Durner farm in the Four Mile area community near Humboldt, Nebraska. Tom had always suffered from severe asthma that worsened in his mid 30's and after several near fatal attacks, he was informed by his doctors that if he wished a long life he would have to move to a drier climate. During the slack seasons, he and his brother-in-law, Floyd Black, traveled throughout the western parts of the Dakotas and Nebraska and the plains of Colorado and Wyoming looking for suitable land for homesteading. He

often said that there were two reasons why they chose Wyoming: first - the country, well grassed rolling hills; second - the best and most profitable herd of feeding steers he had fed came from the Wyoming grasslands.

In 1917, Thomas Meisner, Floyd Black and Harry Whittle, the proprietor of the general store in the nearest town, Bern, Kansas, filed on three adjacent sections of land 20 miles northeast of Douglas, Wyoming along the old Fiddleback trail in the Little Lightning Creek area. Before the Meisner and Black families were able to move to Wyoming, the United States had become involved in World War I. Raising food was of the highest priority and the nation's farmers were asked to get busy and produce. Since the western lands were unproven, farmers who were planning to homestead were granted the six months annual residency per year requirement and requested to remain on their producing farms. Once or twice a year during the slack season, Tom and Floyd would travel to their homesteads to make what improvements they could. In the summers their families would join them, making the long trip from DuBois in the southeastern corner of Nebraska to the Platte and up the North Platte valley to Douglas. The 20 mile trip from Douglas to the "place" was made by team and wagon in the first years (an all day trip) and then by model T which was nearly a two hour trip. The Fiddleback Trail was maintained by the Fiddleback Ranch Company; they would drag a large log or a railroad iron behind a freight wagon to drag down the ruts. It was one of the best roads in the country, but still not much to brag about. Highway 59 quite closely follows the old trail.

For the first few summers, most of the country was still unfenced open range. Many ranchers bought long-horned steers in Texas and turned them loose on the open range for a year or two to grow and fatten up on the good, rich Wyoming grass. The steers wore distinct cow paths which they used regularly to get from their grazing areas to the nearest water hole. One such cow path was between the Meisner house (the homesteader's inevitable tarpaper shack) and a small shed about 40 feet away. Every day a herd of these steers would march single file down this cow path to water and back again a few hours later to graze. When they were sighted topping the hill, the children and some of the adults as well would scurry to the nearest shelter and watch through the cracks and knot holes in wide eyed fright as those huge beasts walked slowly along, swinging their heads from side to side, with their enormous horns shining wickedly in the sun.


After the last Nebraska harvest in the fall of 1919, the accumulation of 20 years of farming was sold. The men, with the necessary tools, equipment and furniture, some milk cows, some poultry and even a pig or two, moved to their homesteads in Wyoming. The wives and children went to grandma's house in Bern to wait out the school year. In the spring of 1920, the families were united on the homestead that was to be the permanent home for the Meisner family.

Thomas and Anna Meisner were the parents of four daughters: Thelma (Mrs. Darryl Holmes), Lorine (Mrs. Buster Goodrich), Lucille (Mrs. Ralph Scott), and Marcille (Mrs. Paul Strand). All four of the Meisner daughters were born in Nebraska; all four graduated from the Converse County High School; all four attended

the University of Wyoming; and all four taught school in Wyoming. Mr. and Mrs. Meisner are also survived by seven grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren and five great, great grandchildren.

The Meisner's were very fortunate in that they had one priceless asset - an inexhaustible water well; in this country, as good as gold. True, as with most of the water north of the Platte, it was awful, full of minerals. At least no one needed to take mineral supplements, and it was icy cold and non-contaminated, and it was plentiful. With wind power or a gasoline pump, it sometimes pumped 24 hours for days at a time. Even in the driest times, the flow did not diminish. It provided house water, watered livestock, irrigated an enormous garden, trees, lawn and Anna's lovely flowers. It is said that the Swiss will grow flowers anywhere - and that must be true, for with a lot of work and that wonderful water, she made a piece of dry Wyoming prairie blossom. Sometimes, distant neighbors came to visit, mostly to see Anna Meisner's yard with its trees and green grass and her beautiful flowers. She made an oasis in that treeless grassland. The cottonwood trees in the yard were started from branches trimmed from trees in Douglas which she gathered up and planted; she definitely had a "green thumb". Anna Meisner was also an excellent cook and homemaker. She always had wonderful food for any hungry soul who wandered by. Many of the surrounding sections were filed on by young World War I veterans, a part of their veterans benefits. Her favorite younger brother had been killed in France and these lonely young men were "soldier boys" as he had been. They would walk over, at least a mile, to visit, eat supper, then walk back, but never empty handed. They would have a loaf of fresh baked bread, some butter, a jug of milk and probably cake or cookies. She would listen to their talk of home and family and about the girl who was waiting. All of these young men sold their land as soon as they "proved up" and went home. Mrs. Meisner sold cream, homemade butter, eggs, fresh vegetables and dressed fowl to the grocery store to help pay for their groceries.

The Blacks and Whittles were discouraged in a few years and those two sections were the first parcels of land added to the original Meisner land; many others also left and more land was acquired, section by section.

In the fall of 1919, Tom purchased 100 prime breeding cows, branding them with his registered brand, the Lazy Diamond, Lazy T.  He was lucky enough to lose only a very few in the terrible April and May blizzards of 1920 and 1921. He also dry farmed several hundred acres. Wheat, oats, barley, rye, cane, millet and corn were raised, some for sale, but most for livestock food. It was all horsepower at first; he was proud of good teams of horses, but when mechanized machinery was available, he bought it. One of his purchases was a threshing machine and he threshed for his neighbors as well as for himself. It was powered by a gasoline driven tractor. One day, when about half of the many stacks had been threshed, a spark from the tractor exhaust flew into a nice, dry stack. Boy, was that a fire!! All that was saved was the grain already threshed. Never again was the ripe grain stacked, it was left in the field in shocks and hauled to the thresher, load by load, the Meisner ranch grew as Tom enlarged and upgraded his cow herd, improved his

meadows, built dams and drilled water wells. After the terrible drought and the dust storms, he reseeded most of his farm land to grass, leaving only a little to raise some stock feed. He bought some more parcels of land to increase the grazing capacity of his range.

Anna Meisner died on August 16, 1933. Tom continued to operate the ranch until his retirement in the 1950's at which time he moved to Douglas and lived in his trailer house at the home of his daughter, Lucille Scott, until his death at the age of 89 on November 13, 1969. Mr. and Mrs. Meisner are buried in the family plot at the Douglas cemetery.

Thomas Meisner loved and served his community. He believed that government of the people by the people meant just that; it should begin at home and the people should be involved. He had been identified with both civic and ranching interests in Converse county for more than three decades and his sound and practical business judgement was admired by many. He was county commissioner for six years, was a member of the Converse County School Board from 1924 to 1948, serving as its president during his last term of office, and as "Red" Fenwick once said of him "he walked that extra mile" as the Superintendent of the Beef Barn at the Wyoming State Fair from 1930 to 1964. He was a Mason of Blue Lodge, Douglas Consistory, Cheyenne; a charter member of the Douglas Lodge of the Moose organization.

Tom Mesiner loved the outdoors and was a hunter and fisherman of note. After his retirement, when the weather permitted, he could be found with can and crippled knee following a mountain stream or sitting beside a lake - fishing! He caught a lot of fish, too.

Marcille Strand  
Lucille Scott  
Lorine Goodrich

## Merritt, A. R. and Mary Family

Wilson Merritt was a shipright. He and his wife, Gretchen, came to Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin in the mid 1800's, where their son, Anderson Ralph Merritt, was born on July 24, 1864.

It was decided that Anderson Ralph Merritt be sent to Colorado to further his education in pharmaceuticals. Thus, about 1884, he was graduated from the Colorado School of Mines in chemistry. After graduation he found employment in drug stores at Omaha and Fremont. It was while working in a Fremont pharmacy that he met Mary Lee. They were married on July 9, 1888.

Mary Lee's parents came from Cork County Ireland. Her mother, Maggie Cassidy, wore the green and her father, William D. Lee, wore the orange. Orange being Protestant and green being Catholic.

William and Maggie Lee, and a cousin, Commish Lee came together from Ireland, traveling to Omaha, Nebraska, where they hoped to take up homesteads. However, when they arrived they found 60 families already settled in Omaha. They thought this to be too crowded for them so they moved on to Fremont where they could choose their land. William and Maggie Lee picked homestead land where the stockyards were built later in the century.

Mary Lee was born in Fremont, Nebraska on February 17, 1865. She graduated from the Fremont Teacher's College after which she taught school in Valentine, Nebraska. Her talents were many. She was especially gifted in music, piano, violin and voice. She eventually held a doctorate degree from the Sherwin Music School in Chicago.

At one time, Mary and her sister, Elizabeth, were sent to England to further their schooling in piano, voice and violin. It proved a rather eventful trip. To begin with, Mary Lee fell off the wharf and her aunt accompanying the two sisters, dived into the sea and pulled Mary to safety. This was a minor incident in comparison to what followed. After they were far out to sea, for some reason unknown to Mary, the ship split in two. The turbulent waters drifted them far off the main course. After three terror-ridden days, fearing any moment the half-ship may capsize, a rescue boat sent in search of them, heaved into view.

Mary Lee, thinking back on this nightmare thought settling in Valentine, Nebraska to teach school, a safe, solid way of managing a life. Also, taking up a homestead near Valentine furthered her security, even though, later she sold it to her brother, Ed Lee.

After working for other druggists and in other drug stores, A. R. Merritt decided he wanted to be his own boss. For some time he harbored the dream of owning his own drug store. The more he thought about it, the better the idea sounded. He decided on Wyoming to make his dream come true. In 1886, he set out with his newly-founded drug store in a freight wagon, coming to Wyoming and traveling to Ft. Laramie to Ft. Fetterman and on to Antelope. He purchased a lot in Antelope, and here he put up a tent.

After a few years of Wyoming living, his "necessities" multiplied. A herder was hired to take the cows out to the Wyoming prairie to pasture. At night, the herder would bring the cows back to the sheds and barns to milk.

It wasn't long after purchasing the Antelope lot that the railroad announced the new town, Douglas, was to be located about a mile and a half south. A. R. most certainly wanted his store to be in town. However, all his money was in the Antelope lot. Thus, he felt forced to borrow, and borrow he did at 12% interest, which was huge interest for 1886. But, at least, he had his lot and his store in town. This proved to be his final move. He built the store, now called the Higgins Building, Douglas, Wyoming in 1900. Brenning and Clark were the contractors. This new store had everything, "from soup to nuts" as the cliché goes...groceries, medicines, all types of clothing, which included men's work-clothes, shoes, clothing for the entire family and machinery.

However, there came a time when A. R. Merritt quit filling prescriptions. He found the doctors were giving their patients sugar pills and aspirin, and he didn't want to take the people's money for these.

While A. R. Merritt was busy from daylight to dark in his store, Mary Lee Merritt was busy also. When she wasn't busy with her children, which eventually numbered seven, she was teaching music. She was also engrossed in various community activities and numerous charities. She contributed help to nearly all the now-oldest churches in Douglas, by putting on operas and

cantatas and letting the proceeds go for the funding of the churches and other organizations. A. Ralph died on May 25, 1937, Mary on May 3, 1964.

Granddaughter, Kathryn Merritt Carrethers, says her Grandma Mary even aided the children of the community with her famous "Fly Campaign." For every ten flies a child caught, Mary Merritt gave that child a penny.

Kathryn also recalls the story: Mary Lee Merritt cried for three days after her twins, Vinson and Gladys, were born. "Everyone will think I'm a pig", she wailed. Multiple births were slightly out of the range of proper decorum in 1890. Being the decorous and gracious lady that she was, it was no consolation to Mary to have it known that her twins were the first set to be born in Wyoming. Wyoming, itself, newly-born into statehood.

Nevertheless, in spite of his mother's fears and tears, Vinson Samuel Merritt grew up hale and hearty. In this year, 1984, one may see him walking down the street... swiftly for a 93 year old, without cane to aid him, a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eyes.

His memory is a store house of almost a century of historical events and amusing happenings around Douglas.

In 1915, he married Hettie Belle Sleight. Hettie was born in Buffalo, Minnesota. The pioneering spirit of that time possessed her as she came west expressly to homestead. Who knows, she may have been also hopeful for western romance? Whether this is true or not, she found it in Vinson Samuel Merritt, and they were married August 15, 1915. To this union were born Kathryn Mae and Ruth Marie.

Hettie died February 26, 1965.

It hardly seems appropriate to leave the Merritt Heritage to Converse County without a few legendary tales from Vinson S. Merritt.

In writing it's hard to portray the chuckle that goes with each story as Vince relates it:

On one of her many trips to Omaha to shop, Mary Lee went to a store to purchase some face powder. (This was in the 1800s.)

The clerk came forward to help her.

"I want some face powder," said Mary Lee.

Clerk: "Do you want Mennen's?"

Mary: "No, I want women's"

Clerk: "Do you want it scented?"

Mary: "No, I'll take it with me."

\* \* \* \*

The "Once-upon-a-time" in the following story happened in the early 1900's when Vince and Ben Campbell were hunting wolf and coyote pups in Harvey Gulch.

On this particular day, Vince was concentrating on his search when he happened to look up to see Ben waving... "Come over here! Come over here!"

"So," relates Vince, "I followed his command and met him where two draws came together."

"I have a bobcat cornered in here," Ben said, "and I want you to stay and keep watch while I go into town and get the fellows to help me smoke him out."

When he came back he had a bunch of fellows with him all lined up in buggies and wagons.

"He didn't come out while I was gone, did he?" Ben

asked.

"No, I didn't see him anyway."

"So they proceeded to build a huge bon fire to smoke the cat out while I moseyed on down the draw a little ways to watch. When the fire got to smoking good I noticed a spiral of smoke coming out the other draw. There happened to be a hole leading from one draw to another. So it was that Ben's cat went out the back door to freedom. You should have heard old Ben moan!"

\* \* \* \*

My brother, Auber, and I always had specific chores to do around the store. Dad would buy a whole carload of apples at a time and we had to pick out the rotten ones. Also, he'd buy a lot of potatoes which he put in the basement. It was one of Auber's and my chores to sprout them. This was a boring job for two lively boys and we were always eager in hunting diversions. Let me tell you, it's hard to find an interesting attraction down in a deep cellar. When you're down in a musky hole, you look to the light. The windows in the basement were even with the ground. Our pet pastime was watching legs go by on the walk above, especially those with skirts. Even though the skirts were long, from our particular position we could look right up the skirts of any woman standing outside the basement windows.

Then we discovered another very amusing diversion for a boy... I think it may be one of the first squirt guns ever to be in operation. In the basement there was a lot of stuff dad could never sell. Among this obsolete heap were some old ear-syringes, which we boys discovered made good squirt guns.

One day, from a high seat atop a big pile of boxes, Auber was practicing his aim with one of these special guns, when out the open window above he noticed a pair of beautiful legs going by. He took aim with the ear-syringe full of water. I heard a little shriek and then Auber saying, "Gosh, she's cute!", and then, "She's gone on in the store now."

I was sitting on a tall pile of boxes, too, only in another room. However, we both heard the unmistakable, "Bump! Bump! Bump!" of Dad's heavy feet coming down the basement stairs. There was an onimous sound to that heavy walking. Auber, filled with the urgent need to retreat now before the wrath of an angry father overtook him, made a mad scramble to get down from his seat. As he did so, a nail stuck in his pants, temporarily holding him back. Then suddenly it tore loose, throwing him off balance and hurling the whole bunch of boxes about him. He came tumbling down in their midst.

As for me, I escaped more safely. I scrambled up the freight elevator. The girl Auber had ambushed stood in the store, madder, it's true, than the proverbial wet hen... a speculative 55 year old one at that.

"For goodness sakes, lady," I hastened in defense of my brother, "You have such beautiful legs we had no idea you were this old!"

A smile lit her face like the sun coming from beneath a black cloud. She walked from the store as a woman transformed, uttering not one word.

Vinson Merritt  
Kathryn Merritt Carrethers

## Messenger, Charlie and Mary

Charles W. "Charlie" Messenger was born in New York on June 16, 1858. When six years old he moved with his father to Iowa. His mother had died in New York. One of his uncles and several cousins also moved to Iowa. These were Walt, Sr. and Walt Hamner, Jr., Archie Hamner and one of their cousins, Elliott Hamner.

Charlie grew up neighbors to the Newells at Cedar Falls, Iowa and later married Harrison and Sarah's daughter, Mary. They were married at Alliance, Iowa in 1882.

Previous to this time, one of Mary's uncles, Jack Newell, had come to Wyoming and was engaged in mining west of Laramie Peak.

When Harrison Newell and family moved to Wyoming, Charlie and Mary also came. Rock Creek was the rail terminal in 1884. Distribution of anything necessary to every day living was freighted out or in to Rock Creek. The settlement of Rock Creek is not to be confused with the present day Rock River, it was a settlement near

there. Most of the freighting was done with oxen or "bull teams" and the driver of these wagon trains were known as "Bull Whackers".

Charlie established his own freight line and also did some mining.

While at Rock Creek their daughter, Sarah (but always called Sadie) was born in 1886.

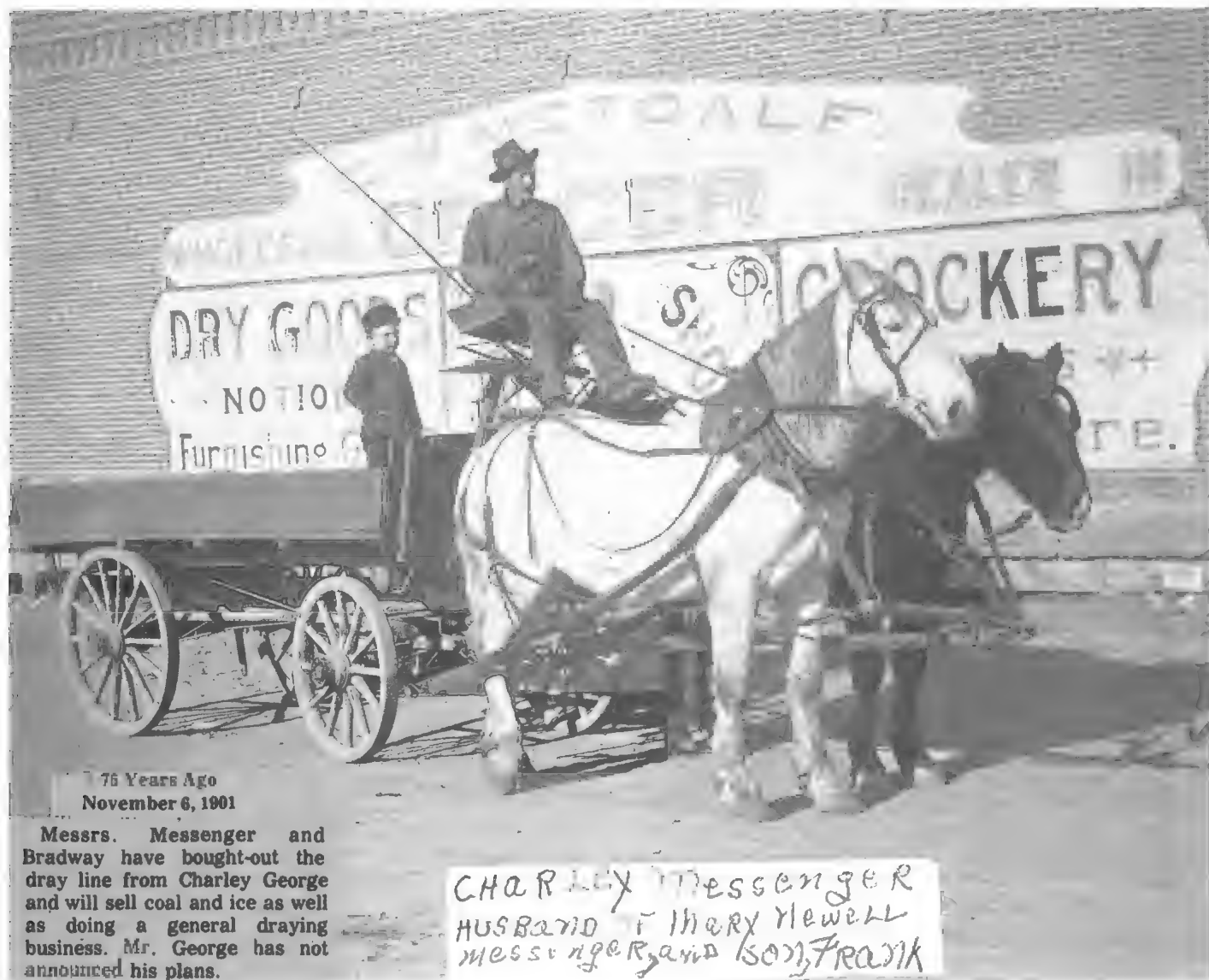
Charlie and Mary moved and built a log house and out buildings about a mile south of Frank Newell.

Their second daughter, Esther, was born at the Harrison Newell home in 1893.

Charlie was an excellent stockman and soon had several head of good horses.

He moved to Douglas and established a freight and dray line there. He also broke and trained driving horses, buggy teams as well as the heavier dray horses.

In 1890 this piece was taken from the paper. "Charlie Messenger of Douglas yesterday sold his sorrel driving team and carriage to C. L. Rowse of Casper. He took in exchange two building lots in Douglas. The team was one of the showiest as well as the best driving team in this section. Mr Rowse will drive them to Casper today. They



CHARLEY Messenger  
HUSBAND of Mary Newell  
Messenger and son, Frank

Charlie Messenger and son, Frank.



have been much admired”.

In 1901 this clipping was taken from the paper. “Charlie Messenger has sold his span of chestnuts to Peter George. They are the finest pair of Drivers on the road”.

Charlie built a house in Douglas. A son, Frank was born in 1890. They were known far and wide for their hospitality. Mary was an excellent cook and housekeeper. Every day was open house at the Messengers. They built a house on the lots Charlie had traded for.

The Hamner cousins had established ranches north of Laramie Peak. Frank Newell had a saw mill and Walt and Archie Hamner freighted the lumber in for the house and helped build it.

Mary was very capable when it came to driving. She used to drive a team of small mules. Guy Newell said he would have been afraid to get in the corral with them, but Mary drove them. Guy said they would run when they were hitched up with their ears laid right back along their necks. Guy said Mary never had a wreck that he ever knew of, but she made good time when she traveled.

Guy and Myrtle Newell were married at the Messenger home in 1900 and Frank Newell married his second wife, Maggie Searle there also in 1893.

Charlie sold his dray line to Slonakers and was elected Converse County Sheriff, an office he held for 16 years.

Charlie died on July 16, 1923.

Frank Messenger married Fred Foxton's daughter, Dolly and they had one daughter, Dorothy. They went to California; and he went to work for Metro Goldwyn Mayer Studios. He was assistant director there for several years until his death.

Dorothy married John Haworth and lives at Hawthorne, California.

Sadie Messenger also went to California and worked at the MGM Studios. She was an actress in several movies. She returned to Douglas and married Bill Delahoyd. They ran the Ranger Hotel in Lusk, Wyoming and also the picture show there. They ran The Frontier Hotel in Cheyenne and ran the LaBonte Hotel in Douglas for a number of years until Bill's health began to fail, and he retired.

Esther Messenger married Pax Irvine. They had a ranch north of Douglas. A pair of twin boys was born to them, but they only lived a few weeks. After they were divorced, Esther went to beauty school and became a beauty operator. She married Jerry Calwell and lived a number of years in Arizona. After Jerry's death she returned to Douglas. Mary Messenger died July 23, 1956. Esther and Sadie lived together until Sadie's death in 1966. Esther died just a week and a day after Sadie.

Vera Newell Dunham

## Metcalf, George and Susie

George Metcalf was born in Northfield, Vermont on Jan. 20, 1855, and grew to manhood there. He received his common school education in Vermont, attending both the University of Vermont and Norwich University.

In the spring of 1880, George came west to be employed as quartermaster's agent at Fort Fetterman.

He made the journey as far as Lusk, Wyoming on the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad. Since Lusk was the end of the line at that time, he continued his journey, a distance of some 63 miles, on foot carrying his belongings in a pack on his back. He camped along the way.

George served as agent for two years, opening a mercantile store at the fort in 1885, and remaining until 1888. In the meantime, he established stores in both Douglas and Casper under his own name.

He was married to Susie Webel of Chicago in 1888, and to this union, two daughters were born, Mildred and Catherine. Mildred married C. D. Zimmerman, well-known in the Douglas area.

From 1886 to 1909 he was engaged in the mercantile business in Douglas. In February 1914, he organized the Commercial Bank and Trust Co., and was its first president. He engaged in the livestock business with Charles Neely, and he organized the Metcalf Land and Live Stock Company. Sheep comprised most of the stock.

During the last 20 years of his life, he made his winter home in Los Angeles, California, returning to Douglas to spend the summers for a time. George died in Los Angeles in December of 1938 and was buried there. His wife and one daughter, Catherine, preceded him in death.

Ruth Grant

## Metz, Henry and Tina Family

A new life in the United States was a dream come true in 1881 for Hemrick Wilhelm Metz. Hemrick, his parents, 4 brothers, and 1 sister immigrated to Fulton, Missouri, from Westphalia, Germany (Prussia). In 1884 Hemrick became a United States citizen, at which time he changed his name to Henry William Metz.

Tina Knoble's family also came from Germany. Tina waited in Germany for her family to save enough money to send for her. Tina's passport showed a total cost of \$30.00, sailing from Brenner, Germany to Boston, Massachusetts. The family reunited in Fulton, Missouri in the year 1884. There she met and married Henry William Metz in 1887.

A miner by trade, Henry worked the coal mines in Fulton, where he and Tina had settled. They were blessed with twin boys, Fred and Henry, born January 7, 1888. Henry had applied and received a Wyoming Territory land grant, but before they were able to move, a baby girl Emma was born in 1889.

So it was in 1890 Henry and Tina arrived in Wyoming with three babies to start their new life on a homestead bordered by Fort Fetterman and Orpha. Nothing more than a dugout in a hill was to become Tina and Henry's home until the homestead could be completed. Once again, Henry took to mining. He subsequently worked the Green Hope near Gurnsey for gold and copper. It is said Tina tended all the homestead chores alone while Henry was away.

On February 26, 1893, Henry and Tina had their fourth child — a son named Walter Emmett Metz, born at Inez.

An avid reader, Henry taught his children at home until schools were available. The children later attended

schools either at Lusk or Inez, depending on where Henry was working at the time. Mary, their fifth child, was born in 1906.

Henry was active in civic affairs and spent several years on the Douglas school board.

Things were good for the Metz family for several years. Henry did well in copper mining and ranching. In 1912 their daughter Emma passed away after a long illness. One year later Tina also passed away.

By 1918 Walter Emmett Metz had met a young lady who had come from Minnesota to Wyoming with her grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Soper. Gladys Leona Nolan and Walter Emmett Metz were united in marriage August 5, 1918. Soon after, Walter and his two brothers were inducted into the service. World War I had left Henry to raise his daughter Mary and to run his ranch and mining company alone.

Fred and Henry, Jr., both fought on the front lines in France. Both were wounded and spent several months in military hospitals in the states. During this time Fred met and married an army nurse. To them a son was born. Fred and his family made their home in Colorado to mine his own silver mine in Idaho Springs. Henry, Jr., married and was to make his home in California. He passed away in April 1962.

Walter returned to Douglas to homestead his own land west of Henry's while also helping his dad on the ranch.

About 1930 Walter and Gladys opened the Black Diamond Coal Company. They operated it for a number of years. At this time Gladys remained at the ranch while Walter worked the mine. During the depression, Walter saw to it that no one went without coal. Some of those accounts were never paid.

Hard times were soon to hit Henry and Walter's families. The bank crash of 1929 took its toll on the Metz family financially, however both men managed to keep their land. Much of their livestock was sold during the drought of 1929 and the 1930s.

Before he could recover from his financial losses, Henry took a trip to Fulton, Missouri, to visit relatives. There he contracted pneumonia and died December 28, 1936.

Walter and Gladys were blessed with seven children, three sons and four daughters, Walter E. Jr., Casper, Wyoming; William R., Cheyenne, Wyoming; Fred E., Albuquerque, New Mexico; Helen (Werner) Ivester, Douglas, Wyoming; Nellie (Metz) Foster, Casper, Wyoming; Florence (Metz) Septer, Casper, Wyoming; and Betty (Metz) Pavilla, Casper, Wyoming. They remained on the ranch until 1938, at which time they moved to Douglas, later selling the ranch. Walter worked for Converse County as a heavy equipment operator on road construction. Gladys worked in several restaurants in town, becoming known to young and old alike as "Mom."

Gladys passed away December 14, 1956. Walter passed away December 5, 1975.

Walter E. Metz Family

## Middleton, Benjamin and Juan

The Benjamin Elgin Middleton and Juan Jelena Smith union was formed by marriage on June 20, 1899.

Benjamin turned his thoughts westward and traveled to Wyoming in the spring of 1910. Here he made preparations to insure a home for his family. He filed on a 160 acre homestead, built a 12' x 14' log cabin and fenced his land in on the bank of Old Woman Creek, Converse-Niobrara Counties, Wyoming. Benjamin then wired money to his family to finance the trip from Flatrock, Mississippi.

Juan Jelena and her children, Hettie Lee, Benjamin Franklin, James Oscar and Thelma Lanetta left their home in Flatrock and traveled west to a new beginning; a new home in a raw and rugged Wyoming. The family arrived in Edgemont, South Dakota, in the late fall of 1910, traveling by train.

It was bitter cold when the family arrived, and the children wore straw hats and were barefoot. Benjamin's neighbor, Solon Clark, traveled by wagon to Edgemont to collect the family. He bundled them into straw in the back of his wagon and provided blankets for warmth on the long journey to the cabin on Old Woman Creek.

Winnie Estella was born in 1912 on Old Woman Creek at Warren, Wyoming, with a doctor from Edgemont attending. Ethel Virginia was born on March 24, 1916, in Lusk, Wyoming, six weeks after the death of Benjamin, her father. He died of Bright's Disease on February 6, 1916.

Juan Jelena Middleton homesteaded in her own name after B. E. Middleton's death. She filed on a 320 acre place located a couple of miles from the mouth of Dogie Creek. The land is now owned by the Julius Petersons.

Oscar Middleton recalls several stories of his youth. A favorite pastime for Frank, Oscar and Thelma was running the wild steers into water holes and making them swim. Or if it was winter, taking their stick horses and chasing the animals out onto the ice in the creek bottoms and watching the action; sometimes catching the steer's



Top row, left to right: Winnie, Thelma, Hettie, Frank and James Oscar Middleton.

Bottom row: Ethel Middleton.

tails and going for a fast ride. Sometimes pranks were pulled, such as dressing out mice, rolling them in green leaves and frying them to feed to the rest of the children.

School in Wyoming was a long, cold walk to the country school house. The children often suffered from frostbite in the winter. In the fall, water for the school was obtained by sinking an apple box into the "dry" creek bed and waiting for the water to seep through and become clear. Oscar remembers feeling lucky if they had lard sandwiches to take along. Benjamins' half sister, Hettie, her husband Fred and six children homesteaded on adjoining land on Old Woman Creek, and the Green children attended school with the Middletons. Later the Middletons attended the Lusk school.

Oscar's formal schooling ended with sixth grade following his father's death. He and his brother, Frank became the "men" of the family.

Oscar started work for Mike Ruffing, herding sheep. With 108 head of sheep to tend, he rolled a "jumbo" Bull Durham cigarette and began making his rounds. He herded sheep for two months and 13 days before he had enough money saved to pay \$30.00 for a horse with the "blind staggers". The horse was reportedly nine years old, but must have been twenty.

Oscar rode on the roundup, working for Otto Hitchcock, when he was 12 years old. The country was all open range then and ranchers gathered stock via roundups.

Sometimes Frank and Oscar caught train rides, riding in the freight cars to distant places looking for work. Oscar recalls he and a friend being "caught" once by the engineer and thinking, "Oh, no, we'll be kicked off!", but the men took pity on two young boys and gave them a whole pie. Oscar worked on various ranches in Niobrara and Weston Counties until he was 21 years old and took odd jobs wherever he could find them.

Juan Jelena (Smith) Middleton departed from life July 26, 1926, at the age of 50. After Juan's death, Winnie and Ethel lived with Thelma Middleton Thomas and her husband Albert for a period of two years. Albert and Thelma were married on August 18, 1925. Hettie Lee was the first Middleton to marry. She wed William E. St. John on April 13, 1920. In 1928 Sheridan Burke took Winnie Estella for his wife. Frank Middleton wed Blance in 1940; she died and he later married Dorothy in 1947. Frank Middleton was killed in an underground mining accident at Kellogg, Idaho, in 1952. Hettie and Bill St. John now reside in Casper, Wyoming. Albert Thomas passed away in 1982 and his widow, Thelma, lives at Ft. Laramie, Wyoming. Sheridan Burke died in 1930 and Winnie Burke TouLou is now a resident of Ione, Washington.

The year was 1927 when Oscar met Marie Elizabeth Daniels at a country dance on the Ed Schimek place. Ed played his accordion so vigorously that it pulled in two pieces and was repaired with a safety pin. Oscar claims to have sometimes traveled 100 miles to court Marie, take her to a dance and ride back home himself. He also claims that there were only two girls in the country at that time.

Marie and Oscar were married on February 18, 1929, at Lusk, Wyoming. The new marriage had a sad beginning. Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan Burke, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Thomas and daughter, Rosalee, and the newlyweds were quarantined with Ethel Middleton at the Thomas home at

Manville, Wyoming. Ethel died of diptheria the following day. The wedding party had immunization shots and were quarantined there for ten days.

Oscar had homesteaded two miles south of Lance Creek and 45 miles north of Lusk, Wyoming, about 15 miles west of Benjamin Middleton's homestead on Old Woman Creek in present day Niobrara County. The newlyweds moved on horseback with a bedroll, chickens, eggs, cats and supplies, their worldly possessions, to the new home. They entered the cabin for lunch, leaving their horses ground tied. The horses ran off, and Oscar's wasn't located until several days later in the creek bottom amongst thick growths of young trees. Water for home use was hauled by horse-drawn sled; and the wash was hung on barb wire fences to dry.

In the fall of 1929, Joseph Daniels and his wife Ella moved to the Heartenbuch place east of Douglas, and in 1938 sold the Daniels homestead and cattle on Middle Creek to their daughter Marie and her husband, Oscar Middleton.

The Middleton ranch grew with land purchases; the Jess Brooks, Inez Brooks, Earl Goutch, Mrs. Clarence Braize, Leonard Rozengreen, and Harriet Slagle homesteads. Wayne Daniels traded with Oscar and Marie, swapping homestead land for cattle.

Albert Thomas brought the doctor from Lusk, Wyoming, for the birth of Ethel Marie, first born of the Oscar Middleton children, on November 30, 1929. Lois Josephine was born at the Heartenbuch ranch in 1931 with Ella Daniels and Dr. Hylton delivering her. She died of spinal meningitis on March 3, 1940. James Ray was also born at the Heartenbuch place on January 6, 1934, with Ella Daniels delivering. Benny Robert was born southwest of Lusk, Wyoming, at the home of Albert and Thelma Thomas on June 9, 1935. Joseph Melvin was born at the Owens place, five miles north of the home place on October 27, 1936. Oscar and Marie lived there to be close to the combined Miller-Middleton School. Rita Carol was born February 24, 1941, at the White Lily Court in Douglas, Wyoming, with Dr. Shaffer attending. Richard Andrew was born July 8, 1942, in Douglas, Wyoming. Dr. Shaffer arrived at the private home following his birth.

Ethel married James Hoskovec and they now live in Golden, Colorado. James Ray married Peggy Ann Wintermote and they partnership ranch with Oscar and Marie on Middle Creek. Benny and his wife Pauline (Sanford) ranch in Converse County in the Wagonhound Community. Joe and his wife Susan live in Newell, South Dakota. A.V. (Vern) Russell married Rita and they reside in Douglas, Wyoming. Richard Middleton lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

There are numerous grandchildren and four great-grandchildren of the Middleton union — Oscar and Marie's — and probably many more future family members to join all the present ones. I wonder if they will ever look back and wonder at the courage of the man Benjamin Elgin Middleton and his wife Juan Jelena to brave the new beginning in Wyoming?

Rita Middleton Russell

## Miles, Ancel and Flora

Sylvester Ancel Miles was born in Ainsworth, Nebraska on February 9, 1893, the eldest child of William Ancel and Ellen Caroline Patterson Miles. Ancel's father had been born in 1851 in LaFayette County, Wisconsin, his mother in Harlan, Iowa in 1869.

The Miles family moved from Ainsworth to Bloomfield, Nebraska in 1900, making the trip into Knox County in a covered wagon. The family settled on a farm north of Bloomfield where Ancel and his brother started school. Three years later the family left the farm and moved into Bloomfield where Ancel grew to manhood.

Ancel's first real employment came in 1905 when he was employed as a "shop boy" by the local printer. His work consisted of folding newspapers, sweeping the floors and cleaning and sorting the "stick type" which was used in those days. He became an apprentice and learned to set type. His first printing job was setting up and printing a batch of handbills. Ancel was so small in stature that he had trouble reaching the foot pedal on the press so he stood on a wooden box.

At the age of 14 Ancel took a job as delivery boy for a general merchandise store. By the time he was 16 he hired out to the railroad as a station helper for the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha line. As time passed, young Ancel decided to apply for a better job and it was then that the company discovered he was under age to work for them so they dismissed him. For the following three years he worked at other jobs which took him into Iowa and South Dakota. He passed through Omaha on Easter Sunday, April 13, 1913, soon after that city was devastated by the worst tornado on record.

On his 21st birthday, Ancel again signed on to work for the CSPM&O railroad as a brakeman. This job, which he held for the next five years, brought him a wealth of experiences including a four-day blizzard. This storm would have claimed the lives of 24 trainmen and passengers had it not been for the pot-bellied stoves at either end of the coach cars. Everyone in the snowbound train car-

ried coal from the coal car to stoke the stoves. Ancel braved the blizzard to walk four miles to a telegraph station to advise Omaha of their situation.

Ancel was married to Flora Maye Lundberg on June 20, 1916 in Sioux City, Iowa. Flora was born March 19, 1893 in Bloomfield, Nebraska, the seventh child of Victor Lundberg, who had been born in Lund, Sweden, December 3, 1854, and Marie Ellen Carlberg, born March 25, 1854 in Carlston, Sweden.

During the 1918 influenza epidemic, Ancel contracted the malady and was in very poor health. Upon the advice of his doctor he decided to seek a higher, drier climate. He took a leave of absence from his job and with his brother-in-law, Felix Lundberg, came to Wyoming to file on a homestead 20 miles northeast of Douglas on Willow Creek which is located between Walker and Lightning Creeks. Completing the preliminary papers, Ancel then returned to Nebraska, coming back later with his wife and William Miles, his father. William had a homestead adjoining that of Ancel.

Ancel and his father spent the rest of the spring and summer grubbing sagebrush and clearing about 20 acres which they then plowed for crops. That fall, Ancel and Flora Maye returned to Bloomfield where Ancel once more worked for the railroad. Flora Jean, their first child, was born in Bloomfield on September 11, 1919.

The family returned to Wyoming to make their home in the spring of 1920. They had shipped their furniture and other possessions ahead. They made the trip in a Ford car with an open trunk in which they put Flora Jean's baby carriage and their Boston Terrier, "Tige."

Since they had no source of water on their homestead, it seemed that the first priority was to try to find water near their homestead shack. Ancel dug a hole twelve feet deep near a spring below the house using a post hole digger with extensions on the handles. After casing the hole, Ancel installed a hand pump. This well furnished enough water for household use, but water for the cattle was provided by a flowing spring on William's homestead.

Ancel built a few sheds and then began construction of a cement house to replace the homestead shack. Relatives and neighbors came to help. Coarse sand for the cement was taken from Ancel's land, but the fine sand was hauled eight miles by team and wagon from Walker Creek. The cement was mixed in a flat wooden trough with sloped ends. Water, sand and dry cement were blended by using a wide-bladed hoe. Since William Miles was a stone mason by trade, helping to build the first railroad bridges between Chadron and the Black Hills, his knowledge was invaluable.

The walls were built by using forms which were filled with cement, allowed to harden, then the forms raised to a higher level and the process was repeated until the walls were of the desired height. When the house was completed it was snug in the wintertime and cool in the summer.

For the next few years, Ancel, Wilbert Oak, Fatty Johnson and some of the Lundberg uncles drove by team and wagon to and from Gurley, Nebraska to work in the harvest fields. This work provided the income needed to live during the winter.

A second child, Rex Ancel, was born on March 20,



L. to r. Ancel Miles and W. A. Miles in 1919 building their homestead shack.

1924 in the cement house on the homestead. Dr. J. R. Hylton drove out from Douglas to attend Flora and with the help of a neighbor, Loretta Walker (Wileman), he delivered the baby boy.

That fall Ancel went to work as manager of "Art's Lunch," a cafe owned by Art Page located on Second Street in Douglas. He worked the night shift and hardly a night went by that there was not a free-for-all. The cafe was popular, being patronized by a rough and tough clientele. In addition to his work as manager, Ancel delivered dinners to a group of local gamblers who played cards at various places around town, finally taking up residence in the basement of the LaBonte Hotel. For this service Ancel was paid four or five dollars, more than he made working an entire shift at the cafe.

A frequent visitor to the cafe was Johnny Hartman, a widower with three children. He made a living breaking and training horses for roping and cutting and in addition worked at ranches in the area. Hartman had a mare named "Bessie." He would ride her down to the cafe and park her in the alley. If he dropped the reins she would stand there until he returned, but if he tied the reins to the saddle she would wander off to the south end of town to graze in the vacant lots, sometimes going off to run with a bunch of wild horses which hung around the outskirts. However, she would always show up at the Hartman's house at six o'clock sharp the next morning.

On one occasion a couple of fellows at a local saloon mentioned that they would like to get hold of a live badger. Johnny overheard the conversation and a little later on he roped a badger off his mare, Bessie. Using his sheepskin coat for protection, he jumped on the animal, wrapped it up, and brought the badger back to town. The men who wanted the badger paid Hartman \$25.00 for his trouble.

Ancel had rented a dairy farm located south of Douglas near the old airport in 1924. The farm was owned by Henry Miller, postmaster in Douglas at that time. Henry's daughter, June, lived with the Miles family and attended high school. Also living with the family was a niece of the Mileses, Ellen Marie Lundberg. Her father was confined to a hospital after he suffered a nervous breakdown when his wife died. Ellen Marie was only two years old at the time of her mother's death.

Flora, William Miles, June and Ellen did the dairy work and the chores, milking, separating and bottling the milk and cream. They delivered their products to Douglas as well as selling it to customers who called at the dairy.

In the early spring of 1927 Ancel moved his family back to the homestead. Using all horse-drawn equipment, Ancel broke up some additional land for crops. He raised potatoes to sell and also for seed, as well as corn, alfalfa, cane, wheat, barley, white and pinto beans and oats.

The work in the potato field was all done by hand, with even the children helping. In springtime the potato pieces were carefully planted, in summer the potato bugs controlled, and when harvest time arrived the crop was dug by hand using a potato fork. The yield was then sorted with the small potatoes being used for food by the family and the larger ones being stored in a cellar. During the winter months the potatoes sometimes sprouted and then the family all helped remove the sprouts to

keep the potatoes firm. In the spring, the potatoes must be de-sprouted once more and cut into pieces for planting, with an "eye" in each piece. These pieces were dipped into a solution of formaldehyde and water to preserve and disinfect them.

The Miles family outgrew the cement house so Ancel purchased the houses of two homesteaders which he moved together in an "L" shape. He invested in a new 100' deep water well which was drilled by Tom Robinson, Sr. It furnished abundant water so he erected a windmill over it and piped the water into an underground tank. From this tank the water was piped into two stock water tanks, near one of which was a shut-off valve. Over the valve Ancel built a box-like building. Water for house use was carried from this building to the house. In winter the pipes often froze. Then a fire would be built in the house to thaw the pipes. Soon Flora was using this building as a smokehouse for hams, bacon and the hard salami which she made.

Flora raised a big garden, canned vegetables and meats and made cheese and sauerkraut. She made her own soap, using pork fat and lye. Printed flour sacks were made into dresses and shirts, the plain ones into pillow cases and dish towels.

The timber east of Walker Creek furnished wood for the fires. Coal, available at the Flattop Mine southeast of Walker Creek, was hauled with team and wagon. Later it was hauled by truck from the Dry Creek area. Ancel, Paul LeBar and August Swanson put up ice together in the winter, packing it in straw and storing it in a cave for summer use.

Threshing time was a big event, especially if the crops were bountiful. It meant going from one place to another, helping each other with the harvest. The men and older boys worked in the fields. The women and older girls provided the vast amounts of food for the threshing crew. It was a time of hard work and long hours but it was also a time to visit and enjoy the companionship of one's neighbors.

Rex and (Flora) Jean Miles attended the Happy Hollow School which was located about three miles east of Highway 59 on the Walker Creek Road. The community held box socials to help pay for playground equipment. Among the teachers who taught there were Lucille Crelly, Peggy Joss, Mr. Dolan, Alice McCoubrey and Mrs. Tinsey Wilson.

There were many other social activities, such as card parties, oyster suppers, church at the Walker Creek School and dances held in homes large enough to handle that sort of gathering. There were pie and box socials held to raise money for a community hall which was built later next to the Walker Creek School. After its completion, most of the gatherings were held there. The Lundbergs had an orchestra, Carl played the piano, Fred and Felix played fiddles. On Sundays baseball teams from the various communities gathered at one place or another to play ball.

The Miles family moved to Douglas to live in 1940. Ancel sold his land to Thomas Meisner. To earn a living he contracted carpentry work on rural school houses during the next two years. With the outbreak of World War II Ancel was associated with Morrison-Knudson in the building of the Casper Airbase, later helping with the



construction of the Prisoner of War Camp west of Douglas. There he held the position of superintendent of the camp's carpentry and paint shop, a job which lasted until the camp was closed in 1946. After that Ancel opened his own carpentry shop.

Warren Garst, a prominent wildlife photographer, enlisted Ancel's help to film some prairie animals for the Walt Disney movie, "The Vanishing Prairie." Ancel built a "mock up" of underground passageways to facilitate the filming procedure.

Flora Maye Miles died in Cody in 1962 but was buried in the Douglas Park Cemetery. After his wife's death, Ancel remained in Cody for about three years, returning to Douglas in 1965. He then engaged in business with the Kirby Vacuum Cleaner Company, operating his business in his home on Fifth and Cedar. Although he is no longer active socially, Miles is a 65-year Mason with membership in Bloomfield Lodge No. 218 in Bloomfield, Nebraska. He is a lifelong Methodist and a life member of the Wyoming Pioneer Association.

A kindly gentleman, immaculate in attire, Ancel is seldom caught without a smile for everyone he meets.

Jean Miles Ballard

## Miles, Jack and Myrtle Family

John Thomas (Jack) and Myrtle Sylvester Miles (1894-1978 and 1896-1960 respectively) moved from Trumbull County, Ohio to Converse County in 1927 with their five children: Joan, Myrtle "Myrt", Dan, Nedra and Dudley. Jack was badly wounded in World War I and came to Wyoming for his health. His closest war buddy, Lance Rose, worked on the Hawley place just above LaPrele Dam; and Jack stayed with the Roses for a year before bringing his family west. His first job was working at a sawmill run by Pete Dawes on Cross land at Cold Springs. The family spent several summers in the mountains, moving to town for school. In the early 1930's Jack took the contract to deliver mail on the rural route from Douglas to Cold Springs, which he carried for about ten years. In the meantime the family farmed several small places near Douglas.

Joan Miles married Glenn Lore in 1937; they have one son, Jack William. Joan worked for over 20 years in the Clerk of Court's office before being elected Clerk of Court in November 1978. Jack Lore married Sara Crane, daughter of Tom and Velma Gunstrum Crane; they have two children and live in Casper.

Myrtle "Myrt" Miles is one of our local characters. She should be eligible for Reader's Digest Most Unforgettable Character. During World War II she taught band in the local schools. About 1940 she took over the same rural mail route carried by her father. Myrt will be remembered as a talented western singer and she always dressed in men's western clothes. She still carries the same mail route to practically the same people, and she is still "Uncle Myrt" to all the kids. She lives on a small ranch just west of town.

Dan S. Miles served in the Army Air Corps as a fighter pilot in World War II and returned to Douglas

after the war. He married Jeanne Volin, they have three children: Cathy, Mary and Danny.

Dan was an engineer in the Wyoming Highway Department for about 20 years and at the present time is in the engineering department for Exxon. Jeanne works at the Converse Land and Title Company.

Nedra Miles married Percy Hawkins of Abilene, Texas, they have one daughter, Lori. Nedra lived all her married life in Texas, returning to Douglas after her husband's death in 1975. She lives on the ranch with Myrt and is active in the out-reach activities under the Senior Citizens programs.

Dudley D. Miles (1925-1977):

I quote from the Congressional Record, April 7, 1977. (Mr. President refers to the President of the Senate).

"Senator Hansen of Wyoming: 'Mr. President, a co-worker and close friend to many of us, Dudley Miles, died suddenly Tuesday evening of a heart attack. We are saddened by this tragedy, and we join today with his many friends and colleagues to extend heartfelt sympathy to his widow, Rayma, his children, Julie, Daniel and Dudley, Jr. and to others in his family.

"As most senators know, Dudley served for a number of years with former Senator Gale McGee. More recently, he had served as chief clerk of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture. He was an uncommonly dedicated and knowledgeable man, and he will be sorely missed.

"Dudley Miles lived much of his life in Wyoming, where he attended public schools and earned his law degree from the University of Wyoming. He embarked on a distinguished career of public service, having served in the Army Air Corps and as county attorney in Carbon County, Wyoming as a top assistant to a U.S. Senator from Wyoming, and as the chief adviser to the members of the Senate Subcommittee charged with deciding how much money the government should spend for a broad range of federal programs and functions.

"He was a devoted husband and father and a faithful friend. I was honored to have known him, and I mourn his passing."

The record contains additional tributes from Senator Eagleton of Missouri, Senator Hatfield of Oregon, Senator Stennis of Mississippi, Ambassador Gale McGee and Secretary of Agriculture, Robert Bergland.

Joan Miles Lore

## Miller, Carlos E. and Agnes

Carlos E. Miller came to Wyoming right after the 1st World War, after being discharged from the army. He was born in Sparta, Illinois in 1893. He filed on a homestead just south of the Walker Creek area about 5 miles.

He worked at the Carbon Black Plant at Lance Creek for sometime. He and Agnes H. Amsden were married in June 1921. He worked in various oil fields to make a living for Agnes and me. At that time I was about 3½ or 4 years old.

Agnes and I had come to Wyoming in 1919 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William A. Amsden from Marion,

Indiana, to file on a homestead which was a short distance from where Carlos had settled.

Carlos had a brother, Bernelle Miller, who filed at the same time as he did on land right next to Carlos. They lived on it for a while, and they moved to Casper. Then we moved into their "Tar Paper Shack" we called home.

We continued to live there all the time I was at home; I left home in 1932. Sometime after that they built a house on Carlos' land. That house was moved to Douglas in 1950 and remodeled. I'm now living in it at 728 South 5th Street.

After they went through a lot of hardships like most everyone else, Carlos decided he was going to pursue another occupation. He had had some experience as a steamfitter when he worked in the Carbon Black Plant. He took a refresher course, and they moved to Seattle in 1940. He worked in the shipyards for awhile and finally went to work for an independent company and retired from there in 1957, when they moved to Encino, California where they lived until his death in April 1963.

Mrs. Miller moved back to Douglas the same year and lived with me until her death in August 1977.

Jean Carroll

## Miller, Henry and Ruth Family

Henry's story began in Puppino, Schleswig-Holstein Province, Germany where he was born on May 14, 1870. His mother and father worked at the hunting lodge of the Kaiser, and could see no future in the country. There was no land to be had and no place to raise a family so they decided to join the ever increasing band of immigrants leaving for the United States.

In the late 1870s, they and three of their children left Germany to come to America. They settled in Rock Island, Illinois where his father worked on the Rock Island Railroad. As a young man, Henry worked on the railroad and soon found himself in Colorado. He found work as a ranch-hand near Sterling. It was here he met Ruth Viola Dean.

Ruth Dean was born in Mendota, Illinois on October 14, 1870 and was left an orphan at the age of twelve. She had lived with an aunt until she had passed away, and then she went to work in other people's homes wherever she was needed. It was then that she met Henry. They were later married at Omaha, Nebraska.

To this union two sons were born. The eldest, Harry Clifford was born at Letts, Iowa on June 18, 1900 and Ray Dexter was born at Topeka, Kansas on January 18, 1910.

Hearing of the "free land" to be had in Wyoming, the Millers left Kansas on the train, to move to Douglas, Wyoming where they were going to homestead in Converse County. Expansive and promising, Wyoming seemed to answer their need, for here were acres of virgin grassland for the taking.

They arrived in the early fall of 1916, and set about looking for a site to build their home. In locating a prime homestead site, the family sought to find good soil for farming and water. The Millers found sparse vegetation, few streams and rolling land, but knew that this would prove easier to cultivate since there were no forests to clear, no marshes to drain and the soil was sandy. They

settled on 320 acres of land in Township 34 N, Range 70 W. They immediately built a one room house to live in. They also constructed a shed to keep their team of horses out of the weather. Their mode of transportation was a wagon and a team of horses, thus they must be cared for carefully.

It wasn't long till winter set in and as money was of short supply, Henry and Harry went to Glenrock to work in the oilfields in and around there. They needed the money to pay their expenses and build up their homestead. Mrs. Miller and Ray moved into Douglas where she worked on a dairy farm until spring. When spring came, Henry, Ruth and Ray moved back to the homestead, but Harry continued to work at Glenrock that year. At last they had their own home and the attraction of the prairie had gotten into their blood and they knew they would be dissatisfied away from it.

Methods of farming and farm tools were different from what Henry had used so these had to be mastered. In testing the fertility of their land, Henry and Harry



Henry and Ruth Miller and grandchildren. Middle row: John and Gene Miller. Bottom row: Betty and Norman Miller.

experimented with different crops but finally settled on wheat and oats. These crops seemed to do well in this soil.

As well as farming, they had to haul firewood and coal from a long distance away by team and wagon. This could take one or two days to make the round trip. Day in and day out, they worked to produce the necessities of life.

As more settlers arrived with their families, a school was built and since the Millers had added onto their house, they "boarded" the school teachers in their home to earn a little extra money.

In the fall of 1924 Rebecca Chandler came from Neosho, Missouri to teach school. As she was assigned a school near the Millers' home, she stayed at their house. She had left Missouri because the salary for teachers was very low and the schools in Wyoming had offered considerably more money. Rebecca found the life a bit daunting at first, but came to love the prairie.

On May 29, 1926, Harry and Rebecca were married. Theirs was an unusual wedding, as it took place on the prairie on horseback. Their attendants were Harry's brother, Ray and Rebecca's best friend, Anna Thatcher.

Harry and Rebecca, Becky as she was known, filed for a homestead of their own on Township 34 N, Range 70 W, Section 21 NE<sup>4</sup> and NW<sup>4</sup>. They built their three room house so that it looked down upon a small creek that ran in front of the house.

When Harry was 18 years old he had joined the National Guard in Douglas and had become a Sergeant of F Troop and was a member of the famous Black Horse Troop that performed at fairs and rodeos over the country. After his marriage he continued to belong to the Guard.

As they needed water, Harry and Ray dug a well on Harry's place. They had to dig 23 feet to get water, but water they got.

During Harry and Rebecca's life on the homestead, two sons and one daughter were born. Gene Clifford was born on March 18, 1927, Norman Louis was born on February 10, 1930 and Betty Joan on October 22, 1933. Gene and Norman attended the Happy Hollow School along with the other children in the area, and rode the school bus with them. Several years later another daughter was born, Sharon Lee on May 29, 1938.

The Miller's second son, Ray, continued to farm with Harry and his dad. He also married a school teacher, Mary Keenan, who had come from Colorado to teach in the school near his home. They were married on December 2, 1927. To this couple were born one son, John H. on September 20, 1928 and one daughter, Mary Catherine on June 20, 1938.

As the weather pattern seemed to change and fields that were once productive became barren, the Millers sold their homesteads and moved into Douglas. Harry and his family moved to Thermopolis where he worked as an engineer and helped build the highways of the state.

After moving to Douglas, Ruth developed cancer and passed away on December 22, 1935. Henry continued to live at Douglas where he became a builder. He passed away September 28, 1956 at Cheyenne.

Harry had moved to Kansas in 1950 and he died there of cancer on January 11, 1967.

While employed by the Boeing Missile Co., Ray was

killed in a car crash in Colorado on May 22, 1967.

Although the original members of the family are gone, many grandchildren and great grandchildren remain.

Betty Miller Johnson

## Miller, Paul "Blinky" H. and Bessie L. Family

Paul H. "Blinky" Miller was born in Sageeyah, Indian Territory (now Claremore, Oklahoma), July 14, 1897. He was the tenth child of Henry Massey Miller and Mary Jane Orr Miller. His parents moved to the southern part of Indian Territory when he was four years old. His mother died in May 1902 and his father died in 1909. His sister Mary and her husband, Sam Smith, returned to the family home to care for her brothers and sisters.

My father told me that times were very hard and his brother-in-law believed a good flogging never hurt anyone. The schoolmaster would also flog all the boys every morning just to make sure they got what was coming to them that day. When my father was 13 and in the fifth grade, he decided he had had enough and he would take steps to alleviate part of the beatings he was getting every day. Before going to school one morning he stole his brother-in-law's six shooter and waited until the schoolmaster went to the outdoor privy and he emptied all six bullets into the privy. Thinking he had probably killed the school master he left for parts unknown.

Paul's father, Henry Massey Miller, had been a farmer and a stockman. He had made nine trips from the Mexico border up the Chisholm trail, first as a hired hand and then as a foreman. His sons, Paul and Hinton, took turns going with him on the trail drives. Therefore, Paul was an experienced cowboy and he worked as a "wangler" for various ranches in Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico after he left home. When he reached Denver, Colorado he worked on a poultry farm for three years and came to Wyoming on a coal train in 1914. He worked in Lost Springs in an underground coal mine for about a year before going to work for Harry Pollard. When he reached Wyoming he let the folks back home know where he was. His brother, Hinton, came to Wyoming in 1916 and told him at that time that not one of those bullets had hit the schoolmaster.

Paul worked for several area ranchers in the next few years, Harry Pollard, Bert Emery, Bill Dorr and Vic DeMott. He worked for the Dorr's for the longest period of time and Bill's sons, Percy, Dutch and Paul, were very close and could tell many a wild tale. Blinky broke horses for the army while working at the Fiddleback Ranch for Vic DeMott in 1917. His brother, Hinton, was drafted in WWI and was killed in France. Blinky was one of the best bronc riders in his day and never missed a good rodeo. He always said every horse had his own rhythm, all you had to do was find it. He was a contestant in the American Legion's Fourth of July Rodeo at Gillette in 1921. Never in the history of Gillette had a bucking contest been represented by so many good riders and horses. Paul was picked as the winner, receiving as first

prize a beautiful one hundred dollar Furstnow saddle.

Blinky homesteaded in the Cow Creek Buttes near the old Burning Coal Mine in 1921.

Bessie Leola Russ was born in McLean, Nebraska, November 22, 1904. Her parents later moved to Chambers, Nebraska where they were engaged in the farming business. After she graduated from high school, she enrolled in the Teachers Normal Training School in Peru, Nebraska. She came to Wyoming in the fall of 1922 and taught two years at the Rounds School in the Cow Creek Buttes.

Paul H. (Blinky) Miller and Bessie L. Russ were married in 1923. Bessie also filed on a homestead and that is where the ranch was built. Roy Wampler was hired to build a log house. The logs were cut, peeled and hauled by team and wagon to the ranch site from the Cow Creek Buttes. Wood and coal were also hauled from the buttes for fuel. A neighbor, Bert Good, drilled the water well and the water was so hard and had so much iron in it that visitors were advised to bring their own drinking water or take their chances with a bout of diarrhea. The wind mill and cistern were on a hill from the house and in later years water was piped inside the house. Instead of electric lights we had carbide lights.

There were eight children born to this union: Betty, Bob, Billy, Mary, Raymond, Joan, Max and Karen, who was ten years younger than Max. Our neighbors, Bert and Ela Good used to take care of the older children when mother went to Douglas to have the next one. When Billy was born their daughter, Rua, said, "Oh, Mother, now they've got Blinky, Bess, Betty, Bob and Billy at the Millers!"

The ranch was located 65 miles northeast of Douglas and trips into Douglas were infrequent. My parents bought enough groceries every fall to carry them through the winter. They always raised a big garden and my mother spent all summer canning food for winter. The older children went to the Crater Basin School which was a quarter of a mile from the ranch. In addition to their own ranching operation, my dad continued to break horses, run livestock and rode for area ranches. Dad was away from home a lot and mother took the reins in hand doing the inside and outside work with the help of the older children.

Due to the drought in 1934 they leased and moved to the Johnny Thompson place on Lighting Creek. They lived there one year before moving back to the ranch on Cow Creek. My mother hunted and shot about 300 Cotton-tail rabbits that winter with a 410 shot gun and sold them for 35 cents a piece.

A range of hills in Converse County have been named the Miller Hills. This seems an appropriate tribute to two people who struggled through some arduous years raising eight children and accumulating enough land to support their family.

Their oldest daughter, Betty, had a tonsillectomy when she was three years old. During surgery the doctor severed her left vocal cord and she was unable to talk out loud the rest of her life. Ensuing medical problems required numerous surgeries and she was hospitalized at the Children's Hospital in Denver, Colorado for long periods of time. A tracheotomy was performed when she was three years old. When she was able to be at home my

father was the only one who could change the tube in her throat. If he had to go riding he would take Betty with him in order to care for her. Her handicap did not hinder her accomplishments. My mother had to work outside a great deal of the time and Betty would care for her brothers and sisters, was an excellent cook, did the housework and was an accomplished seamstress. And through it all she had a terrific sense of humor. She attended school in the elementary grades in the Children's Hospital in Denver and high school at Dry Creek, Lusk and Douglas. She was awarded a four year scholarship to Laramie which she forfeited as she elected to stay in Douglas and work at the Converse County Library and later at the Prisoner of War Camp.

My parents went into the sheep business in 1937 and at one time had around 3000 head. At that time, sheep management was very different compared to sheep ranchers today. We had sheep tight fences and a herder with the sheep at all times (usually a little Miller). At the end of the year we knew where and what happened to every lost animal and a loss of 20 or more was bad news.

Paul and Bessie were divorced in 1953. My mother later remarried and moved to Jerome, Idaho where she lived until her death in 1973.

Dad sold the ranch to Victor and Mary Nachtman in 1958. He moved to Newcastle in 1960 and lived on a small place north of town until his death in 1967.

Bob served in the Navy in WWII and Billy and Raymond served in the Korean War. Bob was killed in a light plane crash in 1947, Billy died in 1975 and Betty in 1981. At this writing, Billy's wife, Elsie, and son, Dennis, still operate their ranch near Guernsey. Mary, Raymond and Joan live in Casper, Max is in Douglas and Karen is in Jerome, Idaho.

Mary Jane Miller Reed

## Mitchell, Harry and Margaret

Thomas Harte Benton Mitchell, of German descent, was born in Florence, Missouri and grew to manhood there. At the beginning of the Civil War, Thomas bought a second-lieutenancy in the Union Army. A man enlisting in the army at that time could become an officer simply by buying the position. T. B. fought against a brother and several half-brothers who had enlisted in the Confederate Army in the battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas. Thomas was wounded in this battle, taking a mini-ball in his hip. He was taken to the hospital in Sedalia, Missouri. The doctors decided it would be wisest not to try to remove the lead so Thomas carried the rifle ball for the rest of his life.

Barbara Ann Yankee, born and raised in Missouri had volunteered to help care for the wounded in the hospital in Sedalia. It was there that she met T. B. They were married in 1860. Thomas withdrew from the army and they moved to a 40 acre farm near Florence to make their home.

Harry, their eldest son, was born in Florence in 1879. He had three sisters and two brothers. He received his education in the rural schools near his home.

The family moved to Colorado when Harry was in his early 20's. Thomas took a claim of 160 acres, south of



Mitchell Family 1933 L. to r.: Harry, Phyllis, Tom and Margaret.

Otis. Thomas thought that there he would be able to provide a better living for his family. Harry found employment with the railroad in Akron, Colorado. He was put in charge of a work train tending the line between Galesburg, Illinois and Sheridan, Wyoming.

Harry married Margaret Dolly Helbig in Denver, Colorado in 1911. She was born in 1888 in Burwell, Nebraska. Her parents were full-blooded Germans; they had immigrated from the old country and were married in Chicago, Illinois. Margaret grew up in the farming community near North Loup, Nebraska and was educated in the schools there. She was the youngest child in a family of seven - three boys and four girls. Her older sister, Dena, had married and moved to Akron, Colorado. Dena became seriously ill in 1910 and Margaret was sent to Colorado by her parents to help care for Dena and her family. It was there that she met Harry Mitchell.

After his marriage, Harry gave up his job as foreman on the work train to work as a laborer in the coal chutes at the railroad yards located in Brush, Colorado. It was dirty, strenuous work, for less money, but it enabled him to live at home with his wife. Soon after the birth of their first son in 1912, it was feared that Margaret might be developing tuberculosis, the illness from which her sister, Dena, had suffered. Harry decided to investigate the possibility of homesteading in Wyoming, hoping that the higher altitude might prove beneficial to his wife. He made the trip to Douglas in a Model "T" Ford. It was springtime. At Chugwater he was delayed for three days because Chugwater Creek was flooding. There was no

bridge across the creek so Harry was forced to wait until the water receded before he could ford the creek.

Douglas was a rowdy town in 1916, composed of numerous saloons, a livery stable and various small business establishments. Upon his arrival there, Harry was told that there was open land in the vicinity of Glenrock. He filed on a claim to the north of the town. A short time later he was told that a pioneer resident of Douglas by the name of Tony Logan was acting as a "locater". Evidently, Harry was not completely satisfied with his claim since he went back to Douglas to engage Mr. Logan to find some land closer to Douglas. The service which Logan rendered the prospective homesteaders was simply that of pointing out various unclaimed tracts in the vicinity. For this he charged according to the amount of time he spent searching for a location satisfactory to his client. On one such trip, Harry and Mr. Logan stopped to visit with a homesteader whose claim was located about eleven miles northeast of Douglas. The homesteader was thoroughly disgusted with his claim and with Wyoming. He wanted nothing more than to return to the east. All he wished was that he could find someone to compensate him for the improvements he had made. If he could find such a person then he would relinquish his claim and vacate the premises. A price of \$50.00 was the sum agreed upon. The deal was closed. Harry relinquished his rights to the claim near Glenrock and immediately filed on the claim near Douglas. Having completed the paper work, Harry accompanied the departing homesteader to the depot to catch a train. The man was carrying a .32 caliber Winchester. The conductor refused to allow the man to board with the rifle so the homesteader asked Harry if he would buy it. Harry, with little money to spare, could not afford the purchase. Just as the train was pulling out, the homesteader thrust the rifle into Harry's hands, and jumped aboard the train.

Harry returned to Colorado to gather his belongings. He rented an emigrant car to transport his livestock and equipment, this being the most economical method. He loaded his team, wagon, walking plow, tools and his household furnishings into the car. He made a bed for himself so that he could care for his livestock during the trip.

In the spring of 1917, Margaret and five year old Leland came to Douglas on the train. Harry met them and took them to the 12'x16' shack, which resembled a black boxcar. A "water witch" named Axxe was hired to locate water. A well was drilled about a quarter mile to the east. With the help of neighbors, Harry moved the shack next to the well.

One day in early fall, a great herd of cattle numbering 3000 head appeared on the south horizon. They were being driven from Texas to the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. It was an awesome sight.

There were few schools in the rural areas. Harry's eldest son, Leland, received his elementary education in one which was located about two miles from this home. The school term lasted six months. A rural teacher earned \$21.00 per month then, of which she must pay \$7.00 for room and board.

In 1919 Dorothy Ruth was born to Harry and Margaret; she, too, attended the rural school until the mid 1920's when she became ill with a heart condition. Thomas



Harry, the second son, was born in 1923, and Phyllis Margaret was born in 1925. All of the children, except Leland, were born in Douglas in a "lying-in" home.

The health of the eldest daughter steadily worsened. Harry moved his family into Douglas so that Dorothy Ruth could have better medical help. She died in 1929. During this time, Harry lived at the homestead, spending as much time as he possibly could with his family in town. Leland was attending high school then and Tom had just started elementary school. The family remained in Douglas until the spring of 1930, after which they returned to the homestead.

It was very difficult to make a decent living during the decade which followed - a decade of drought, depression and despair. The future of those homesteaders with small herds of cattle and sheep looked very bleak. There was no market for livestock, no feed for them, and thus, no income. Many of the families were forced to give up their homes and move away; those that remained existed with only the bare necessities of life. Harry and his family belonged to the latter group.

In the late 1930's, Harry was doing some repair work on his Ford. He had blocked up the rear axle and removed one wheel. His teenaged son, Tom, was helping with the work. Harry was lying beneath the vehicle when suddenly the blocks slipped. The car fell, pinning Harry beneath the frame. He was barely able to breath. Tom, faced with this terrible crisis, found the strength to lift the car just high enough so that his father could wiggle from under it. Miraculously, Harry suffered no broken bones, but from that time until his death in 1943, his health gradually declined.

In 1942, Harry sold his original homestead and some other land which he had accumulated and bought the McColl place which laid about three miles to the east. It was about twice the size of the original place. He had built his cattle numbers to about 80 head since 1934 when the government bought and slaughtered so many cattle and sheep.

Leland, who had been employed in various jobs, joined the Air Force in 1940. His outfit was sent to Mindinao in the Phillipine Islands. He was captured by the Japanese and spent 44 months in prison camps located in both the Phillipine Islands and in Japan.

Owing to his father's infirm condition, Tom had been charged with the responsibility of the ranch work since he was 16 years old. After his father's death in 1943 he managed the ranch, cared for his widowed mother and in addition he somehow completed his high school education.

In 1945, Tom married Ruth Lindmier in Douglas, Wyoming. They lived on the Mitchell property until the spring of 1949 when they moved to the Harney Creek Ranch north of Lost Springs. Margaret lived for a time in the Douglas area. Later, she moved to Nebraska to live with her sister, and later still, she was employed as a housekeeper for a family in Denver, Colorado. Her surviving daughter, Phyllis, had married and made her home in Riverton, Wyoming. Margaret took an apartment, and lived there for several years. Finally, she returned to Douglas in 1974 to make her home at Irwin Towers. About two years later, she moved into Michael Manor rest home, due to the fact that she was almost blind. It was there that she passed away at the age of 91.

Tom and Ruth pastured cattle for Margaret so she might have income on which to live. They used the Mitchell property in return for caring for Margaret's livestock. In 1959 Tom bought his mother's land and the land belonging to his father-in-law. Since Tom and Ruth had no natural children, they adopted two. The girl Ruth Anne, was born in 1954 in Sheridan, Wyoming. John Arthur, their son, was born in 1956 in Sheridan. Tom died in 1979 of cancer. Ruth has since remarried and lives with her husband, Elmer Grant, on Harney Creek.

Anne, who has two children, a boy and a girl; and John who has one son, John Dalton, live in Douglas.

Leland married Clara Gerdtz, and Phyllis married Clinton Holtz in a double wedding in 1948. Leland and Clara live in Kearney, Nebraska. Phyllis and Clint had two son, Patrick Earl, born in 1948, and Robert Clinton, born in 1956. Phyllis lost her husband in 1973 and married Robert G. Davis; they live in Colorado Springs, Colorado where Phyllis works at the Air Force Academy.

Harry Mitchell jokingly said that he came to Wyoming to make his fortune in just five years, but he never made enough money to buy a train ticket to leave. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and served several terms on the local school board.

Ruth Mitchell Grant  
Leland Mitchell

## Mohr, George and Nell Family

George Mohr was born in Bergen, Norway on November 3, 1869, the son of Carl and Hagelsteen Mohr. He came to the United States as a young man and worked on ranches in New Mexico and Colorado until his arrival in Wyoming.

Nell Shonerd became George's wife on June 23, 1898. She was born in Olney, Illinois on April 10, 1878. They had two boys, Carroll (born in Pinneo, Washington County, Colorado on April 2, 1900) and David. David lives in Rosarita Beach, Baja, California.

Carroll married Julia Loser in Denver, Colorado on September 22, 1920. Julia was born on May 13, 1899 in Denver, Colorado. Two sons, Wesley and Carroll Jr., were born to them. Wesley died in 1975.

Carroll worked at the new Midwest Refinery in Laramie, Wyoming after their marriage and when it was finished he moved back to Denver. Shortly after George Mohr took the position of manager of the Fiddleback Ranch succeeding Mr. Gleason. When George became seriously ill Carroll and Julia moved to the ranch on Box Creek north of Douglas to help out.

George died on April 5, 1923. Nell taught school after George's death, first at the Clayton Tank Farm and then at the South Grade School in Douglas. Julia Mohr wrote in her story the following about Nell, "I remember that she (Nell) used to tell us of the antics of Eddie Moore. My wish is that she could have lived to know what a fine man he has turned out to be. I know he would say he was "one of the Moore tids". Nell spent her retirement years in California and passed away on September 7, 1963.

In 1944 Carroll and Julia purchased the Box Creek

division of the Fiddleback Ranch. Shortly after they sold it to Jake Johnson and his family. The Mohrs then moved to Laramie where they owned and operated a motel for several years before moving to California.

Carroll died on October 20, 1981. Julia lives in a retirement home in Irvine, California.

John R. Pexton

## Moore, Earl and Mary Family

Earl Moore was born at Laramie, Wyoming on March 23, 1893, the son of Harry and Genevieve Moore. Harry was Postmaster at French, Wyoming which no longer exists. Genevieve died when Earl was two years old and he was sent to live with his aunt and uncle, the William Huxtfords at Central City, Nebraska. Earl attended school at Central City, working at available jobs before entering the service in WWI in July of 1917 for a short duration.

Mary Barta was born November 11, 1896 at Linwood, Nebraska to John and Anna Barta. She grew up on a farm seven miles from Central City, attending school in a one room school house on her parents' place.

Earl and Mary were married at North Platte, Nebraska in September 1918 at which time Earl was working for the Bureau of Reclamation at Bayard, Nebraska. At the same time a friend of the Moores, Louis Buckridge, worked on the same job as a blacksmith. "Buck", as he was nicknamed, suffered from asthma and was told by his doctor to move to a higher, dryer climate. In 1917 Buck filed on a homestead north of Douglas, Wyoming in Converse County. In 1918 Buck built a one room house and settled down.

In the spring of 1918 Earl quit his job with the reclamation service, went to Douglas and filed on a homestead of his own. Violet was born on December 11, 1919 at Bayard and on March 20, 1920 Earl and Mary loaded their worldly goods into their Model T Ford and headed for Wyoming.

Dad, Mom and I, Violet, lived with Buck while our 12 x 16 foot house was being built with lumber purchased from a brother of John Wohlford who decided homesteading was not for him after he'd hauled the lumber to a site south of the Cheyenne River. Dad and Buck moved to Casper where Buck worked at the round house and Dad sold coal for \$1.00 a sack or larger amounts which was delivered in his Model T Ford. He sold mostly to the Sand Bar District which at that time was the red light district; another fellow delivered coal with a team and wagon. Jobs were scarce and any job was most welcome.

Mom and I were left to live on the homestead until Dad could provide a place for us to live. Somewhere along the way things got pretty hectic, and we (Mom and I) moved to the Dilts Ranch with Mr. and Mrs. "Bud" Logan who was the foreman at that time.

In time, Dad found work in Casper with the building trades and was able to move us up with him. On January 23, 1921 another daughter, Genevieve, was born. On July 7, 1923 another daughter, Ruth, was born. After we moved back north of Douglas the little house was torn down and another house was built on a real cement foundation so

we had a basement for storage.

Dad bought his first cow from William Powell, then more cattle from Mr. Thompson. He also bought three cattle in Casper where he rode horseback from Douglas to drive them home. In those days there were no fences and the cattle could travel for miles.

A start in the sheep business was from bum lambs, lambs who lost their mothers or by mothers who disowned them, from the Dilts ranch and bottle fed until they could eat grass. Later on, Dad bought 100 head of yearlings from Wade Fowler; Jacob Riehle also bought sheep from Mr. Fowler, and together they trailed their sheep to their respective ranches. In the summer when we three girls were old enough, we would herd the sheep while Dad would plant and tend his fields. Mom raised chickens, turkeys and a garden.

On June 10, 1930 Dad sent we three girls to visit our aunt, Sophia Barta, who lived several miles north of us, when we returned that evening we were greeted with the news that we had a baby brother named Ronald.

Since we had no school or teacher, my first two years of school were spent living with Grandma Barta, Aunt Sophia, Aunt Rosie and Uncle Ed, going to the same little school where Mom, her brothers and sisters went. Gen, when she was old enough, also attended school there. Our first years of school in Wyoming were held in the home of "Bill" Dillon, who herded sheep and was never home in the winter. Our teacher was Doris Partridge, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Robertson. Students were Kenneth Robertson, Robert House who roomed and boarded with the Robertsons, Gen, Ruth and myself. We girls rode about four miles on horseback for several years until the Patterson school house was moved by Dad and his tractor from the Dry Creek community to a site north and west of where we lived. Doris was still our teacher with several more students as more people had moved into the community. Clara and Mary Ellen Martin along with the same ones from the Dillon school.

In the winter time the men would get together to put up ice, armed with a saw, ice tongs and team and wagon, they would saw blocks of ice that were hauled to a cellar where it was packed with coal dust or saw dust for use during the summer. Also, the men would help one another if any butchering was to be done, and we could look forward to fresh meat for supper.

In the early 1930's dad built us a sod house. It had one large room, a kitchen, a bedroom, too cold to sleep in in the winter time and a room to hold coal so we wouldn't have to leave the house for fuel. It was great in the winter but rattlesnakes found a cool place to live in the summer time. Ticks were something else we were always on the look out for every spring.

School was consolidated at Verse with students bused from south and north of the Cheyenne River by Jim Stevens, first using a car as a bus then later a school bus to gather kids along the route. Melvin Shadel was the bus driver for kids north and south of the Antelope Creek. Gladys Hanlin was our teacher for all grades one - eight. School was held in the community hall during the week, the hall was used for dances on Saturday night and Sunday school and church on Sundays. The hall had a kitchen where sandwiches and coffee (that was made in a washboiler) were served at dances. On Sunday we girls

would tie our Sunday school clothes in a flour sack, ride horseback to Sunday school then change our clothes in the outhouse and attend Sunday school. After services which were lead by Ralph Haefele the first three Sundays of the month and lead by a minister Rev. Noyce from Wheatland, Wyoming on the fourth Sunday.

Mom made our underclothes from flour sacks that she soaked in lye water to take the lettering out but that didn't always do the trick so it was nothing to see "Pride of the West" or "Lily White" stamped across our bottoms when we stooped over.

Dad proved up on the homestead in 1932, sold his sheep and place in 1935-36, then moved to the Crouse place near Dry Creek, then moved to Sheridan in March 1937. He moved to Wyarno for two years, moved to Ulm then to Clearmont and into Sheridan in 1948.

Mary passed away in July 1968. Earl is at the V.A. Hospital in Sheridan at this time.

Violet lives in Anchorage, Alaska; Gen in Bridal Veil, Oregon; Ruth in Preston, Idaho and Ronald in Tacoma, Washington.

Some things that I didn't add are Dad playing baseball with games played at Verse or Dry Creek. The 4th of July was a big day for us as we all went to Dry Creek for a big celebration, baseball games, pop if we could work enough dimes from folks and dance at night.

Dad bought a Model A and taught Mom to drive. One day she went to visit the Oskins family and on the way home the car wouldn't stop when she hollered "whoa" at a gate and naturally she went right through. Dad laughed but Mom never drove again.

The folks went to Casper and left the three of us with Mr. Robert Ireton as he was drilling a well on our place at the time. While the folks were gone we each took a bottle of beer and since we didn't know how to open the bottles we used a nail and hammer to make a hole in the top. After a couple of swallows each we didn't want any more but where to put the bottles so they wouldn't be found? Down the outhouse they went but not far enough not to be seen. We got a box of matches and proceeded to light them trying to build a fire in the cow barn. When the folks came home they had a black baby doll and a pair of beads for each of us, which we were very proud of, until Dad made a trip - the back house where the beer bottles were staring at him and another trip through the cow shed where the matches popped up with each step. Needless to say the dolls and beads were taken from us as punishment. In order to make the folks feel bad for what they did, we went down the road a little way and laid down by a gate separating our place from Buck's and we decided we'd die, that would show them. We didn't realize it took so long to die and since hunger came before death, we went home again.

Violet Moore Lowther

## Moore, Lee and Amanda Family

As with many of the pioneer families of Wyoming, the Moore family had its origins in Texas. Lee Moore was born at Round Rock, Texas, January 1, 1856, the son of John and Emily Elliott Moore. John Moore served in the Mexican War and the Civil War, serving some time as a prisoner of war at Ft. Delaware after being wounded, be-



Ogalalla Ranch House

ing released at the close of the War, then he returned to Texas where he lived until his death in 1920.

Lee Moore was the oldest child. He spent his childhood around Williamson County, Texas. He describes his early life there in a letter to the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association in 1914, from which we quote:

"In 1861, my uncle Jack Elliott started to the War of the Rebellion, he gave me an old cow and a little calf, and my father gave me a pony and a bridle and sheep skin hickory shirt, so at five years of age I was a cattle owner, fully equipped for the business, but that winter the old cow died or went to war. As I thought in those days everything went to war but women, children and negroes,



Lee and Amanda Moore on their Wedding Day, 1883.



Lee Moore leading the Parade at the First State Fair.

and as my calf was not a heifer, and owing to my age, my herd did not increase during the war, but when the cruel war was over and my father came home, I owned a work steer. My father, knowing my weakness for little calves, gave me a calf for my steer, and he continued to give me a little calf for my yearling every year until I was about sixteen.

"In 1866 my father added to my uniform a saddle, overalls, a wool hat, a pair of shoes and started me out 'reping'. Reping in 1866 was quite different from 'reping' in Wyoming in 1914. We didn't call it roundup in those days, we called it cow-hunting and every man went to see what he had left and to brand what had not been branded during the war."

So, Lee Moore, at the age of 10, was already a cowboy. He worked for I. P. Olive and the Snyders, and in 1877 hired out as a "common waddie to go down to the coast and help drive a herd of cattle to old Cheyenne". At Hillsdale, below Cheyenne, Snyder delivered cattle to Alex Swan, John Sparks, and others, and Snyder then took his "waddies" into Cheyenne, where he paid them off. Lee Moore then found a job with Tom Brandson's outfit "with Dave Knight as foreman. John Sparks was interested in the outfit — that is we had a lot of 4J cattle. We branded the cattle at ex-Governor Carey's ranch on Little Horse Creek and then drove them to where Douglas now stands. We camped overnight at what now is the State Fairgrounds. The next morning we turned about half the cattle across the river. We turned the balance loose on the north side."

In 1879 Lee Moore was on the roundup which started April 1 at Ft. Fetterman, with Joe Hazen as foreman. They worked the north side of the river first, swimming the cattle across the river each night as they would work the south side last.

After the roundup, Lee Moore returned to Texas, and came up the trail again in 1880, and when the herd was disposed of at Ogallala, Nebraska, he went to work for the 0-0 outfit, Hanner and McKauley as owners and Joe Stratton as foreman. They drove the herd to Antelope Springs (located on land now owned by Lee Moore's great grandson, Billy Moore) and turned the herd loose. He then "reped" at several roundups — 1881 on the Powder River, and in 1882 he ran a wagon on the roundup on

Powder River. In 1882 he drove beef to the railroad to ship to market, one bunch to Pine Bluffs, two to Thatcher, Nebraska, which was the terminus of the Northwestern Railroad. Following these drives, he returned to Texas, where on January 4, 1883, he married Amanda Thomas. They returned to Wyoming shortly after that, where he was put in charge of the 0-0 outfit. In 1884 he was foreman of the roundup from the mouth of Black Thunder to Fetterman. Quoting from his letter again: "I received ten percent of all the maverick money. This was the first year the mavericks were ever sold and the proceeds went to the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association. The foreman was required to give the bond and sell all mavericks every ten days and send the proceeds with the ten percent to Tom Sturgis, who was Secretary of the Association. Our old friend, Luke Voorhees and Charles Campbell were my bondsmen. My first sale was to Metcalf and Williams. Mr. Campbell instructed me to buy them for him if I could get them at \$15.00 a head. As I could pay only \$15.00 and John T. Williams gave more, I sold them to him. When I put in my report, Mr. Sturgis wrote back that it was not the intention of the Association to sell those yearlings to men like Metcalf and Williams, but Mr. Campbell said I was inside the law and to go ahead and sell them to the highest bidder."

In 1887, Lee Moore bought a few cattle; in the spring of 1888, he found himself without a job, so he ran the general roundup from Lance Creek west. In 1889 and 1890, he worked for the Ogallala Ranch, of which William C. Irvine was manager.

In 1891, Lee Moore established his first ranch on the head of the Belle Fourche; it was about this time that he was blackballed as a "rustler." As he wrote: "The laws of Wyoming required a man to brand his calves before they were a year old and, as a great many of the cowmen violated that law by not branding them before they were a year old, I adopted some of these neglected yearlings and put my brand on them so that the cowboys would know whose they were, and also to increase my herd. I followed the industry until 1899 when I discovered that the legal talent necessary was so expensive that my profit was not sufficient to carry on the business and eat regularly, so I sold out and left Weston County with some regrets, a lot of good friends and no bad debts, and came to Converse County and bought Royston's Ranch on Lightning Creek (now owned by Lee Moore's great grandson, Jack).

"I didn't have stock enough to make ranching pay so in 1902 I went into the First National Bank at Douglas with my breath stronger than my intellect and after knocking down a couple of clerks and getting by the cashier, I found Mr. J. DeForest Richards in his office and after making my X and a lot of promises, I borrowed money to buy cattle with. I bought some two-year-old southern steers and ran them two years. I shipped them to Omaha and when I had them all shipped out, I found that I had lost the interest and my labor, but consoled myself that I was a cowman and could borrow money, that I had the use of those steers for two years and that I would never buy any more until I could fatten them. Here I am (in 1914) still borrowing money and buying cattle, and if I ever die, which I think is doubtful, I will still have a little calf to hand down to my grandson, little Lee

Moore."

About 1908 Lee Moore sold the ranch on Lightning Creek to his son, Leroy, and moved to the Diamond Ranch at Chugwater. He served there as one of the first members of the Platte County Board of Commissioners, and later served in Cheyenne as Commissioner of Brands.

Lee and Amanda Moore had seven children: Leroy, the oldest, was born in 1883 at the Ogalalla Ranch; Robert Floyd (Jib); Frank; Nealy; Cecil; Carrie; and Villa. Cecil and Carrie died young; Frank drowned at the Lightning Creek Ranch in the lake formed by the natural spring there. Villa married William Paxton Irvine; she died in Buffalo, Wyoming in 1984.

Lee Moore, like the others who were involved in the Johnson County War, said little about his part in that infamous affair. He was listed as one of the "rustlers" the Invaders set out to eradicate; in 1891, because he feared not only for his life but for that of his family, he sent his wife and children to Texas and took to hiding out. He told his grandson, Lee, that they would move camp at night, hiding out by day, never staying two days at the same place. His companions changed constantly, and they were wary of any newcomers they ran into. He was present at the TA Ranch where the Invaders were surrounded, and it was here that he took the rifle which belonged to Nate Champion from the Invader's wagon. He gave this rifle to Nate's brother, Dudley, who later gave it to Lee Moore to keep, who later gave it to his grandson, Lee, who has placed it in the Pioneer Museum at Douglas. Dudley Champion was later killed by Mike Shonsey.

The winter of 1886-1887 was one of the worst in history, and many, many cattle were lost. It is thought that because of the heavy losses, eastern and foreign owners of the large ranches blamed their losses not on the winter but on the rustlers. The weather was not only hard for the cattle but for the men. That winter Lee Moore and Ollie Chambers spent at the Ogalalla Ranch and had to use the poles in the corrals for fuel. When spring came it was necessary to cut and haul replacement poles from the Pine Ridge. The remaining horses were thin and weak, so Lee and Ollie had to supplement their teams with saddle horses. They would work a string, then bob their tails so they knew which ones had been used, and catch another bunch and hitch them up.

About this time, while Lee Moore was foreman of the Ogalalla, he was called on to testify against horse thieves who had stolen horses from the outfit. He had to appear in Sundance one day, and be in Douglas the next morning. He left Sundance, on horseback, about three o'clock in the afternoon, rode to an Ogalalla line camp on Spring Creek 65 miles north of Douglas, where he caught a fresh horse, and made it into Douglas in time for the opening of court that morning.

Another interesting incident was one time when he was on roundup, he befriended a young tenderfoot lawyer fresh from the East. This young man had signed up to work on the roundup and was fired by the foreman at Lance Creek and set afoot. That was a long ways from town. Lee Moore lent the lad a horse to come to Douglas. When the boy showed up in Douglas, the marshal recognized the horse and thought it had been stolen, so he

held the boy in custody until Lee Moore could get to town and explain the circumstances. This young man later became a well-known citizen of Wyoming, and his son, Milward Simpson, became governor as well as senator; and his grandson is presently serving Wyoming in the U.S. Senate. Mr. Simpson never forgot this kindness and always regarded Lee Moore as a friend.

Lee Moore was the first marshal of the first state fair to be held in Douglas. He and his wife were among the first members of the Wyoming Pioneer Association and their descendants are still ranching and serving Wyoming.

Amanda Thomas Moore, wife of Lee Moore, was born in Alabama, November 9, 1862. Her parents both died when she was very little, and she and her three sisters were raised by her mother's parents, C. B. and Elizabeth Todd Grice. C. B. Grice died while the girls were still quite young, and the grandmother took them to Texas in 1872 to live with one of her sons. The trip to Texas was made by wagon, and boat from Selma, Alabama to Mobile, and train from Mobile to New Orleans, ferry across the river, and again the train to McDade. From there they took a wagon, walking a good part of the distance until they reached Salty, Texas. Not much is known of Amanda's life from this point on until her marriage in 1883 and her move to Wyoming.

Her experiences as a young woman on the raw frontier were varied. She gave an account of some of these experiences for the "Douglas Enterprise" issue of June 26, 1936, in which she recounted the stage robbery at Antelope Springs, the Indian scare when her husband was gone and she was alone with five children, some experiences at Ft. Fetterman, etc. While much is written about the men who made the history of the West, not much is written about the women who shared the hardships and made a home. It isn't hard to feel the anguish Amanda must have felt when one little girl was burned to death, another died of diphtheria, and a son was drowned. Of such strength the West was made.

Lee Moore died at the Ogalalla Ranch on February 7, 1928, after having ridden all morning. Amanda died in March 1937, in California where she had been visiting her son, Nealy.

Edna S. Moore

## Moore, Leroy, Edna and Helen

Leroy Moore was born at the Ogalalla Ranch on Nov. 23, 1883, the son of Lee and Amanda Thomas Moore. His father was foreman of the ranch at that time. At the time of his birth, Lee Moore and an old family friend, Robert Baker, had gone to Rock River for the winter's supply of groceries and necessities, and had been delayed in returning. On their return, they found Mrs. Moore with the baby, both well and doing fine.<sup>1</sup>

Leroy lived at the Ogalalla Ranch and at Antelope Springs State Station until about 1887-1888. At that time his father, who had been blackballed by the Stockgrowers Association for starting his own cattle herd, had established a ranch on the Belle Fourche known as the O-K, just north of the Converse County line in Campbell County. However, their stay there was very short, as



events leading up to the Johnson County War in 1892 forced Lee Moore to go "underground" for several years. He sent his wife and family to Texas as he feared for their lives as well as his own, and he was on the move constantly, making camp by day and moving to another place each night.

It was in Texas that Leroy started his formal education, going to school with his cousins at the Stiles School. That he was a quick and apt student is shown by the fact he won the gold medal for excellence that year, an award his cousin, Lois Stiles, had tried so hard to win. She told me shortly before her death about this and remarked that Leroy was quick to grasp all subjects, but that he also tried very hard and worked diligently to achieve the honor.

Following the Johnson County War, the Moores moved to Newcastle to ranch, but the Stockgrowers Association and Joe LeFors, in particular, made it so rough for Lee Moore there that he was forced to leave, after spending what finances he had to clear his name of rustling. Wes Wiker said, during this time, calves would deliberately be branded with another man's brand in an effort to get rid of the small cattleman. Lee Moore was branding with the Seven Cross at that time and Wikers bought

the cattle and brand from Moore, but had to quit using the brand.

So they left Newcastle and Lee Moore then purchased the Royston Ranch on Lightning Creek, close to the mouth of Box Creek in 1899. While they were at Newcastle, Leroy attended school there and one of his classmates was Wesley Wiker. The Wikers moved to Converse County about the same time and ranched where the Justin Werner Ranch is now, close to the old Royston place.

(Wes Wiker said the place they lived on Lightning Creek was known as the "Old Battleground".) During an early round-up, the cook and the nighthawk had a fight there, which must have been quite a fight, even for those days.

The Moores and Wikers remained friends, and when Mrs. Moore moved to town to put her younger children in school, the Wiker children stayed with her to attend school. Leroy never got to finish school but he always carried books in his saddlebags, not only text books but a wide variety of others from law journals to business and fiction. Later in his life it was conceded that he was a very well educated man.

Leroy helped his father ranch and took out a home-



Left to right, top row: Dick Moore, Tom Moore, Lee Moore, Tye Moore, and Bob Moore. Left to right, bottom row: John Moore, Eddie Moore, Leroy "Daddy Ock" Moore, and Bill Moore. December 1949.

stead at the mouth of Box Creek. In 1907, he went to South America with Roake Burbank, who had a neighboring ranch on Walker Creek (later known as the Mike Williams Ranch), and with Roake's brother, Henry of Massachusetts. His diary of that trip shows how enthusiastic they were at first about the ranching prospects down there, but as they progressed and saw what ranching was really like, the enthusiasm wore off. Leroy returned to Wyoming in the early fall of 1908, to return to ranching with his father.

While at the ranch, Leroy Moore was a member of the posse which caught up with the Indians during their last raid in the county. They had killed the sheriff from Newcastle, as well as Louie Falkenburg, a resident of this county. The fight which ensued was called the Battle on Lightning Creek.

In January 1909, Leroy Moore married Edna Irvine, the only daughter of William C. Irvine. They lived at his homestead on Box Creek until he bought the ranch from his father about 1910. They then moved to the ranch headquarters at Skeleton Springs where his parents had lived in the old log house Royston had built. Here he and Edna built a modern addition onto the log house, complete with bathroom and electric power, and as at all places where Leroy lived, a telephone line to Douglas was built.

In 1915, Leroy and Eddie (as Edna was always known) bought the Ogalalla Ranch, where Eddie had grown up, from her father and John T. Williams, her father's partner in the ranch. It had always been a lifelong ambition of Leroy's to own that ranch. He told me once that as a very little boy he had stood on the hill between Antelope Creek and Wind River and vowed to himself he would someday own all the country there as far as he could see in every direction, a vow which he made come true.

At the time they moved to the Ogalalla, the Moores had three children, Lee, Jane, and Bill. Bob was born shortly after their move and in 1917 their last child, John, was born at the ranch.

Eddie died in November of 1918, and Leroy was left with five children to raise. That winter he sent them to California where they lived with their grandmother, Amanda Moore, and a lifelong friend of Eddie's, Bonnie Jane Murphy. The children remained there until 1920, during which time Leroy had remarried. He married Helen Slonaker.

Helen and Leroy lived at the Ogalalla, except for a short period when they lived at Tensleep. The children attended school there until it was time for high school, when they moved to the B. J. Erwin place west of town (now the Busch place). In 1927 they purchased the house in Douglas, where they lived until they retired to California; however, Leroy spent most of his time at the ranch. Helen and the children would go out to the ranch weekends and summers to help out.

Times were tough about 1919 on through the great depression years. The May 11, 1921 blizzard killed a great many animals, the Ogalalla losing one herd of 3,000 yearling sheep alone, not to mention other losses. Despite these losses and the tough times which followed, Leroy Moore, with the help of his devoted wife, Helen, and lots of hard work, started enlarging his holdings and adding to his deeded lands. In those tough times, people were mov-

ing out and ready to sell their homesteads; and Leroy Moore bought all he could of this offered land, doubling, tripling and even more the original acreage of the Ogalalla. This was not accomplished without a great deal of sacrifice on the part of himself and his family.

Leroy and Helen had five sons, Tye, Frank, Eddie, Dick, and Tom. This made a family of ten children to educate and provide for, during those years of depression, but they hung on and raised all ten children to adulthood.

In 1946, the old Royston Ranch was up for sale, as well as the former Burbank Ranch. The Moores decided to buy these ranches back into the family, and Leroy's son, Lee took them over, and owned and operated them.

(Wes Wiker told me the old Burbank Ranch in the early days had been a post for the Hudson Bay Co. Later on Bill Henry owned it and he sold it to the Burbank Brothers about 1900. Burbanks sold it to DeForest Richards and Leroy Moore; when Richards left about 1909, he sold his share to Leroy and Wes Wiker; and when Leroy Moore bought the Ogalalla, it was sold to John T. Williams, with Wiker taking shares in the Ogalalla.)

About 1950 the famous Buzzard Ranch on the Sweetwater was for sale and the Moores purchased it, almost doubling their land holdings in the state.

In 1949 Helen and Leroy lost one son, Frank, who was killed in an automobile accident. Dick was killed the same way in 1960.

With the sons taking over active management of the various ranches, Leroy and Helen retired to California in the 50s, although he kept active supervision over the various places for the remainder of his life. He was always available for advice and suggestions and always interested in his family's activities, there to give a hand, if needed.

Helen died in August, 1961. Leroy died in California in March 1963. Their son, Tom, was killed in 1965. Jane died in 1969, John in 1976, and Lee in 1984. The remaining four children are still actively engaged in the ranching business in Wyoming, or have children carrying on the tradition on the ranches Leroy built up during his lifetime, including John's children.

Leroy Moore was active in many organizations during his lifetime. He served as one of the first Committeemen for the AAA (the predecessor to the present ASCS), was an early director of the Wyoming Production Credit Association, was on the Converse County Hospital Board, took active interest in the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association, the Wyoming Wool Growers Association, was a director of the Wyoming Wool Cooperative Association, and many other jobs which benefitted his state and community. He was always ready to lend a hand to those who needed help. He provided a home for many of the old cowboys and ranch hands who had worked for the Moores in the past, and saw that when their time came, they had a proper burial.

Leroy Moore always liked to travel, but only did so when he had somewhere to go connected with business. One time when he went to Boston, he decided to get off the train at the town in Massachusetts he knew Roake Burbank had come from, hoping to find out something about his old friend, whom he hadn't heard from since he left him in South America in 1908. He found the name in

the directory, called, and they spent several days talking about the past. Roake was interested in knowing about all the old-timers of his days in Wyoming. Roake died in 1961.

While Leroy Moore's father was truly a pioneer of Wyoming, he himself was a driving force in the state's history, and will be remembered for years for his contributions.

Robert Baker, I've been told, was a former Texas Ranger, who had been a close friend of Amanda's grandparents, who had raised her. He was devoted to Amanda and lived with the Moores in Wyoming until his death in the early 1900's. He is buried in the Douglas Cemetery next to the George W. Pike grave. (He was a very old man with a long white beard, but he almost lost his life when he tried to save the first Frank Moore from drowning in the lake at the Skeleton Springs Ranch. Frank, Ed Wright (the nephew of Mrs. Turner who ran the Valley House), and George Reid had gone swimming in the lake and were using logs as rafts. A log from the raft tilted up and hit Frank and knocked him out. No one was able to rescue him. Billy Marchand showed up, took Mrs. Moore's pet horse, Buck, hitched him to a hayrake, and by dragging it through the lake found the body.)

(Lee Moore had bought the lots at the cemetery when Pike died. Another old time cowboy who had come up the trail from Texas is also buried there — C. C. Beard, known as "Panther". Panther had spent his last years at the Ogalalla Ranch where he worked as a cowboy in the early days.)

Edna S. Moore

## Moore, Omer "Stub" and Zadah

Omer Edward Moore and wife, Zadah Alice Omen Moore, of Argos, Indiana came to their homestead three miles southeast of Lost Springs, Wyoming in 1910. Omer, known to everyone as "Stub", farmed his land, raised some cattle and worked for area ranchers and also as a butcher in the meat market at Lost Springs; and at one time the Moores ran a restaurant in the Freeland



Omer "Stub" and Zadah Moore

building at Lost Springs.

In the early 1920's they rented out their land and moved to California for a number of years to be close to Stub's sisters and where he worked as a carpenter and Zadah in a factory.

Returning to Wyoming in the spring of 1928, Stub and Zadah again made their home on the homestead and later purchased land from neighboring homesteaders to add to their holdings where they again farmed and raised cattle. Stub purchased one of the first combines in the area and did custom combining for neighbors.

In 1950 they sold their land to Mr. Goerts of the Wheatland, Wyoming area and Mr. Otto Bible and retired to a home in Douglas where they enjoyed their remaining years. Stub died in 1958 and Zadah in 1961 and are buried at Douglas. They had no known relatives.

Wilbur F. and Ada Wright

## Moran, James and Beatrice Family

Orin Junction was the birthplace of James Moran in October 1891, the youngest of three children born to Addie and James Moran, Sr. He lived at Orin until he was 14 at which time his parents bought the ranch headquarters on Horseshoe Creek from John Moran. James married Beatrice McCrillis, a Douglas girl, in November of 1914. The following spring in May, James Sr. died leaving the young couple the entire responsibility of the ranch.

Beatrice was born in Cheyenne in October 1893, the fourth child of Dr. and Emma McCrillis. Beatrice attended her entire schooling in Douglas. She was barely 21 when she moved to participate in a completely different lifestyle on the ranch on Horseshoe Creek, nine miles out of Glendo. She left the comforts of indoor plumbing, central coal fired furnace, and friends galore for the isolation of a cold winter in a salt-box style house with no basement and only wood stoves and a small house at the end of a path. Groceries were no longer just a block away.

Their first child, Margaret, was born three years after Bea came to the ranch. It was nearly five more years before the second daughter, Mildred, joined the family. Doris was born nearly four years later and then Barbara a year and a half after Doris. Beatrice boarded a school teacher in early years as she welcomed the female companionship for herself and for the adult help in getting Margaret the two and a half miles to school by horseback.

During the depression, Jim helped out with family expense by inspecting for the Regional Agricultural Credit Corp. Later, he was an inspector for the Production Credit Assn. Jim organized the Platte County Stockgrowers Assn. of which he was the first president.

Finally electricity was installed in the form of a 32 Volt Jacobs Wind Electric plant in 1938 so ranch life became easier with lights and a water pressure system. Their move to Glendo in 1959 into a new home was probably the highlight of her life.

Beatrice has been president of the Glendo Benefit Club, the first president of the Platte County Cow-Belles.

Bea died August 23, 1983.

Mildred Moran Twiford

## Morgan, John and Mary

John Morgan was born in Swansea, Wales in England in 1864. His parents came to the United States settling first in Illinois where the men worked in the coal mines in the area.

John married Mary Samuel on July 30, 1890 in St. Clair, Illinois. A son, David S., was born to the couple in Troy, Illinois on April 27, 1892.

The family moved to Lafayette, Colorado to find work in the mines there. A daughter, Mayme (Born August 1, 1894) and a son, Elmer (born August 5, 1898) were born at Lafayette.

The mines in Glenrock, Wyoming beckoned John and his family to Wyoming around 1900.

The remainder of John and Mary's children were born in Glenrock. They were: Thomas J. (born October 26, 1902), Dorothy E. (born August 19, 1905), Ruth (born October 27, 1908) and Milton J. (born December 19, 1911).

After working in the mines for a while John went into the saloon business with Jasper Sumner as a partner.

John died on January 5, 1912 and Mary on March 9, 1942 in Glenrock.

Dorothy Morgan Perkins



Clint Morrison 1883

## Morrison, Amos and Amanda

Amos C. "Clint" Morrison, Clint as he was known to his friends, came from Virginia. After completing his schooling, he pursued a farming profession; in 1886 he went to Iowa where he established a residence. It was here that he became acquainted with John Newell and his brother William, whom Clint was to later be neighbors of in Wyoming.

Becoming ill, the doctor told Clint to seek a higher and dryer climate in which to live. Knowing the Newells, he followed them to Wyoming where they had homesteaded in the Laramie Peak area.

Before taking up a homestead on lands now owned by Charles Pexton, which is now called the "Morrison Valley" or "Platte Valley Park", Clint worked on the "Two Bar" and Sam Moore ranches.

It was here he built a two room log house. He was known to all who knew him as an excellent cook, making mouth watering biscuits.

Shortly after Clint had settled down on his new property, he met his future wife, Amanda Warner. Amanda had come west to visit the Newells with her mother, Mrs. Melvin Warner, and son, Emmett. Amanda, having her teaching certificate, was offered and accepted a teaching position, teaching the Newell children.

They were married February 10, 1891. A following narrative, from Hattie Newell's diary, is given of their marriage; "The wedding was to be at Frank Newell's big house at Springhill with William W. Newell as Justice of the Peace, officiating at the ceremony. As it was winter-time and the snow was very deep, a bobsled, belonging to Harrison Newell, was used to bring as many guests to the wedding as possible. After the arrival at the bridal scene at Springhill, the daughters of John Newell, Lizzie, Caddie and Hattie, the oldest eleven years old, were told to sit down, but they sneaked in to look at the bride. They

were awed at the beauty, black hair and black eyes. Her bridal gown was a long cream cashmere.

"Frank Newell's wife, Eliza, escorted Amanda to the big bay window where Clint and Amanda were married.

"Taking the John Newell family home after the wedding, the bobsled hit a rock and overturned, breaking a single tree. The family had to walk the rest of the way home. Young Caddie kept worrying all the way home about Amanda not having a place to sleep because Clint only had one bed. She knew that Amanda wouldn't go hungry, however, as Clint made the best biscuits in the country."

The newlyweds lived on the ranch in the mountains until 1898 when they moved to Mitchell, Nebraska to a farm under the Farmers Canal.

They had five children; Melvie, wife of Robert Fuller, Dessie, wife of Frank Allison, Clinton, Ralph and Mildred.

John R. Pexton

## Morsch, William and Esther Family

LaSalle County, Illinois was the birthplace of William J. "Billie" Morsch. He was born on December 16, 1863, a member of a family of four boys and two girls. He received his common school education in Illinois.

Esther Beitel and William were married in Dekalb County, Illinois in 1886. To this union, three children were born: a son, Jesse, and two daughters.

In 1892 he migrated to Wyoming with his family where he was engaged in the sheep business until 1894, at





L. to r. Jesse Morsch and Mary Doyle in White car 1910

which time he sold his holdings to the Keeline outfit. He moved to Montana in 1897, and once again went into the sheep business.

In 1909 the family returned to Douglas, Wyoming. From 1909 until 1929, William Morsch was in the automobile business. In 1910 his son, Jesse, entered the business with his father and together they operated the firm under the name of W. J. Morsch and Son. Morsch had the Buick dealership which he sold in 1930 to Nolan Chevrolet of Casper, Wyoming.

Sometime after disposing of his automobile business, Billie and his son developed the Morsch Coal Mine located some 60 miles north of Douglas.

He was president of an organization called the "Good Roads Committee" from 1911 to 1913 and was instrumental in improving the quality of the roads within the county. He also served as County Commissioner for four years.

William Morsch died in 1936 and is buried in the Douglas Park Cemetery.

Ruth Grant

## Morton, Alexander and Jennie

Alexander "Dad" Morton was born on June 5, 1858 in Jamestown, New York, the son of John Morton, who was born in Scotland.

Dad Morton married Jennie Brandon in Cheyenne on August 4, 1886.

Their children were: Pearl (Bennedict), Claud (b. August 3, 1890 - d. December 29, 1924), Ethel (b. September 3, 1894 - d. June 24, 1940), Myrtle, Howard, Ruth (b. November 1898) and Bill (b. August 3, 1901).

Dad moved his family, with the exception of Pearl, to Converse County in 1909 from LaPorte, Colorado. He homesteaded on a piece of land located one mile south of the confluence of West Fork LaBonte and LaBonte Creeks.

He earned a living for his family during the time they lived on LaBonte by driving a string team freighting supplies to the Pathfinder Dam during its construction and leasing the Scott Hamilton place on Upper LaBonte Creek for five years.

Alexander died on March 25, 1933.

Claud married Beulah Braae, daughter of Andrew and Hattie Braae. Their children were: Claud, Huston, Stanley and Winnifred. They lived for a time on the north side of LaBonte Creek across from where the Lloyd Nunn

ranch is in 1985.

Claud died from injuries incurred in a horse and buggy accident after which Beulah moved her family to Rutherford Creek to be nearer her mother. She homesteaded there and later married a man by the name of Bricker. Later, when her mother moved to Sandpoint, Idaho, she also moved with her family there.

Ethel married Ray Cooper, the son of Lyman and Jennie Cooper in December 1912. They became the parents of one son, LeRoy.

Myrtle moved to the edge of the Laramie Plains after her marriage to Henry Mathison.

Ruth married Joe Whalen and moved to Colorado. After his death she married John Gunning and lives today in Fort Collins.

Bill married Mary Patricia Kenyon, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kenyon, in 1934. Their children are:



Bill Morton 1929

Patricia (Berdahl), Katherine (Robinson), Robert and Virginia "Ginger" (McGuire).

Bill operated a sawmill for many years in the Esterbrook area and lived in a house located in Mill Creek Canyon near Elk Mountain. In 1948 he purchased the Willis Spracklen ranch on North Horseshoe Creek. Selling it in 1952 to Fred Dilts, he bought "Ben's Tavern" in Glendo. He and Mary "Bunte" operated the tavern and the hotel next to the tavern until Bill's retirement in 1971.

Bunte died in 1972; Bill on November 13, 1984.

Ginger McGuire

## Morton, John and Sarah Family

John Morton, Sr. was born in Germany on September 3, 1862, and came to the United States when he was three years of age. He lived at Hinckley, Illinois and in Missouri as a youth. When he was quite young he ran off and joined the U.S. Army at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Later he went to Cripple Creek, Colorado to get work in





**John Morton**

the mines. He had not eaten for three days and asked for a job but was told that he had to belong to a union. He did not have any money to pay the three dollar union fee but told them he would give them the first three dollars he earned. They told him no money, no union card, so he left.

He came to Wyoming in 1881 and to Converse County in 1891 with a band of sheep. At that time the land was open range and there were few fences. As other settlers came in, more and more land was fenced and Mr. Morton began buying land.

In the early 1900s Mr. Morton bought what is now known as the Morton Home Ranch from John T. Williams and associates. The Mortons acquired the Boot Ranch on LaPrele Creek and land on Sand Creek, east of Douglas, in 1912 after the disastrous blizzard of that year had dis-

seminated the flocks of sheep owned by the owners of the land.

John had two policies which have been handed down to the present management of Mortons Inc., "take care of the sheep and they will take care of you," and "when you sell anything, get what it is worth, but don't be greedy."

John was married to the former Sarah McDermott, the daughter of Peter and Bridget McDermott, on February 7, 1894. Sarah was born on August 11, 1874 at Willsville, New York and came to Wyoming when she was 14 years of age. The family arrived at the Horseshoe Stage Station near Glendo, Wyoming in 1888.



**Sarah Morton**

John and Sarah became the parents of five children: John R. "Jack" (b. October 14, 1895 - d. November 29, 1978), William (b. November 2, 1897 - d. November 21, 1918), Margaret I. (b. December 31, 1899 - d. November 18, 1918), Edward J. (b. March 3, 1903 - d. January 3, 1937), and James (b. November 27, 1908 - d. October 18, 1964).

John Sr. died on May 13, 1916.

Upon her husband's death Sarah and her son, Jack, took over the management of the Morton Estate. They continued operations along the lines established by John Morton, buying range lands when they were for sale and increasing their livestock herds. One of the biggest acquisition of lands was the Fiddleback Ranch on Cheyenne River in 1944.



**L. to R. Ed, Jim and Margaret Morton, sliding down David Hill.**



Jack Morton

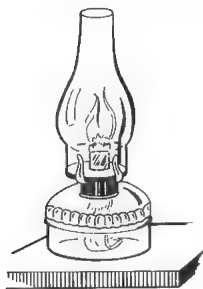
Mrs. Morton, or "Granny" as she was affectionately known, died on December 22, 1952.

Jack attended schools in Concord, New Hampshire and Fort Collins, Colorado. He became active in the management of his parents' properties upon the death of his father and continued in that capacity until his death. Jack recalled the severe winter of 1919 when Mortons entered the winter with 2,800 Hereford cattle and 27,000 sheep. When spring arrived their loss amounted to 5,700 sheep and 800 cattle.

Jack was an enthusiastic golfer and trapshooter. He was especially proud of his Wyoming State Trapshoot championships. He was responsible for the establishment of the "Morton Foundation" which made it possible for more than 20 local high school students to further their education in college. He helped with funds to build the tennis courts in Washington Park and the second nine holes of the Converse County-Douglas Golf Course. He had an expression which seemed to solve many problems, "The hell with it."

James "Jim" married Edith Clayton, the daughter of Ernest and Mayme Clayton, in 1934. Two sons, James Jr. and John Edward, and two daughters, Margaret and Sarah, were born to them. Jim was an enthusiastic pilot and was involved with the operation of the Morton ranch for a period of time until his retirement when he moved to Dubois, Wyoming.

Vera Saul Trumper



## Nachtman, Harvey and Goldie

Harvey J. Nachtman was born at Chelsea, Nebraska, the son of Joseph J. and Olive (Hunt) Nachtman. Goldie A. Nachtman was born at Wakefield, Nebraska, the daughter of Claus I. and Carrie (Miner) Blake. Harvey Nachtman and Goldie Blake were married at Emmett, Nebraska October 28, 1918.

Harvey spent four months in the army during World War I. He spent his army time at Camp Funston, Kansas and received a medical discharge. We had planned to be married in the fall. In the summer of 1918, he and my brother, Lee Blake, decided to take a trip to Wyoming as it was too rainy to make hay. They came to Wyoming as some of Harvey's friends from Chambers, Nebraska were here. They were Clare and Jim Grimes and Ray and Charlie Dailey. When they arrived in Douglas, they were met by Charlie Dailey, who was settling homesteaders. He took them to the Cheyenne River and showed them three homestead relinquishments that were for sale. Since Harvey had sold most of his livestock before going to the army he decided he might just as well try it in Wyoming as any place, so they bought the two homestead relinquishments. On returning to Nebraska he sent his brother Fred out to buy the third one. This was the start of the home ranch, where our son, Lawrence lives.

Fred stayed just long enough to prove up on his homestead and sold it to us. Lee stayed and eventually married Rose Rothleutner. They stayed in Wyoming until 1934 when it turned dry, then shipped their cattle to Nebraska and sold their homestead to us.

We shipped our cattle, a team of horses and two saddle horses (we had 31 head of cows) and arrived in Douglas April 1, 1919. Harvey, Lee and Fred had spent the winter at the homestead, cutting posts and logs for the house we built. I spent the winter at home in Nebraska and in Wakefield, Nebraska taking care of my oldest sister, who was sick with cancer.

When I came to Wyoming, we lived in the school



Left to right: Harvey Nachtman, Goldie Nachtman holding son, Victor, Lee Blake and Lester Hough. 1920

house at the Walter Dull place, and Lee and Fred had a tent that summer. They were building the house and fencing the land. I cooked for them and took dinner to them on horseback and spent the afternoons helping where I could.

We moved onto our homestead that fall. We had built a three room log house with a dirt roof. We spent many happy years in the log house. I loved it. We had lots of neighbors, as there was someone on nearly every section. We had real good times, mostly of our own making.

There was lots of open range and range cattle. In the hot summer days, the Longhorns would come from the Cow Buttes to the Cheyenne River for water, stay at the river until around four o'clock and return to the hills. They trailed close by the house. At first I was afraid of them, but soon learned they were not interested in me.

That first winter, Lee worked for the Fiddleback Ranch and hauled cake from the ranch to the sheep camp with horses.

I well remember my first Thanksgiving in Wyoming. Lee and Harvey were out riding someplace. I prepared a Thanksgiving dinner and waited until 3 p.m. When they came home, they said they had stopped at a sheep wagon down on the river, the herder had asked them to eat with him and they did. There wasn't much thanksgiving in me that day.

I think Victor was the first baby of the homesteaders in our neighborhood. All the ranchers ran cattle on the open range. Lots of riders stopped to get warm and something to eat. They all enjoyed Vic and played with him.

Roundups were in the fall at shipping time and in the spring at branding time. The ranchers camped on the river and worked their cattle. The men loved to watch them. The second year we were in Wyoming they rounded up the Longhorns and shipped them out.

The Fiddleback Ranch was a big help to the people as they had a telephone line to Douglas we could use in case of need.

We missed not getting our mail. Everyone who went to town, brought mail and groceries for others. We tried to establish a post office. In 1920 the government told us if we could carry the mail six months free, they would take it over. Harvey and Bert Good carried the mail the first three months. Harvey furnished the team and buggy and Bert drove it. Then all the people donated, and Bill Tramer carried the mail until the government took it over. Here are the names of the people and what they gave: Perry Welch - \$7.50; Wm. Corbett - \$7.50; L. K. Hough - \$3.75; Jack Keller - \$3.75; Emma Moody - \$3.75; George Frey - \$3.75; Perry Burden - \$3.75; Lewis Arnold - \$3.75; J. E. Grimes - \$3.75; R. M. Ownes - \$3.75; W. O. Scott - \$3.75; Lucille Young - \$7.50; F. S. Dull - \$3.75; E. K. Haas - \$3.75; Oscar Dorothy - \$3.75. Paid to order Wm. Tramer. Secretary, Rose Rothleutner; Treasurer, J. A. Rothleutner; Chairman, Fred J. Nachtman.

Walter Dull was the first Postmaster and the post office was in their house. The post office was named for them, "Dull Center." The Dulls later moved to town and the post office was moved to Lee Blake's place and Rose Black was Postmaster. The Blakes sold out in 1934; the post office was moved to our ranch, and I became Postmaster until 1952 when we moved to Douglas. The post office was discontinued in 1953 and a circle route to Bill

was established. I enjoyed running the post office as I saw some of our neighbors and friends twice a week.

We were very lucky for school as Dulls had children in school and so did Goods. We lived halfway between and they built a school house halfway between. That put it about a quarter mile from our home. This school was later named the Bethany School.

Nineteen-thirty-four was a very dry year and by shipping time we couldn't sell cattle. We couldn't even give them away. The government bought what could walk to town and the others were shot. They shot around 50 or 60 head of ours. The calves that were fairly fat were given to the welfare people from Douglas. Most of the people shipped their cattle out. We decided to try to keep what we had left at home. We bought what feed we could get and burned the thorns off cactus and fed them. It was a real big job but we got by very well.

In 1939 and 1940 we built a new three bedroom house. As is the way in most families, when we were able to build the new house, the kids were leaving to make homes for themselves. Victor had joined the army where he spent five years, and Alice was working at the courthouse in Douglas. That doesn't mean the new house didn't come in handy. Vic was sent overseas with the Army of Occupation in Japan. Mary and her two boys came home to live with us. Logan, Alice's husband, was sent to the east coast and ready to go overseas. Alice and her two babies came home too. They stayed with us until the boys came home from the army and the war was over.

I have always loved the ranch and enjoyed my life there. I still love to go out and spend time there. In a way, it will always be home to me, for the best part of my life was spent there.

Harvey was active in the Soil Conservation Service, Cheyenne River Compact, and Polled Hereford Association. Harvey died December 12, 1957.

Our children are: Victor J. (b. July 27, 1919, m. Mary Pellatz, d. May 26, 1974); their children are Russell, Jack, Jerry and Lona. Victor and his son, Jack, died in a tragic airplane crash on May 26, 1974. The crash occurred while they were hunting coyotes.

Alice M. (b. May 10, 1921 m. Logan Bush); their children are Barbara and Theodore "Ted."

Lawrence L. (b. December 20, 1925, m. Sara M. Fackler); their children are Patricia, Linda, Susan and James.

Goldie Nachtman

## Nauman, Ernest and Julia Family

Frank Ernest Nauman was born in Marshalltown, Iowa on December 12, 1872. His family moved to Frankfort, Kansas where Ernest grew to early manhood. He was married to Julia Belle Johnson, daughter of Peter Edward Johnson, on January 7, 1897. Julia was born on July 2, 1876.

A daughter, Ruth, (b. May 20, 1898) and a son, Vernon, (b. June 4, 1900) were born in Kansas to the Naumans.

Ernest and his family moved to LaSalle, Illinois where he found employment with the Mathiessen and Hegeler Zinc Company.

Laurence was born in Illinois on June 8, 1905.

Pages in Ernest's old account book of that time list daily expenses, e.g. rent at \$7; Christmas shopping, \$2.08; Ruth, a dress, \$1.80; Ernest, gloves, \$.10, etc. Total cash receipts for the year 1906, \$701.48, not a magnificent sum for a family of five, you will agree.

So the family returned to farming, living on rented land near Frankfort, Kansas, for a few years.

In the meantime, Peter Edward Johnson, father of Julia Nauman, in business in LaSalle, Illinois, during the early 1900s as Land and Immigration Agent, had migrated to Wyoming with his wife and had settled on a homestead acreage about six miles south of Douglas. He wrote to the Ernest Nauman family urging them to take advantage of the opportunity to become owners of good dry-farm land. Peter already had his patent on 160 acres and a comfortable (for that time) homestead house to live in. He and his wife (step-mother to Julia) would share their home with the new family until they could build.

The invitation was accepted and, in the spring of 1915, the Ernest Nauman family (now including son, Alvin, born on June 10, 1911, while they were living in Kansas) made the move from Frankfort. They homesteaded on land next to the Johnson homestead.

Ernest was a well driller and soon was engaged in water-well drilling, perhaps the only well driller in the area in those days. His old account book has pages listing costs and charges made: top 100 feet of drilling at 75¢ per foot, deeper footage at \$1.00 per foot and drilling through rock at \$2.50 per foot. Sometimes no water was found at any depth, and for a dry hole the charge was only half price, although costs to the driller were no less for a dry hole. The account book lists many, many wells drilled for neighbors nearby and throughout the county, through years 1916-1940.

Income listed in Ernest's ledger in 1916 in addition to that from farming and from the well-drilling were checks received for work on the deep cut the Burlington Railroad was making for the course of their track at the point where it was crossing Nauman/Johnson homestead land. Checks listed monthly for Vernon, 16 years old, varied in amount month by month; May \$38.90, June \$32.90, September \$42.20, November \$59.50 and December \$23.62. These became part of family finances; they were reflected on the tithing account page. Thus on the September date for check \$42.20 there was an entry, of the same date, on the tithing page for \$4.22. Lesser amounts from sales were also carefully entered, two pounds of butter for 80¢ produced an eight cent tithing entry.

During the year 1924, total income from drilling of water wells amounted to \$544.60. In that area water was not the only product flowing from those wells. In many of them gas was present. I really didn't like the taste of their water at the Nauman home because of the gas, but they were used to it and didn't mind. At one of the farms there was so much gas that it was being piped into the house for fuel.

Most memorable was the happening at a later date, 1932, on the Trethewey place (the original T. D. Williams homestead). In April, Ernest was drilling for water, down 183 feet by April 9; slow progress all the next week; on April 15 "220 feet today, looks like water sand," the old journal reported. Time out for crop work, then slow progress on well and "much more gas" until it "blowed the hole clean of water and mud, went over the top of the derrick," on April 23! Time out for rain and snow, then on April 25 "back to work on well." Water came with gas

until it pretty well drowned out the gas. At this point the well casing was put in. More bad weather. Then on April 29, more drilling, total depth at 278 feet, and the pump was finally put in; "finished about 4:15." Within a half hour, gas was pushing out from under and around the pump. At nine o'clock that night it caught fire, possibly from lamps in the house or from a cigarette. The house and most of the furniture burned. The well rig was badly damaged, ropes and belts burned, and there was other damage. Dad suffered broken ribs in his attempt to save the machine. Next day, people, "must have been 1000," came to see the "gas well" burning. Again the next day "the same thing," and on May 3 "fire still going," and ribs hurt pretty bad." No journal entry tells of the outcome and I don't remember now who or what extinguished the blaze; and ribs mended slowly.

Later, the well drill was rebuilt and continued in use through 1940.

In 1924 when we first came to Wyoming there was a test well being made on the Edmond Leet place, and people had high hopes, but the effort was given up. In later years, occasionally an oil company would lease lands for drilling for oil. Some reported showings of oil, but none has thus far been developed.

Ernest was also a clock man. Most any old clock, in his hands, might again become a reliable timepiece, even though it had been picked up from the scrap heap of a place where he might be drilling. One such clock hung in my rural school room at a later time, and it faithfully bonged the hours and half hours for us at home for many years after those school days ended.

Ruth had been working in a missionary home in Kansas City where she had met Joe Ridenour and they had returned to Douglas to be married in January 1917. Joe was a skilled lather and plasterer and his services were employed by one and another of the families pioneering in the Irvine community in those early years.

For a time during the 1930s the Ridenour family made their home in Granddad Johnson's house. In later years their home was in Denver, Colorado.

Mable Wigent, 19 years of age, had a term of college at Butler University in Indianapolis, also a summer term at Winona Lake extension from Indiana University. She also had teaching experience at a rural school near their hometown, Columbia City, during the previous year. I, Mary Wigent, had completed one year in rural school education at Manchester College, North Manchester, Indiana, but there seemed to be no opening for a 17-year-old, inexperienced candidate for rural school teacher in that area. Learning of teaching vacancies in Converse County, Wyoming, we applied to Supt. R. L. Markley of School District 17 for a job. He answered, "Come on out. There are vacancies. We can place you."

So it happened that early on Friday morning, August 15, 1924, we set out in Mable's new Model T touring car on a journey to far away Wyoming. A journey unprecedented at that time and utterly foreign to our limited experience. We had driven to nearby towns, lake resorts and the like but never more than 20 miles or so from home. To this day, we wonder how our parents permitted the undertaking.

We girls drove westward from our hometown, along the old Lincoln Highway across northern Indiana. Skirting the south part of Chicago, we drove on across Illinois, as far as the Mississippi River, 300 miles, that first day. We stayed that night at a YWCA, for in those days there

were no convenient motels.

On August 19, just five days from leaving home, we were faced with the reality of a new life in the west. It was hot that day, 100° in the shade. We were surely disappointed, for I think we had pictured the land more as it actually is in the Esterbrook area. We would gladly have turned around and gone back home but there wasn't any money for such a course. So it was, "on with the new undertaking!"

We contacted Supt. Markley and received our assignments, I to the Irvine School about six miles south of Douglas and Mable to the Leet School a few miles farther along County Road 1, on toward Orin. In those days it was the main highway.

A few days before the first day of school, we had gone out from our temporary White House Hotel room in Douglas to our schools to make them ready for opening day. As we worked, a topless Model T roadster, driven by Vernon Nauman, chugged into the school yard bringing Mrs. Nauman with an invitation to have fried chicken supper at the Nauman home that evening. (Mrs. Nauman was renowned for her cooking ability.)

Another invitation that first day enabled us to live in the then unoccupied house that had been Peter Johnson's homestead house. We then lived in an unused shack at the railroad section house, home of the Leo Eddy family. Mr. Eddy was section foreman for track maintenance. The section house was about half-way between our schools. We would each walk the railroad right-of-way to and from school, sometimes catching a ride on the section crew's hand car, if it was going our way. Wyoming winters then, as now, can be very cold with temperatures falling far below zero, especially early in the day. On one of the coldest days that year, Mable froze the calves of her legs as she walked to school along the railroad track. The era of slacks for girls had not yet arrived and she was not dressed for protection from that sub-zero weather.

My school had six students, one each in third, seventh and eighth grades and three in the fourth grade. There were three children from the Roy Dorothy family, two from the Brock family and Alvin Nauman was my eighth grader.

There were more students at the Leet School; included were the children of the George Durans, Leo Eddys, Edmond Leets and Stocks, also Harold Schellinger and Wendell Clay, but Irvine School was the larger building. It became the center for community activities for the whole area. A Sunday school was organized early in the fall, meeting on Sunday afternoons. Mable was elected as Sunday School superintendent and I as teacher.

Other community gatherings were known as Literary Society which also met in the school or even in the section house. Individuals or groups of varying numbers and ages entertained with readings, songs, plays or musical numbers. I was elected president of the Literary.

Sometimes there were visits in various homes of the community. One well remembered visit was at the home of Frank and Violet Stewart. To get there you had to cross the river, the North Platte. When the river was low you could splash across on horseback, but our crossing was by ferry. Attached to a pulley which ran on a cable across the river, the ferry was powered by river current plus muscle power of persons being ferried.

Most frequent were our visits in the Nauman home, for we depended upon them for supplies such as milk, butter and eggs. In addition, Mrs. Nauman was very

generous with delicious contributions such as fresh baked bread. I remember evenings when we first listened to the radio over a homemade instrument which Vernon had put together. We had to take turns listening as the ear-phones were passed from one to another.

For me, a special privilege was playing hymns on the reed organ. Made in Ottawa, Illinois, it had been with the family since their residence in LaSalle, and in those days occupied a place of honor in their living room. Incidentally, years later, after many vicissitudes and much needed repairs made by Vernon Nauman in the early 1970s, the organ, now restored to its original beauty, stands in our living room.

Through many varied school, community and family activities, boy and girl friendships developed, one of which culminated into a wedding at the Nauman home on April 5, 1925, when Mable Wigent became the bride of Laurence Nauman, shortly before the end of the school term. Peter Johnson's house became their honeymoon cottage. In the spring of the following year, 1926, they made arrangements to buy the Thurmond Day place about seven or eight miles south of Douglas, and they entered enthusiastically into the business of dry farming.

With expanded acreage, Laurence invested in a combine for harvesting and our brother, Ralph Wigent, came from Indiana to work with Laurence, a two-man crew replacing the neighborhood teams for the harvesting. They even did a lot of custom harvesting for other farmers.

Unusual incidents sometimes added excitement to the rather ordinary farm days, like the story Mable tells of the ram and the gun. Laurence was away; there was an altercation with a big buck sheep. He belonged to one of the neighbors but he ran around to suit himself this morning and had chosen to ramble in their yard where the children were at play. Irritated by their attempts to share with him, the ram took after them and the children ran for the house, slamming the door in his face. The angry buck used his head as a battering ram and continued his assault on the door in spite of Mable's attempts to discourage him by aiming flat irons at him. Fearing for the safety of the children, Mable resorted to extreme measures. She recalled that people sometimes persuaded unruly cattle to leave an unauthorized area by a shot aimed at their hind parts. What she didn't know was that this was done with a light load in a shot gun. She just grabbed Laurence's gun, which happened to be a 30-06 and let the old battering buck have it in his hind quarters. To her horror, instead of running, he just crumpled up and layed there. How she dreaded reporting the episode to the ram's owner, Mr. Wade Fowler! But the very next time she met Mr. Fowler, he came right up to shake hands, saying, "Mrs. Nauman, I want to congratulate you on the courageous job you did! That old buck should have been taken care of long ago."

There were good times, during those early years, with abundant crops, but they didn't last. There came times when hail struck just a few days before the grain was ready for the combine. In the year 1933, crops were even more wonderful; wheat was nearly ready for harvest; and Laurence was cultivating his 100-acre bean field. A terrible hail storm came up so fast he was caught there and was fiercely beaten by the hail. The only beans left of a crop so beautiful a few minutes earlier were a few beans under the tractor.

That year Mable was raising several hundred young chickens. They were housed in a building several



hundred feet from the house. The storm brought a raging stream of water down through the yard. With no one at hand to help, she waded through the nearly waist-deep torrent to get to the chicken house and try to protect the chickens; a terrifying experience!

There followed a year of drought and grasshoppers. They decided to try an alternate course, a move to Indiana where they would find employment in an overall factory. With a few belongings packed in a four-wheel trailer, the family, Laurence, Mable, six year old son, Lornie, and two year old daughter, Helen, made the trip to Indiana. But plans did not work out and in less than two months they were back in their little dry-farm home.

Two cows and several dozen hens had been left with Mother and Dad Nauman. These were reclaimed and became a source for butter and egg money to exchange for groceries. After many, many hardships, Laurence secured work as a government trapper and Mable was hired to teach in a WPA kindergarten. Gradually they got on their feet again. In 1936 or 1937 they bought their home in south Douglas at the point where Fourth and Fifth Streets meet.

An opportunity came for Mable to teach the Dickau School and the family could live near Laurence's trapping area. Their home away from home for six years was the small teacherage with its limited accommodations. The washing for the family of four persons was done on an old washboard; the water was heated in the old boiler on top of their oil stove. One day they suffered a near tragedy when the stove blew up and started a fire. Men from the pumping station across the road helped put out the blaze before there was much damage. But, oh! the mess to clean up. Nevertheless, school kept on without even an hour's lost time.

The next four years Laurence continued trapping and they lived at Bill where Mable taught the four lower grades of the two-teacher school. That fourth year I was teaching the upper grades, six students in seventh and eighth grades and six students in a high school class.

The next year, the family moved back to town where son, Laurence, Jr., and daughter, Helen, could attend the Douglas High School. Mable became first grade teacher at North Grade School and Laurence began a very successful gunsmith business. He became a very well-known maker of fine guns and precision loaded ammunition, and his guns were cherished by proud owners in almost every state in the union. Laurence died on May 19, 1970.

At the end of that 1924-25 school term, I returned to Indiana but not before the older Nauman brother, Vernon, had expressed a desire for a continuing friendship. During that summer of 1925, his faithful old Model T roadster carried him back to Columbia City, Indiana, and he took employment as an electrician's helper at General Electric Company in Ft. Wayne about 20 miles east from our home.

No longer inexperienced and all of 18 years old, I was hired to teach at a nearby rural school. To make a long story short, let's just say that the anticipated friendship did continue, and Vernon and I were married on January 17, 1926. I finished the school year and then we moved to an apartment in Ft. Wayne as Vernon continued employment there.

On December 12 of that year, David was born and I assumed we would continue to make our home in Ft. Wayne where Vernon was already advancing from electrician's helper to a higher bracket. Not so! When summer came, it was Vernon's plan to return to Wyoming.

Vernon's first regular employment in Douglas was as night attendant at the LeBar Motor Company, the Ford garage. After a short period of renting, we bought the little house at 431 South Fourth Street. It had no indoor plumbing; washing was done with no more than a stomp-er and a washboard and tub to serve as laundry tools.

On February 2, 1929, Carolyn was born and still later, on September 10, 1931, Miriam was born.

Julia died on July 21, 1943, Ernest on June 7, 1951.

In the spring of 1938, there came a request for me, a parttime teacher, to complete the last two months of a rural school teacher's term; and there followed a whole new program of work and study. Little did I anticipate continuing college work including a BA degree and beyond and a total of 36 rewarding years as a teacher, but it happened. And in the spring of 1943, Vernon changed from night garage attendant to working at the oil pipeline pumping station near Walker Creek. There followed a period of employment as an electrician, then to self-employment as Nauman's Electric and for many years his quality work was much in demand. In 1939 we had moved from 431 South Fourth Street to 629 South Sixth Street and there followed many years of improving house and grounds largely by ourselves. Vernon died on November 30, 1979.

Earlier, I mentioned that Alvin Nauman was an eighth grader in my school in 1924-25. He graduated from high school in Douglas. His early employment was as parts man at the Ford garage. On November 9, 1930 there was another Nauman wedding. Alvin Nauman and Ralphine Bimson were married and their first home was on South Third Street.

Their first child, Jeanette, was born in October 1931. A son, Alan Arthur, was born on August 13, 1933. Two more daughters were born, Sandra (b. February 2, 1939) and Reva Belle (b. September 9, 1943.)

Alvin became well known as an expert marksman and he won many trophies including top honors at the National Hi Power Civilian Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio. In later years he was employed by a Casper Ford dealership where he excelled as a car salesman. Alvin died in 1976.

Mary Wigent Nauman

## Neilson, Chris

Chris Neilson came from Winterset, Iowa, maybe Denmark first. He was never married. He passed away in Des Moines, Iowa.

Chris did live on the Bob Edie place two years. When he proved up on his own homestead he bought the Raymond Law place just east of him. The Steinles bought and own his place now.

At Chris' sale in 1946 or 1947 the Dry Creek Homemakers had made a quilt, probably with the idea of selling it; but Chris opened the box and was so pleased they just gave it to him.

After his sale, Chris' house was moved to the north side of Douglas and became part of Osborn's Wrecking Yard.

Chris helped build the road from Dry Creek to Douglas. The people who helped used horses.

He was a great favorite with everybody. Was always jolly and loved to tease and play with the kids. He had a gray horse named Buster. He used to ride down to the Dry Creek Store to pick up tobacco and supplies.

There were several bachelors in the community and they would get together and cook up a nice dinner and play cards. Some of them were Bob Hall, Fred Burk, Jim Bowers, Olaf Hanson, Roy Harnan and Frank Bowers.

Ruth Pellatz  
Jewell Reed

## Nelms, Jack and Anna

Berthel Clyde (Jack) Nelms was born May 12, 1881 at Walnut Hill, Illinois, to James Eugene Nelms and Cora Ann O'Brian.

He came west at about age 19 at the urging of his cousin, Jess O'Brian, who was employed in or around Casper.

Jack settled at the CY Ranch at Careyhurst owned by Robert D. Carey, U.S. Senator and Wyoming Governor. He cowboyed for a short time and his knowledge of mechanics and love of fine cars landed him the job of chauffeur for Mr. Carey.

A few years later, Jack met Anna Elizabeth Leibouich of Deep River, Connecticut. Anna, the oldest girl of twelve children. She had left home in her middle teens landing first in Cheyenne. There, due to her lack of experience in the outside world, she almost landed in one of the city's brothels. She made her way to Careyhurst where she was employed as governess for the young Carey children, Sarah and Joe.

Jack and Anna were married November 19, 1919 at Ft. Collins, Colorado. They then settled in the booming oil field of Parkerton. They lived in the "tar-paper shack" community of Lambs Camp. Jack worked as a rousta-

bout on the wooden derricks; twelve hour days, seven days a week.

Elizabeth Anne was born to them May 10, 1922 during one of the biggest snow storms remembered by the old timers. Jack, trying to reach Casper to see his family, became stranded and spent the night in an abandoned cabin with another traveler, a pregnant young woman.

Another daughter, Rosalie Cora, was born in 1926 but died shortly after birth.

The family stayed in Parkerton until 1928, going back to Careyhurst for Jack to be Postmaster and to run the country store.

Elizabeth Anne went to the rural school there at the CY. The most able teachers at that time being Leona Wagner, Bea (Burks) Philbrick and Cora E. Grant.

The store burned to the ground in March 1936, a terribly windy day. Due to the changing times, Carey decided not to rebuild it. Jack and his family moved back to Parkerton where he was gauger for the new South Glenrock Field. Two years later he purchased a home in Glenrock, continuing his work in the oil patch. He died from a heart attack in September 1955. Anna continued to live in Glenrock until her death in 1970.

Elizabeth Anne graduated from Glenrock-Parkerton High School in 1939. In 1941 she went to work at the courthouse in Douglas for County Treasurer Fred Smith. When Lloyd Froggatt became county clerk she worked for him and became his deputy. Marriage in December 1947 to Melvin E. (Stub) Iames prompted a move back to Glenrock. The Iames family owned and operated the Iames Supply, bulk petroleum products, for eight years. Two sons had been born in the 1950s, Richard Hugh Iames, May 3, 1952 and Ronald Clyde Iames July 28, 1953.

Rick lives in Glenrock, and Ron lives with his wife and two sons in Dayton, Wyoming.

Stub suffered a stroke and died in 1977 after six years of disability.

Elizabeth continues to live at the family home in Glenrock.

Elizabeth Nelms Iames

## Nelson, Franklin and Eva Family

The Nelson family came to the United States from England in 1816 and settled in the woods near Mt. Clemens, Michigan. The family then consisted of six children including Thomas Nelson who was four years old at the time. Thomas was married twice and raised a family of ten, six boys and four girls, including Ira Nelson who, with his brother, Fred, moved to Nebraska.

Ira married and had three children, all boys, born at Ceresco, Nebraska; Franklin Josiah, Earnie and Earl.

Eva Adaline Sprague was the seventh of ten children born to Edwin A. Sprague and Juliaetta Smith, all named with the same E. A. initials of their father. Edwin Sprague served in Company 1, 3rd Regiment of the Wisconsin Cavalry from May 1862 to May 1865. So far as has been determined, he is a distant descendant of one of two brothers, either Ralph or William Sprague, who immi-



Jack Nelms at CY Ranch 1918 when he was chauffeur for Senator Robert D. Carey.

grated from England to the Massachusetts Colony about 1628.

I, Marvin Lee Nelson, was five months of age when my parents, Franklin Josiah Nelson and Eva Adaline Sprague Nelson, with my sister, Mary Lucille, and brothers, Edwin Franklin and Horace Richard, moved from Ceresco, Nebraska to Converse County, Wyoming in May 1913. Travel was in a 1910 Regal touring car with portions of the journey using a cattle trail for a road.

John Edwin Sinn, a nephew of my mother, had homesteaded in Converse County earlier and my father had made a trip by the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad early in the spring of 1913 to look over the land situation in that area. Stories from a cousin of my father, Steph Nelson, who had homesteaded in Humboldt County, California, sounded so good that my father prepared for a sale and planned to move to California. However, the morning of the sale a telegram from Ed Sinn changed his mind. He withdrew a team of big gray horses and two cows from the sale for shipment by rail to Wyoming and took up a homestead which consisted of the SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Section 28 and the NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Section 33, T32N, R68W.

A well was drilled and a two room building with attic and combined garage covered with corrugated sheet iron was constructed for temporary housing. A large barn was also built and naturally far outclassed the temporary quarters, which was to become a shop when a suitable house could be constructed. Time passed and the house never materialized. A log building was soon added but served mostly for storage, a bunkhouse, wash house and for an engine which provided power to pump water and for the washing machine. Later, a windmill was erected and a water storage tank was installed to provide running water in the house for stock tanks and irrigation of the garden. Two cellars were excavated at a 90 degree angle with a common entrance. With the good earth covering, an even cool temperature was maintained the year around. One was used for milk, eggs, canned fruits and vegetables, etc., and the other for potatoes and the winter's supply of coal to feed the cast iron range that served for both heating and cooking in the house.

The Nelsons also soon acquired the NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of Section 33 and the NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of Section 34 which had been homesteaded by an Englishman, Ernest Hart, who became homesick for the old country and sold out.

My father had grown up in eastern Nebraska in the vicinity of Germantown, Swedeburg, etc., so of course learned to play the fiddle quite well and the folk music of that time. Among my early memories, the chores being done early and all of us going to some farm house or country school where my father played the violin and Horace accompanied on the guitar for a night of dancing. I spent the night on a pile of coats in a corner or at best on a kind host's bed. Also there were fall trips to the LaPrele Dam-Ayres Natural Bridge area to gather chokecherries, hops and wild grapes. It was on a family outing to the Platte River Gorge south of the homestead that my brother Horace chiseled a fossil fish head from the rock. He had located it on a previous trip to the area.

Lost Springs was the early Post Office for the area. I don't remember much about it but do recall that "Cheap John's" little shop was always a regular stop on those early visits. Soon, Shawnee became a close rival and,

with my brothers Edwin and Horace big enough to take over much of the farming, my father built a machine and blacksmith shop there in about 1915. Ed Sinn put in a hardware store and lumber yard, the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad established an agent in a boxcar station and the Post Office, with Harry Haas Postmaster, was set up in his grocery store. Soon followed a hotel, bank, weekly newspaper and then the Blair Building with dance hall, doctors' offices and apartments on the second floor and two stores on the ground floor.

We continued to live on the farm with my father driving the three miles to town where he operated the machine shop and leased out the operation of the blacksmithing. Business was quite brisk as he had the biggest lathe in eastern Wyoming and did much of the machine work for the developing Glenrock and Lance Creek oil fields.

While Shawnee was thriving, mother picked up pin-money by using her power washing machine to do laundry for many of the town's people. She also made switches for those who saved their hair and wanted hairpieces. The stores in town were also happy to buy her surplus butter, eggs and lard.

During the flu epidemic of 1918 I passed out. How my mother managed, I don't know, but she somehow dragged me under fences and carried me the half mile plus to the main north-south county road. There she happened to meet a Mr. Wormwood on his way home. He left us in the shade of his wagon while he rode one of his horses back to town and had my father come for us in the car. I came to days later in the doctor's home in Lost Springs but believe I still suffer the consequences of that illness.

About this time a covered excavation was made for storage of ice cut and hauled from a reservoir on Lost Creek about two miles east of the homestead. Packed in and covered with straw, it kept very well and during the summer, hand cranking a three gallon ice cream freezer became a Friday evening ritual. Apparently the real cream and fresh egg mixture was very popular with everyone around for it seemed that by Sunday evening we would be scraping the bottom of the can for the last visitors.

Harvest time was always an exciting time with all the neighbors following the steam thresher from farm to farm and the women also gathering to help feed the crew. It was also a thrill to go out after the evening chores were finished and be held up to pull the whistle cord on the last remnants of the days steam. It was also a time for butchering, curing the meat, canning vegetables and making mincemeat and sauerkraut.

Attendance at the state fair in Douglas was always exciting but probably few will remember that Shawnee also had a local fair for a few years with exhibits of farm produce, handcrafts, baking, etc. with ribbons awarded for best showings.

The banker in Shawnee had built a nice two bedroom home with living, dining and music rooms, kitchen, a bath without fixtures, and partial basement. A fire developed during a time he was out of town but neighbors saw the smoke and were able to extinguish the blaze before more than some charring and considerable smoke damage occurred. During World War I, many home-

steads who had borrowed money to prove up on their places went to work at good wages in the oil fields and let their homesteads go to the banks and money lenders. Apparently the Shawnee banker saw the decline of the area and sold the house to my mother and father. They cleaned it up and moved off the farm in about 1923.

My sister, Mary, had married Lewis Koleno in 1914 and he had passed away in 1919. She, Edwin and Horace then homesteaded in the Bear Creek area north of Douglas. The farm was rented out for a time, lay idle for a few years and then about 1932 Horace returned and farmed until the property was sold to settle the estate in 1964.

I don't remember the exact year but one evening my father took my mother and me to Lost Springs where a man from Douglas was demonstrating a radio he had made. We had always enjoyed our phonograph with the cylinder records but this new gadget intrigued me. My father was hesitant about getting one made; but when I proposed selling my flock of ducks and turning over my entire bank account, he weakened and the Nelsons soon possessed a radio. It had some five knobs for selecting stations and required one six volt storage battery for the radio and another one for the big horn type speaker.

In the early 1920's my father sold the shop and equipment to a Fred Daw. Mr. Daw neglected the business and lost the lucrative oil field work. In final settlement, the building and what was left of the equipment was returned to my father with 320 acres of land in T32N R69W. Since the oil fields had put in their own shops, about all the work available was occasional mechanical and blacksmith work. I was then able to swing a sledge hammer and also help shrink wagon tires on rebuilt wheels. Gasoline pumps were installed and a small candy and tobacco shop added. This shop was operated by a Jack E. Wright for a number of years mostly as something to do.

During the 1929-30 school term my father organized the busing of the district children to the Shawnee Schools. He drove a bus from the south, Horace one from the north and I picked up children on two short routes to the west and east and also attended school.

With my graduation from the Shawnee High School in 1932 and leaving home for other work, my father pretty much retired. He had installed a pressure water system in the Shawnee home, completed the bathroom, wired the house for electric lights and put a generator in the basement. He then sat back to take it easy. The shop building was moved to the homestead property in about 1948, remodeled and became a semblance of the house planned back in 1913.

My sister, Mary, had been living in Roseburg, Oregon for a number of years and, in 1949, persuaded Mother and Dad to move to that area. The house in Shawnee was sold and moved to Manville. They lived in Roseburg until my father passed away in April 1953, at which time mother moved back to the homestead place south of Shawnee with son, Horace. She passed away in July 1953. They both are interred in Rock Creek Cemetery, Ceresco, Nebraska along with the two babies left there when they moved to Wyoming.

My brother, Horace, passed away in 1973 and is in the cemetery in Douglas, Wyoming. Edwin passed away in 1980 and is in the cemetery at Oroville, Washington.

Marvin L. Nelson



Left to right: Andrew Jackson Newell and Harrison Newell, 1878.

## Newell, Andrew Jackson and Sally

Andrew Jackson "Jack" Newell was born on April 24, 1834, the son of James II and Elizabeth Koder Newell in Jeromesville, Ohio.

Raised as a child in the wilderness of Iowa among the Indians gave Jackson a lifestyle which he chose to follow for the remainder of his life.

Serving in the Civil War under Sherman in his "march to the sea", Jackson won a medal which is still in the family.

Sarah "Sally" Ann Arnold, the daughter of John and Obie Arnold (a relative of Benedict Arnold) and Jackson were married in 1857.

They had five children: Marietta, June 8, 1860-1945; Gus, April 29, 1864-October 26, 1934; Phillip; Fred "Ted", May 27, 1871-February 15, 1922; and Elsie.

In 1876 Jackson came to Wyoming to trap and prospect. Upon finding a vein of ore close to Bear Creek and Eagle Peak, Jackson and his brother James, who had come out to be with Jackson, built an ore house and tramway. They called their mine "Silver Tip". Their cabin is located close to where David Prager lives today. Sending for his brother, Harrison, to help in the mine, Harrison came in 1879. The families of Jackson and Harrison came shortly after. The mine played out so Harrison went north four miles and took up a pre-emption claim until the land

was surveyed so that a homestead could be filed on.

Jackson continued to trap for a living in the Laramie Peak area. His family moved to Sheridan after living for a brief time in Virginia Dale, Colorado.

Jackson's nephew, Guy Newell, Sr., tells the following story about Jackson. "I remember once when my uncle Jackson was trapping wolves and beaver. He had traps set on Horseshoe Creek, he also had long chin whiskers; in setting a trap, it sprung and caught his whiskers. He could not release himself; he was about six miles from home, and he had to walk back home carrying the gun in one hand and the trap in the other. The snow melted early that year on his path; his language melted it."

Ted married Roxanne Howard. They lived in various parts of the state including Hartville where he was a gambler and musician. He played the violin and Roxanne the mandolin for dances. Later they homesteaded on Horseshoe Creek close to the mouth of Soldier Creek. Their home was renowned for the dances that were held there. In 1921 he and his wife opened up the Newell Rooming House in Glendo. The house was later on the Wilson Cash Store. Ted died February 15, 1922, Roxanne on March 14, 1928.

Marietta married "Buck" Chapman. They had one son (Claude) and three daughters (Maude, Mabel, and Myrtle). Her second husband was Riley Smith, and her third husband was Pete Gressman.

Jackson died at his miners cabin July 10, 1889.

Vera Dunham

## Newell, George and Adelia Family

George, the son of James II and Elizabeth Newell, was born on January 18, 1833 in Jeromesville, Ohio. When he was 13 years old, his family moved to Black Hawk, Iowa.

Adelia Hackett, born April 19, 1834 in Ashtabula, Ohio, the daughter of John and Mary Lent Hackett, became George's wife on February 12, 1856. Their children were:

Alonzo H. - May 7, 1858

Marion - December 10, 1859 - December 20, 1859

Mary E. "Mame" - May 17, 1863 - March 18, 1943

Jennie E. - November 3, 1865 - June 13, 1952

Clara Belle - May 19, 1868 - October 29, 1941

George E. - August 2, 1871 - June 4, 1872

Ernest - May 9, 1873 - July 13, 1957

Luetta "Etta" - August 13, 1875 - February 19, 1940

Luella "Ella" - August 13, 1875 - June 11, 1953

Hearing of the west and the opportunity that it offered from his brothers, Jackson and Harrison, George brought his family, with the exception of Alonzo, to Wyoming in 1881. He, along with his wife and children homesteaded on Mary Cooper Creek near Springhill. Their lands are owned by John Pexton and his sons in 1985.

A two story log house was built. This same house stands today and is still in use. A big lone Ponderosa pine tree, which still stands below the house, served as a



Luetta Newell and Glen Williamson

courting place for the five Newell sisters whenever their beaux came to court them.

Mary or "Mame" married Archie Hamner who had a ranch nearby.

Jennie married Lyman Cooper on April 13, 1892. A son, Ray, was born. Ray married Ethel Morton in 1912. They had a son, LeRoy. Ray later married Freda Newell. He and LeRoy owned the George Newell place when Jim Moran bought it in 1953.

Jennie later married Wesley Boyden of New York State having been born there August 19, 1877. Wesley came to Wyoming where he worked in his cousin Tim French's sawmill along with George Newell. Wesley and Jennie later acquired the Newell place and owned it up to the time of their deaths. Wesley died on June 14, 1950.

Clara Belle married Milt Hammond and raised her family on Wagonhound Creek.

Ernest never married. He was a partner with the Boydens. Elliott Hamner sold him his homestead at the mouth of Roaring Fork. Later, Ernie was to sell this to Art Fawcett. Ernie, along with his sisters, went to school in the George Newell home for the first two years. Lizzie Newell Cushman and her son, Frank, also taught for a couple of years. A school house was built in Schoolhouse Draw where school was held for all the Newell children in the area.

Luetta married Glen Williamson on April 20, 1906. Glen was born in New York and had come out west seeking his fortune. Lake Luetta, now called Dry Lake, was named after Luetta. Glen homesteaded west of Springhill. It is now owned by Richard Pexton. The Williamsons moved back to New York shortly after and lived out their lives there. Two daughters and one son were born to them: Alforetta Adelia, Wilma (Baitsell), and Wayne.

Luella married Barrett Cole in Toltec, Wyoming and lived in that area on the Cole ranch. Their sons were Ernest and Burnice.

George died November 19, 1897 and Adelia August 30, 1915. They are buried at Springhill.

Audrey Bayne



## Newell, Gus and Elsie Family

Gus, the son of Jackson and Sally Newell was born in Cedar Falls, Iowa, April 30, 1864. He, along with his parents, came to Wyoming around 1879. He married Elsie Alyes in Sheridan in 1884. They had five children:

Robert Andrew, March 28, 1890 - October 15, 1918

Ruby, d. March 17, 1953

Dorothy

Clarence, b. 1895

Nellie, April 21, 1897 - July 24, 1967

After living for a while in Sheridan, the family moved to Thermopolis in 1898 where Gus freighted to Bridger, Montana.

After Elsie's death in 1902, Gus came back to the Esterbrook area where he had a homestead.

Gus' second wife was LaVina Barnes Stewart. LaVina's husband was killed with Gus doing some time in the Wyoming Penitentiary for the crime. LaVina, on her deathbed on October 6, 1946, admitted having committed the murder.

Robert Andrew married Hattie Newell, daughter of John and Cassie Newell, in 1914 at Toltec, Wyoming. Hattie came back to Wyoming from Nebraska to teach in

local schools in the Esterbrook area. Shortly after their marriage, Robert and Hattie took up a homestead at the foot of Windy Peak.

They had a son, John Robert, in 1915. On July 23, 1918, Robert enlisted in the army. He contracted the flu that was sweeping the country while stationed at Fort Snelling, Minnesota and died on October 15, 1918.

Hattie and her son then moved to her homestead on Section 31, Township 28, Range 72 where they lived until her health failed. They moved to Nebraska to be with her parents. She died November 22, 1924. John, or Jack as he was known, lived with his grandmother until his death April 8, 1927 from an ear infection.

Ruby married Frank Spracklen. She died March 17, 1953. Nellie married George Hammond. She died July 24, 1967. Gus died October 26, 1934.

Audrey Bayne

## Newell, Guy and Myrtle Family

Guy H. Newell was born October 19, 1875 to Harrison and Sarah Newell. He came to Wyoming in 1879 with his parents and older brother Emmett. His father laid claim to his land two miles north of the present Horseshoe Creek Bridge at the foot of Laramie Peak.

In May 1881 his older brother Frank and wife Eliza, his older sister, Mary, and husband, Charles Messenger, also came to Wyoming.

There were no fences in those days, so at age five it was Guy's job to herd the stock, on foot. All through his life he was known to win many foot races, because as stockherder he raced the jack rabbits just for fun.

The only hay these pioneers had was from the native meadows, cut with a scythe and raked by hand. The first fall they put up four tons. Later, after ditches were built to drain and irrigate and fences built, these same meadows would yield 110 tons of hay.

When Guy was six years old, they were allowed to establish a school in Frank's shop. Guy's first teacher was Lizzie Anne Newell Cushman. They had three McGuffey Readers; First, Second and Third, for three pupils, Guy and Frank Newell and Charlie Gushins. Besides Lizzie Cushman, Guy's teachers were; Mary Cooper, Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Studly.

After Guy completed the eighth grade he went to Douglas and stayed with his sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Charlie Messenger, for two years of high school, then returned to his father's ranch to help out.

Guy's brother gave him a book, "The Hills Manual" that Guy studied; and in 1968 a college professor looked at the book and remarked, "What a world of knowledge it contains." The book is still in the family. Guy read and studied anything he could find, including law books. He had a great desire for education.

At age 21 he became Justice of the Peace. He was, by appointment, Field Assessor eight years, Deputy Sheriff under Carl Jackson eight years. He was appointed U.S. Land Commissioner and held this post as well as Postmaster for 17 years until he left Esterbrook in 1929 to return to ranching.

On July 10, 1900 Guy married Myrtle Laura Chapman, daughter of Marietta and Oscar Chapman.



Gus Newell



Myrtle Chapman Newell: receiving second place award at 1905 Wyoming State Fair in the women's horse race.

Myrtle was born October 16, 1885 on Tongue River near Sheridan; Wyoming. They were married in Douglas at the home of Charlie and Mary Messenger.

Guy and Myrtle established a ranch five miles west and a little north of Springhill, Wyoming. They ran white faced cattle, a few roan Durhams and a dark red breed, possibly Kerry.

Their horses were mostly Cleveland Bays, but through trading with Myrtle's great-aunt who lived in Colorado and raised Arabians, they were able to add this blood line to their own and had several of this breed as late as 1914.

In 1906 Guy, Emmett and Frank filed on mining claims at Esterbrook and along with working in the mines, Guy established a store there and freighted supplies in from Glendo and Douglas with team and wagon. By 1909 he had built an eight room house that set where the Esterbrook Club House now sits. His store was a little west of his home.

Emmett and Clara Newell had built the Rustic Inn, which still stands. Frank Newell had a home in Esterbrook; in fact, the whole town was Newells or relatives thereof.

In 1929 a gasoline explosion, caused by fumes collected in the basement of the store from a nearby storage tank, burned Guy badly and destroyed his store.

Guy and Myrtle took their stock and went back to ranching about six miles west of Esterbrook, where their grandson, Dennis Newell, still ranches.

Guy H. and Myrtle L. Newell had four children, Sarah Anne "Sadie", born July 22, 1901, married Leonard Watson and had four children. Later, she married Jack Jones of Glendo and had one son.

Vera Maud, born September 20, 1908, married Peyton R. "Slim" Dunham. They had four children, Merle, Juanita, Don and Harry.

Bertha Mae, born May 5, 1913, was killed in 1918 when

a run away team threw her out of the wagon.

Guy H. Newell, Jr., born August 28, 1919 married Opal "Mickey" Leder and had two children. Guy Jr. died in December 1971. When Guy and Myrtle went back to ranching in 1929 they built a large log house that had hardwood floors, running water and electric lights powered by batteries and a wind charger. In March 1936 this house burned down and they had to rebuild. In 1940 Guy Jr. joined the National Guard and in 1941 went off to war. With the help of their daughter-in-law, Opal, they ran the ranch until 1945 when Guy Jr. returned. He didn't want to be a rancher and went to work for the Forest Service, where he worked until the time of his death in 1971.

In 1945 Guy and Myrtle sold off their cattle except for a couple of milk cows and of course their faithful old horses.

They stayed on the ranch until 1969 when Guy's poor health forced them to move into a mobile home near their daughter, Sadie, on the Jack Jones Ranch at Glendo.

Guy H. Newell, Sr. died in January 1970 seven months short of their 70th wedding anniversary. Myrtle lived an active life and was mentally alert until the day of her death, March 11, 1980.

Dennis Newell, the son of Guy Newell Jr. is the only descendant with the Newell name to still live in Converse County. He and his wife live at Springhill.

Vera Newell Dunham

## Newell, Harrison and Sarah Family

The son of James II and Elizabeth Koder Newell, Harrison was born October 12, 1831 in Jeromesville, Ohio.

He was married to Sarah Benham. They were the parents of Mary, Francis "Frank", Emmett and Guy.

Coming to Wyoming from Iowa in 1879 to help his brothers, James and Jackson, in their mining venture at "Silver Tip", Harrison soon saw that this life wasn't for him so he explored the country and decided to settle on a piece of land to the northeast near what was to be later called Springhill.

Harrison built a two-story house which was later destroyed by fire. The meadow on his place is still called the Harrison Newell Meadow.



Haying on the Harrison Newell ranch.



L. to r. Sadie Whitney, Emmett Newell and Jennie Austin 1897

Harrison was a big man — over six feet — weighing over two hundred pounds. He died July 10, 1915 and Sarah on May 7, 1923.

Frank, the oldest son, was born September 24, 1862. His first marriage was to Eliza Stanton and second marriage to Maggie Silver, born January 23, 1858 in Ireland to Patrick and Catherine Maroony Silver.

Frank's ranch, at Springhill, was one of the finest in the area. A modern clapboard two-story house and a big barn were built. The house was the scene of many of the



Harrison Newell in foreground putting up hay on his ranch.



Springhill, Wyoming

areas social events at the turn of the century. The barn was later moved to the Jim Moran Ranch on Horseshoe Creek, section by section. Frank died September 5, 1929 and Maggie on December 18, 1925. They didn't have any children.

Mary married Frank Messenger and lived her life in Douglas after homesteading near her parents on Pool Creek.

Emmett was born in Cedar Falls, Iowa, December 2, 1869.

After working as a cowhand for several of the area's ranches including Guthrie and Oskamp, Emmett married Clara L. Searl of LeSeur, Minnesota on November 21, 1899.

Clara was born October 20, 1879. She came to stay with an uncle and aunt in 1897 near Esterbrook.

Emmett took out a homestead, in the valley west of his fathers, in 1900, near his brother Guy, later selling to Frank Spracklen.

Clara and Emmett had two children. Mary Evelyn, who married George Gazlay, son of Herbert Gazlay, who was a sawmiller in the area. A son, Harrison, died in in-



Herd of cattle on the Frank Newell ranch on Mary Cooper Creek. Archie Hamner in foreground.

fancy. Mary Evelyn, "Boots" and George had one son, George Emmett. "Boots" was born February 13, 1901 and died November 13, 1937 in Douglas. George Emmett died March 12, 1961 in St. Louis, Missouri.

In 1906 Emmett and Clara moved to Esterbrook where they built the "Rustic Inn". It was a hotel and boarding house. After the mines closed in 1908 the area became popular as a summer resort. Clara became post-master of Esterbrook on December 17, 1925, holding that position until December 11, 1946.

Upon selling their house and store in Esterbrook to Dale and Wilma Ballard in 1946, Emmett and Clara moved to Douglas. Emmett died in June 1951 and Clara on March 27, 1952.

Vera Dunham

## Newell, John and Cassie Family

John Newell was born April 8, 1856 on a farm near the town of Fredonia, Iowa, the son of Robert and Christina Newell. He was an Irishman through and through with sandy hair and a red beard.

He married Catherine "Cassie" Neeley on July 3, 1879 in Fredonia. Cassie came from a small Dutch community in Pennsylvania called Johnstown, having been born there October 18, 1857 to Robert and Rebecca Neeley. Cassie had come to work for John's parents when she was 16 years old; and it was during this time she acquired the nickname "Cassie". In fact, her marriage certificate states her name as Miss Cassie Neeley instead of Catherine.

They lived on John's parents place and helped them for six years. During this period, four daughters were born: Elizabeth "Lizzie" on March 8, 1880, Rebecca on September 2, 1881, died August 2, 1882, Carolyn "Caddie" on May 23, 1883, and Hattie Mae on May 21, 1885.

In 1886 John, along with his brother, Will, decided to

venture westward. They loaded their possessions in an emigrant car at Fredonia, Iowa and went as far as Stromberg, Nebraska on the railroad. It was here that their sister, Elizabeth, lived with her family, Dr Henry Cushman and sons, Ed and Frank.

Along with Ed and Frank Cushman, the two Newell brothers loaded their belongings in wagons and headed for Wyoming where relatives, Jackson and Harrison Newell had settled in the Laramie mountains near Laramie Peak.

John and Will sent for their wives as soon as possible. They came by railroad as far as Rock Creek (now Rock River.) They then traveled by wagon across the Laramie Plains to Bear Creek where they stayed until John found a place to live permanently.

A squatter, Mr. Baker, had settled on a place called the "Beer Keg Ranch" (now owned by Dick Pexton). He later abandoned it. It was here that John, Cassie and family settled. After fixing up the house that Mr. Baker had built, the family moved in. A spring, which still runs water, was fixed up using three huge slabs of rocks as sides.



John Newell family, 1894. Back row: Elizabeth and Carolyn. Front row: Mary, Catherine holding Maudie, Robert, John and Hattie.





The old "Beer Keg Ranch" buildings, 1920.

The brand AP was acquired with the Baker ranch; it was used to mark their cattle.

The nearest town was Douglas which took three days to go and shop and go home. One time while going home over Dugway Hill the wind overturned the wagon. The horses ran away and groceries, including a barrel of apples, were scattered all over.

A daughter, Mary Allas, was born December 14, 1887.

A son, Robert Flaherty, was born February 28, 1889. He and a cousin Maggie (Wm. Newell's daughter) became very ill in 1891, and after being wrapped in blankets dampened with the cold spring water to keep the fever down, Maggie died but Robert lived. "Rob" as he was later known, married Marie Ferguson and homesteaded south of Lusk, Wyoming near Rawhide Buttes.

The only time Cassie ever went to town while living on the Beer Keg Ranch was when John went to Laramie to prove up on the homestead in 1890.

In 1892 while on a trip to Laramie to get a new wagon, John took his daughter Caddie with him. Caddie related the incident in a story she wrote in 1968. Excerpts from the story are as follows: "After a lay over of a day, we started early the next morning for the Peak and from Laramie City. Mr. and Mrs. Centre were with us. The roads were muddy and there was a strong northwest wind blowing. We hadn't got far until our troubles started, Centres were in the lead and they had a balkie horse. Every time we came to a sticky place she would balk. Papa and Mr. Centre would get out and get something to beat her with. Then they would start in and beat her till they got tired, then go back of Mr. Centre's wagon and get out a big brown jug and take a drink of something. Maybe it was vinegar, I don't know. Then they would go back and beat her some more. Finally, she started with a lunge and away they went. About noon, it started snowing but we kept going till dark. Then we stopped and made camp. We were almost froze and wet besides. Papa and Mr. Centre had an awful time trying to get a fire started. Papa finally got an idea. He got upon the load and dug out a case of tomatoes and emptied them out in the wagon box

and used the box for kindling." Caddie relates that they got home the next day after breaking the reach in the new wagon.

Another daughter, Maudie, was born January 7, 1893.

In about 1892 or 1893 the children started to school at home with Mary Cooper as their teacher. They went three months in the summer. The next year, Ruby Studley was the teacher. The girls rode double on their horse, coming home each evening. Fred Newell, a cousin and son of Will Newell, went to school with them next year with Frank Cushman being their teacher.

By 1897, school was a problem so the family moved to Mitchell, Nebraska where the children could get a better education.

Caddie returned to teach school near Esterbrook in 1901 teaching eight pupils including the French children. She was paid \$40.00 a month that year. The next year she taught a school on Wagonhound Creek, boarding at Harry Pollards receiving \$45.00 a month and paying \$15.00 a month for board and room. After teaching in Mitchell for several years she was married in 1912 to William G. Howard. She died February 6, 1978.

Elizabeth "Lizzie" married Frank Adney in Nebraska. They later moved to Eugene, Oregon where she passed away November 10, 1935.

Mary also returned to teach in Wyoming. Later she married Walter Nunn and moved to Lander. She died June 23, 1970.

Hattie married Robert Andrew Newell in 1914 after teaching school in the Esterbrook area. She died November 22, 1924.

Maudie married Norval Vincent Labertew and homesteaded in the Crescent Basin area near Rawhide Buttes. They had four children; Wilma, Audrey (Bayne), John and Zoeralda. In 1947 she moved back to the Esterbrook area, buying a cabin from Bill and Bunte Morton at the foot of Elk Mountain on Mill Creek. She lived here until 1968 taking care of elderly and sick people. In 1968 she moved to Cheyenne where she lived until her death December 21, 1973.

In 1903 the family visited the mountains they loved so



well, staying three and one half months.

The Fourth of July always brought a big celebration. An excerpt from Hattie's diary is as follows: June 28, 1906, "Archie (Hamner) and I started back to Esterbrook from Glendo, he promised Mama that he would have everyone there on the Fourth. We picked up six kegs of beer, four gallons of whiskey, lemons and oranges."

Archie Hamner sold the Hoffman ranch on lower Horseshoe Creek where it joins the North Platte River, to John in July 1903 after purchasing it in April 1903. John would trail his cattle from Mitchell in the summer to the 3,000 acre Horseshoe Creek place and take them back in the fall. Haufs bought the place in 1906.

John died April 23, 1920 and Cassie, December 18, 1938.

John R. Pexton

## Newell, Perry and Maggie

A half-brother to Harrison, George, Jackson, Thomas and James III Newell, Perry was born on December 23, 1842 in Black Hawk County, Iowa to James II and Mariett Darling Newell. His mother died June 6, 1847 at the age of twenty-seven years.

After being married in Iowa to Maggie, Perry and his wife came out West and settled on a small ranch on upper North Laramie River. A daughter, Perrie, was born while they were living here.

Seeing no future in the ranching business, Perry moved to Esterbrook when the Esterbrook Mining Company opened its copper mine there in 1898.

Being a carpenter, Perry built several of the houses in Esterbrook. Many of these still stand today.

Perry went to California in his later years and died there.

John R. Pexton

## Newell, William and Sarah Family

William W. Newell was born in Concord Township, Louisa County, Iowa to Robert F. and Christina Newell on June 7, 1858.

Along with his brother, John, and nephews, Frank and Ed Cushman, William came to Wyoming in 1886. He brought 23 head of Shorthorn heifers and a Shorthorn bull, a team of horses, a wagon and household goods.

After settling in Jackson Newell's cabin near Laramie Peak, he sent for his wife, Sarah (Parkins) whom he had married two or three years before. It was while living here that a son, Fred, was born on August 27, 1886.

After about a year, Will and his family moved to the "Fordy" Newhart place which is west of Springhill and in 1985 is now owned by Richard Pexton. About 1887 or 1888 a homestead was established close to where Guy Newell (later Frank Spracklen) had his homestead on the east fork of Reid Creek.

A daughter, Maggie, was born in 1888 and died in 1891 and is buried in the Springhill Cemetery. Vinnie, the second daughter was born soon after. Louie, the second



Will Newell getting a shave by his wife, Sarah.

son was born in 1895. He later married Beth Read from the LaPrele community. Edith came into the world three months before the family moved to Mitchell, Nebraska in 1897. Nellie, the last daughter, was born in Nebraska.

In Fred Newell's memoirs he recalled an incident that happened to his father, Will. "Along about the summer of 1894 he (Will) had his cattle out southwest of Horseshoe Creek near Windy Mountain. When they came in to water, a bear would sometimes jump out of the brush and chase them. This summer a bear caught and killed one of them so Dad decided to set a trap for him. He borrowed a big bear trap and baited the trap with the remains of the dead cow. Well, he didn't have much faith in his ability of trapping so didn't go back to check on the trap for about a week. When he did go, I went with him, and lo and behold he had caught the bear. I was left to hold the horses while Clint Morrison and Dad skinned the bear and it kept me pretty busy as the horses were scared to death of even the smell of the bear. They rolled the hide up and tied it on behind Dad's saddle which the horse didn't like a bit, but we mounted and took off.

"Soon after we were mounted, the middle of the green hide slipped out and fell to the ground. One paw caught in the saddle strings and hung on. That hide stretched out to about ten or twelve feet long. The horse stampeded and it looked to me like he was kicking that hide about twice every jump. Well, Dad just couldn't quiet the horse as he went down the side of the mountain jumping over the rocks, fallen trees, etc., and all this time I was doing my best trying to keep in sight of him. When he got to the foot of the mountain he was headed for a little creek; just on the other side of the creek there was a fence corner where three barbed wire fences came together. Well, Dad wasn't about to ride him over those wire fences so he came to some willows in the creek and reached down and got a good short hold on one bridle rein with both hands, then just as the horse jumped into the willows, Dad jerked the horse's nose right up in his lap and threw the horse on his side while he jumped off.

"All this time the hide was still hanging on. The horse got up, crossed the creek and went through two of those

fences and went on his way. After going through two more fences the hide came off and the horse took off towards home."

From Fred Newell's story is the following account of where he went to school. "Aunt Liz Cushman had a real nice log house on her land near Springhill. Several years after she left Wyoming, John Newell's wife (Aunt Cassie) and her children and myself lived in this house and we kids walked about a mile east to a log school house for a three months term of school. This was my second term. The winters were so long and hard that the only schooling we got were those three month summer terms.

"For my first term I rode horseback two miles to John Newell's house. My third term was at Aunt Liz's house but I rode part way to John Newell's house and joined two of his girls, who both rode on horse - an old hump backed horse named Pete. We used to laugh about one of them riding on one side of that hump and one on the other. My fourth term was in the same log school house where I took my second year but this time I stayed at George Newell's place.

"For my fifth term I boarded at a sawmill near where Esterbrook is now. A man named Austin owned the mill. The teacher boarded there also. She and myself and a few other kids walked to this same log school house. On those long summer days I would have some time before and after school to play around the sawmill.

"A young man by the name of Percy Brockway had the job of moving the lumber away from the saw on a little flat car and he would let me ride on this car.

"One day when we were at school we heard a big explosion and when we got back to the sawmill after school we found the big steam engine that furnished the power had blown up while the crew was eating dinner."

In 1896 Will moved his family to the Kelly place near Esterbrook. One year later, in 1897, the family moved to Nebraska, three and one quarter miles southwest of Mitchell.

Audrey Bayne

## Nichols, Etta A. Hart

Etta A. Plotner was born on September 5, 1893 near Phillipsburg, Kansas, the daughter of Oliver S. and Martha Catherine Keller Plotner. She received her education in the grade and high schools of Platteville, Colorado. She carried the mail by horseback or by buggy for three years at Meade, Colorado, meeting the train halfway between Longmont and Berthoud, picking up the mail bound for Meade and putting the out-going mail on the train.

At the age of 16 she came to Cheyenne from Meade, making the trip on horseback. She was employed by the Warren Livestock Company of Cheyenne for four years.

Before she came to the Douglas area in 1914 she was married to Arthur Angell at Boulder, Colorado. Etta and her husband made the trip from Cheyenne to Douglas on horseback where Etta took employment. Later she rented the Edwards place where she engaged in the dairy business, operating under the name of Angell Dairy.

In 1924 Etta was united in marriage to Henry B. Hart, son of Ben C. and Addie Hart of Douglas. Etta married

her third husband, Blake E. Nichols, in 1954.

In 1925 Etta started her ranch with the purchase of 400 acres from Thomas Pexton. In the following years she acquired a ranch property consisting of 8,000 acres built up by additional land purchases. She raised commercial Angus cattle, sheep and hogs. She also had dairy cattle until 1948, milking 100 cows.

Mrs. Nichols' hobby was horses. She raised some of the finest in Converse County. She drove the champion team at the Wyoming State Fair both in 1951 and 1952.

Though she had no children of her own, Mrs. Nichols reared a nephew, Eugene Alaux, who was a student both in Glenrock and Douglas school.

Mrs. Nichols is among the prominent pioneer women of Wyoming. She succeeded in the ranching industry through her own efforts and with the high courage that carried her through the trials of pioneer life.

Etta Nichols sold her ranch in 1967 after the death of her husband, Blake, in 1965. She retired and moved to Douglas to make her home. She spent the last months of her life confined to the nursing home there, passing away September 7, 1980. She is buried in the Douglas Park Cemetery.

Ruth Grant

## Nielsen, Andrew and Ingeborg

Anders Peter Nielsen (paternal father), son of Niels Thomsen and Kristen (Katrine) Pederson Nielsen, was born in Skovby, Denmark on March 12, 1853. Andrew (English pronunciation of Anders) Peter Nielsen took Ingeborg Peterson as his wife on October 14, 1878. Ingeborg Peterson was born April 21, 1855 in Denmark. To this union were born seven children. Four boys and three girls; Kristine Anna, Anna Kristine, Thomas Niels, Niels Thomas, Sigfred Englebrecht, Johannes Christopher, and Abeline "Leona."

Hearing that the United States was "the land of opportunity" he came to the states, landing in New York in 1885 and immediately moved his family to Omaha, Nebraska where they lived until the "Big Tornado" of 1913. His son, Johannes Christopher, having learned surveying, ventured to Douglas, Wyoming to survey homesteaders lands. Having access to the records in the land office in Douglas, he discovered lands adjoining that could be filed on by homesteaders. He immediately wrote and told his father. His father, Andrew P. Nielsen, a painter by trade, felt this was a good opportunity to file on the land in Wyoming and in the fall of 1913, he and his son, Sigfred and daughter Leona came to Douglas, Wyoming and each one filed on a homestead nine miles northeast of the town in the area of Sec. 29; Township 33; Range 70.

Johannes "Chris" Christopher lived a bachelor all his life. Leona married twice and had one child by the first marriage who passed away at age seven and another daughter, Vera Andersen (Schmalenberger), was born of her second marriage who still lives in Denver, Colorado. Sigfred married and lived on his homestead all his life.

Andrew's wife, Ingeborg Nielsen, passed away from a disease in 1902 in Omaha, Nebraska and was buried there. Andrew P. Nielsen passed away November 6, 1939

in Douglas, Wyoming and was buried in the family plot in Omaha, Nebraska. Johannes Christopher Nielsen passed away November 1, 1966. Abelone "Leona" Nielsen Andersen passed away in March 1972.

Frank Fiala (maternal father), son of Vaclav Fiala and wife, was born in Prague, Bohemia in 1843. At the age of six he started to a village school which was conducted and directed under the management of the Catholic Church. At the age of twelve he was sent to the city of Prague where he lived with a relative and attended school, taking up the study of the German language and other advanced studies.

In 1859 war broke out between Austria and Italy. Prague was a university city and center of learning; and at the beginning of the war there was great enthusiasm among the students and 800 of them enlisted under the Austrian flag, Mr. Fiala being one of that number. He was in the service eight months receiving six cents per day and rations which consisted of a daily allowance of 2½ pounds of black bread. At the close of the war he was discharged from service and returned to his native village (Horelice) taking a position as an accountant and timekeeper in an iron mine, a position he held until the age of 21.

During his service with the mining company, he walked to Prague every Sunday and it was then that he formed the acquaintance of Vojte Naprstek who had considerable reputation over two continents as a writer and champion of the people's rights and had spent a few years in the United States and had established Bohemian and German papers in St. Louis and Milwaukee. He was one of the chief agitators leading up to the Revolution of 1848 and was so active in this work that the Austrian Government placed a price on his head, but he succeeded in getting out of the country and fled to the United States where he remained until friends secured a pardon from the government and he was permitted to return to his native land. Naprstek, in later years, became a very eminent man and was greatly beloved by the Bohemian people of the world.

It was Naprstek who fired Mr. Fiala's ambition to come to America. Naprstek had copies of the U.S. homestead laws printed in Bohemian which he entrusted to his lieutenant and Mr. Fiala took up the work of promoting immigration among people at Horelice. Many people, including Mr. Fiala's mother and stepfather, Joseph Horak, (Mr. Fiala's father had died and his mother had remarried) had gone and Mr. Fiala was getting ready to leave when the government called him to enter upon eight years of military duty, as was required of all men of the empire when they became of age.

Fiala entered the army in 1863 and was attached to the Seventh Regiment of Cuirassiers, later becoming a lieutenant. He fought in the Austrian-Prussian War which lasted three days and was wounded twice, receiving a sabre cut across his left cheek and another across his forearm. He had two horses killed under him and the third horse had his ear cut off by the sweep of a sabre directed at Mr. Fiala.

At the expiration of five of his eight years, Mr. Fiala asked for a furlough of 30 days, which was granted, and instead of returning to his military duties he left for the United States landing in New York on February 20, 1869

in company with one of his comrades who had relatives in Ravenna, Nebraska. He left immediately for Chicago where he took a job of running an immigrant hotel. He could speak four languages; German; Bohemian; Hungarian and Italian. When he accumulated enough money to pay his fare, he moved to Iowa where his mother lived.

On April 18, 1870 he married Anna Bratnsovaky, who had only recently moved from New York with her parents. It was love at first sight and they were married the same day they met.

He and his wife established a cigar factory in Iowa City, Iowa in 1873. In 1878 their factory burnt down. They then filed and settled upon land in Sherman County, near Ravenna, Nebraska where they lived in a home made of sod.

To this union were born 14 children of which twelve were raised to maturity. The children's names were: Antoinette, Anna, Frank, Amos, Charles, Emma, Joseph, Clara, William, Libby, James and Vlasta.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fiala celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 18, 1920. Ten of their children and their families attended.

Mr. Fiala passed away August 8, 1930 at the age of 87 years. His wife, Anna, passed away November 11, 1932 at the age of 82 years. Their immediate family have all passed on since.

Sigfred Englebrecht Nielsen (father) was born on August 11, 1883 in Copenhagen, Denmark and was two years old when his father and mother moved to the United States. He lived with his father until the age of 24. On November 28, 1907 he married Clara A. Fiala in Omaha, Nebraska.

Clara A. Fiala (mother) was born on August 12, 1882 in Ravenna, Nebraska living with her parents until she took a job in Omaha, Nebraska working in a cigar factory there. At age 22 Clara met Sigfred Nielsen and they married three years later. At that time, Sigfred (Fred, as he was known) was working in a can factory when he met Clara.

To this union were born eight children. Four boys and four girls. They are named; Fredrick Allen, Lewis Ivan, Lloyd Earl, Annabell Ruth, Doris Ellen, Dorothy Esther, (Doris and Dorothy were twins), Arthur Pierre and Lenora Lorraine. The first three children were born in Nebraska and the last five were born in Douglas, Wyoming, except Annabell who was born at home on the homestead.

Father and Mother filed on a homestead in the fall of 1913 and moved to settle it in the spring of 1914. The homestead was located nine miles northeast of the town of Douglas, Wyoming in Converse County in the area of Sec. 32; Township 33; Range 70.

Father was a plumber by trade having taken up pipe fitting in Ravenna, Nebraska and worked for Chas. Clark Plumbing Shop after moving to Douglas.

Transportation was by walking. Father walked to town on Monday and worked until Saturday night and then walked back home for the weekend. Mother stayed out on the homestead and cared for the children (there were three at that time). When they had to haul anything they would borrow Andrew P. Nielsen's team and wagon. Other than that, everyone walked wherever they wanted

to go until father was able to buy a team and wagon of his own. In 1919 father bought his first automobile which was a Metz, with friction drive and it didn't last too long. Then he purchased a Model T. Ford. When it wore out he bought a Chevy (Club Sedan).

Walking was still the main way of transportation at the homestead though, because father needed the car to get to and from work. When we had to travel very far we would use the team and wagon.

The main way of social activities was a visit to the neighbors once in a while at which time we would walk. Neighbors lived from one to three miles apart.

Food for the family consisted of jack rabbit, vegetables from the garden and Mother canned from the garden for winter food. There was one milk cow to furnish milk for the children. Water was carried by pail from indentations in the creek and was boiled before use. A while after the family was settled, Father and Mother started drilling a well by hand using a 4' piece of 4" pipe for a drill bit and made a slush bucket from a piece of galvanized sheet metal. After they struck water the fence lines were surveyed, and they found they were on Chris's property (Chris was Father's brother). The water was used anyway until Chris threw a tantrum and told father he couldn't get water there any more, so water was hauled from the neighbors, one mile west of the Nielsen homestead, where Mr. Charlie Merrill and his son, Clifford, lived. When Father was able to, he had a well drilled on his own property, hiring the job done.

The depression of the 1930s was a very hard time. it was so hot and dry we couldn't raise hay or grain for the livestock. It was getting harder to make both ends meet so the two oldest boys went out to Careyhurst to work in the hay fields. They were only paid \$15.00 per month which they saved up and bought a cow or two. When the herd built up we broke more cows to milk, having at one time 13 cows milking. Mother made butter, cream and cottage cheese and raised chickens and sold what she could to the Peyton Bolln Grocery Store to help buy the necessities for the family.

The family homestead house (12' by 14') was built of lumber and building paper and the plumbing was an "out house" and Sears Catalog.

As the family grew, the homestead house was used for a livestock barn and a second house (12' x 24') was built of lumber. After all the children but two were educated, the school building was put up for bid and Father bid on it but his bid was too low. The person who got the building had to move it too far so he let father have it for the same bid price. That building was a 16' x 28' wood structure and the boys moved it one half mile east of its original location with two tractors and a big truck, onto a full basement dug by hand with a pick and shovel and buckets. The second house was then torn down and built onto the school house and made a more comfortable living quarters. But Father fell ill and passed away in the spring of 1941 before he could finish the house, so the children, who were still living at home, pitched in and finished the house. A few years later an indoor bathroom was installed.

For clothing, Mother made her dresses from flour sacks and the children's clothes were made over from "cast off" clothes given to the family by people in town

where Father had done their plumbing. The family washing was done in a number 3 galvanized tub on a brass washboard.

All eight children joined 4-H club work when that organization came into being in 1923 and our county agent was Mr. A. E. Hyde. The two older boys won trips to 4-H Congress International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, Illinois, sponsored by the Northwestern Railroad Co. Fredrick won his trip in 1925 and Lewis won his trip in 1926. They were very proud and honored and worked very hard to receive the award. The children paid for school clothes and supplies with monies they won at the Wyoming State Fairs during their 4-H membership years.

In 1942 Lloyd and Arthur were called for duty in World War II and the rest of the family scattered leaving Fredrick and Doris to tend the ranch with Mother. After farming the land for 30 years and only getting four paying crops, we decided in 1958 to replant the farm land back to grass and use it for pasture again.

On December 6, 1963 the city dump fire got away in a high wind and burnt an area three quarters mile wide and 15 miles long going through the middle of the Nielsen ranch destroying all the winter pasture and 45 tons of recently purchased baled hay. Many fence posts and wire were badly burnt. There were suits filed in the courts by all the neighbors who had gotten burnt by the fire. Our suit was finally settled in 1970 but not until it caused lots of hard feelings to all those concerned.

Our health started to fail in 1970 so we decided to sell the ranch. The sale was made in 1973 when we retired and moved to Douglas in September of that year.

We, Fredrick (Fritz) and Doris, now spend much of our time entertaining the public with old time music. He plays the violin (a Stradivarius handed down in the family over 100 years, has come unglued a few times and the neck broke off but he hired a friend in Casper to fix it). He has several other violins, one being a violin made from grandfather's old "Roll Top" writing desk, which was made of black walnut and a Steiner which he purchased at a music store in Douglas. The Steiner is 311 years old.

After we left the ranch we wanted to do something (free of charge) for the senior citizens of the community so we started playing for their dances in 1974 and still play for them several times a month when we are able to. We also play for any church who calls on us and have played other towns and states including South Dakota, Colorado, Nebraska, Arizona and Utah, playing for senior citizen groups, old folks homes, lodges, wedding receptions, wedding anniversaries, retarded people, the teachers association, and have played for the Wyoming Pioneer Association for the past 13 years and for the people who attend the state fair on Pioneer Day.

Members of the family who have passed on are: Sigfred (father) passed away April 7, 1941 at the age of 57 years. Lloyd Nielsen passed away in September 1968 at the age of 55 after a motorcycle-car accident. Clara A. Nielson (mother) passed away April 2, 1969 at 86. Annabell R. (Nielsen) Aldrich passed away in June of 1977 at the age of 61 from the dreaded disease, cancer.

At the time of this writing, six of the eight children are still living.

Doris E. Nielsen

## Nielsen, Herb and Mareta

Ole Herbert Nielsen, known as "Herb", came to Wyoming about 1920. He was born at Wisner, Nebraska March 31, 1902 and at the age of 13 moved to a farm near Chambers, Nebraska. He grew up working at home and for other farmers.

This was hay country and many baled and hauled their hay 28 miles to O'Neill, Nebraska. This was the time of four horse teams and wagons with baling racks. They fed some of the hay to the cattle but most of their income was from the hay sold in O'Neill. Herb gained his experience with horses working for these farmers and began to ride wild horses at rodeos around the country.

In 1920 when he was 18, he came to Wyoming with Alvin Johnson, a WWI vet who had filed on a homestead 60 miles north of Douglas, near Dull Center.

Alvin brought a four horse team and wagon, baled hay and other equipment that he would need to prove up on his homestead, and loaded it all into a railroad emigrant car at O'Neill and headed west. Herb was a neighbor of the Johnsons and was anxious to go along with Alvin. Alvin built a cabin and proved up the homestead. He then sold it to Harvey Nachtman and returned to Chambers, where he went back to farming. Alvin died at the age of 86 in February 1975. Alvin Johnson was my uncle. I am Mareta Nielsen.

Herb stayed in Wyoming and found jobs as a cow-hand and as soon as he had the money, bought a horse of his own. He rode on roundups in the fall and trailed cows to Douglas many times. He also broke saddle broncs. He worked at the CY Ranch south of Casper, and the Fiddle-back on the Cheyenne River near Dull Center where he learned to shear sheep. He worked during lambing and shearing season in and around central and southern Wyoming. Some years, after shipping and work was slow, he would return to Nebraska and pick corn and spend the winter with his folks. Wyoming always drew him back in time for lambing and shearing season.

In 1926 or '27, Herb filed on a homestead and built a one room cabin. This was south of the Cow Buttes and joined the Paul Miller place. While trailing cows to Douglas in October of 1927, he received word of his mother's death and returned to Nebraska. After being back in Wyoming for shearing in the spring of 1928, he returned to Nebraska. On July 17, 1928, he and I were married. My home was near Chambers as was Herb's and my maiden name was Mareta Isaacson. We came to Wyoming at this time and settled on the homestead.

Herb had planned to work at a sawmill south of Douglas but it had been closed down so he was again on the cow trail to Douglas at shipping time as the depression had set in and jobs were hard to find.

The fall of 1928, Herb's brother, Calmer, and his wife Hazel, and father, Peter Nielsen, came to Wyoming and filed on homesteads. Herb's sister, Gertrude, came later in 1931 and also filed. She taught school at the Schmidt School and at Lance Creek. All their homesteads were near Dull Center.

In April of 1929 I went with Herb on the shearing tour. We went to the Bishop pens north of Casper to Wamsutter and 25 miles south of Wamsutter. I recall the road wasn't

more than a muddy wagon trail. We had a tent and a Coleman stove to cook on and keep warm by, which was loaded into our Model T Ford Coupe. The shearing tour brought us back north to Reno Jt. where Herb sheared for Bert Reno, Elmer Reno, Floyd Robinson and others.

In June of 1929 we returned to the homestead and proved up on it. We sold the half-section that joined Paul Millers to him. Another half-section on the north joined Frank Rothleutner's homestead and he gave us twelve head of cows in payment for it. That started our cow "herd." Herb also leased his father's place and helped him fix it up. They built a rammed dirt house on it. Each fall we traded our steer calves for heifers and soon our herd was growing.

In April of 1930 our first child was born, a girl we named Delores, so that spring I didn't go along shearing. When she was two years old we went along and I got a lot of exercise keeping track of her. This year we first went to Arminto where Herb sheared with Orville McConahay. We camped in their yard. We went on from there to Thermopolis and sheared near Kirby, Wyoming, up on Copper Mountain, then back to the Cheyenne River, where we sheared some smaller bunches. Our Model T Coupe was doing well. In the spring of 1933, Herb's father sold his homestead and went back to Nebraska. We leased a place from Oliver Nachtman a few miles east of the Pinnacle Rocks. On September 18, 1933 our second child was born, a boy named Harold. Our cattle were doing well and we had taken out a reconstruction loan and things were looking pretty good for us. By April 1934 the early spring brought a lush growth of grass and the water holes were full. Herb went shearing at this time and I took the two children to Nebraska to visit. We boarded the North-western passenger train at Douglas one morning and arrived at O'Neill late that night. The plan was for Herb to come after us after shearing, which he did by July 4. We were going back to Wyoming but received a letter from Herb's brother saying everything had dried up, no water, and grasshoppers had taken all the grass. Herb would need to come up right away and see about the cattle. We sold our cattle to the government.

So we were back where we started but now we had two small children and another on the way. Our third child, Harlan, was born October 7, 1934 at Kearney, Nebraska.

We lived with Herb's sister Myrtle and her husband Calvin Bostrum. Herb spent his time babysitting and picking potatoes on irrigated acres at \$1 per day. Nebraska's dry land crops looked like plowed fields. After a spell of whooping cough for our two oldest kids and Bostrom's two, we went back to the Chambers area and lived with Herb's father for the next year. In 1935, Herb bought four milk cows at \$40 each. He worked baling hay for \$1 per day, went shearing for \$.08 a head, put up hay and husked corn or whatever work was available and that summer we raised a big garden. In 1935 the crops were back to normal after the 1934 drought.

In April of 1936 we moved back to Dull Center where Herb worked on the government AAA program building dams for ranches in the area.

The fall of 1936 Herb's brother Calmer and his sister, Gertrude, sold their homesteads and bought old ewes at \$3 a head. We leased a place and ran the sheep on shares,



half the wool and half the lambs of the next year's crop. This started us in the sheep business. We were in this for three years and then lost our lease in 1939. At this time Herb and Calmer trailed the sheep 100 miles north to a ranch located 17 miles northeast of Gillette. We lived there for the next eight years. During this time we bought a house in Gillette and lived in town during the school months. We sold all the sheep in 1944 and then took cattle in to pasture. Herb was injured in 1945 when the horse he was riding bucked off the side of a butte.

On April 18, 1946 our last child, Kay, was born and in the spring of 1947 we sold out and moved once again to Nebraska. We were able to buy a small farm. Because of Herb's neck being broken in the horse accident, he was unable to continue farm work; and in 1950, we bought a grocery store in Inman, Nebraska. Our lot in life was improved considerably, and we ran the store for six years. Wyoming called us again and we moved back to Gillette in 1956 and bought the Wyoming Hotel which we ran for nine years. We then moved to Lovell, Wyoming where we bought the Western Motel in 1967 and operated it for eleven years. We lived there at the time of Herb's death on May 30, 1978 at the age of 76 years, 2 months.

Herb's father, Peter Nielsen died in 1943 at the age of 72 and his brother, Calmer, in 1959 at the age of 54. His sister, Gertrude, died in 1972 at the age of 64. She had married Fred Pate in 1941. She had taught school in Douglas when Fred was serving in the service in WWII. They moved to Hot Springs, South Dakota after he returned. They had moved to Sheridan in 1960 and there she taught school for ten years. She has a total of 43 years as an elementary school teacher.

Our daughter, Delores, now resides in Petaluma, California and works for Fireman's Fund Insurance Co; Harold is employed with Tri-County Electric in Gillette; Harlan has just recently retired from Mountain Bell and is self-employed in a telephone connected service; and Kay lives at Moorcroft and is also self-employed in an oil field service company.

I now live at 220 Powder River Avenue, Moorcroft, Wyoming. In October of 1985 I enjoyed my 81st birthday and am still active and healthy.

Mareta Isaacson Nielsen

## Norcross, Ross and Ester

Roswell "Ross" Norcross was born May 25, 1881 in Preston, Connecticut. He was the son of Alphonso and Rose Gardner Norcross.

Ross came to the Douglas area in 1902 for his health. He was a partner in a mine on Three Cripples Creek near Esterbrook. Ross was also a skilled carpenter. He served in the first World War.

Ester Haskell Norcross was born January 5, 1884 in Arnold, Nebraska. Ester and Ross were married November 14, 1921 and to this union one son, Daniel, was born. In addition to being a housewife and mother, Ester was an artist, painting the beautiful mountains, flowers and trees which surrounded their home near Esterbrook.

The Norcross family spent their summers in the mountains and lived in Glendo during the winter months. It was there that Ross died on June 5, 1969. Ester died on April 29, 1982. Both Ross and Ester were members of Christ Episcopal Church and both are buried in the Douglas Park Cemetery.

Daniel and Patricia Norcross were the parents of eight children, namely Keith (now deceased), Phillip, Chris, Ross, Kevin, Susan, Lisa and Sarah.

Ruth Grant

## Norton, Ernest and Calla Family

Ernest Norton was born in Highlands, North Carolina in 1893. He married Calla Watson in 1916.

Ernest, Calla Mae and their four children, Sarah (Louise), Myrtle (Marie), Oliver Patrick (Bill) and Phebe M., came on a train to Douglas in March 1930 where Ernest (Ernie) worked as foreman of a ranch on Elk Horn Creek. My father had been told by two of his brothers-in-law, who were already in Wyoming, that Wyoming was the land of opportunity and he could have a big sheep ranch. Four years later my mother died. My dad (Ernest) was a ranch hand for several years after which he moved into Douglas. Also, a carpenter by trade, he helped build the LaBonte Community Hall, the First Baptist Church on Fourth and Oak Streets, and the Rogers' home in the 1920s on the Rogers' ranch at Orin.

In 1944, I married Dennis K. Rogers; and in 1953, we moved to Orin on the family ranch.

Marie married Fred Allen. She died in 1951. Ernest died in 1968.

Phebe M. Norton Rogers

## Numrich, John and Gertrude Family

John Henry Numrich was born in Padew, Austria on October 1, 1883, the son of Jacob and Barbara Dewey Numrich. In 1900 at the age of 17 he came to the United States. He made his home with his uncle and aunt who earlier in the year had come to the U.S. From Padew, settling at Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Henry started working in the coal mines. Several years later they all went to Springfield, Illinois to make their home where Henry continued to work in the mines.

In the fall of 1904 he met Gertrude Kohl. She was born in Reichseim, Austria on May 7, 1886. In 1900 at the age of 14, she came to the U.S. and worked as a subservant maid in Boston, Massachusetts. She came to Springfield to spend Christmas with her sister Mary and family. Here she met Henry; and after a short courtship, they were married on January 31, 1905 in the Trinity Lutheran Church. They bought a home on South 15 Street where three of their children were born: on May 13, 1906 a son, John Earnst, on June 28, 1908 a daughter, Emma, and on August 28, 1912 a daughter, Margaret.

On September 17, 1913 Henry became a naturalized citizen of the U.S. He was always proud to be an American.

About this time he decided to go into business for himself. He sold their home and bought a grocery store and meat market and soon had a good business going for himself. Their living quarters were in the back of the store. Here, on September 16, 1915, Ruth was born.

In 1916 he heard about the homestead land being offered near Douglas, Wyoming. After talking this over with several other families, four of them decided this would be a good opportunity to acquire land. The four men, Henry Numrich, Conrad Numrick, (Conrad was a distant relative of Henry; his branch of the family spelled their name with a k instead of an h), Louis Kurtz, and Fred Domsalla came to Douglas and filed for a homestead permit. After they learned that their permits had been granted, they made plans to move. Henry was the first to leave. He sold the store, bought a team of horses, a lumber wagon, many needed tools, loaded up the furniture in a rented box car and was ready to go. The family stayed with the Conrad Numricks because they didn't leave for the homestead until the latter part of May. In March 1917, Henry left taking his son, John, ten years old, and Conrad's two oldest sons, Fred and Conrad Jr. to help build the houses for both families. They landed at Orpha, Wyoming which at that time was called Steven. They stored the furniture, loaded everything they needed on the wagon, hitched up the team and headed for the homestead which was 20 miles north of Orpha. This community is now known as the "Hyland Flats."

During the process of building, Henry and Fred had a very narrow escape from freezing. They had to go to Douglas after more lumber and food supplies. It took two days to make the trip with the team and wagon. It was a nice day when they left; but on the way back, they were about two and one-half miles from home when they ran into a terrible snow storm. The wind was blowing fiercely and turning bitter cold. They stopped at a neighbors, Gene Fowler, to rest the team and warm up a bit before going on the rest of the way. It was getting dark and Gene tried to get them to stay overnight but they thought they could make it and started on. After traveling for a while they decided they were lost. They were getting so cold they got off and walked. Soon they stopped and stood between the horses to try to get warm. After a while the wind let up and they could see a light ahead. Of course they thought it was the light at home but found themselves back at Gene's. He had set the lamp in the window just in case they might come back. He helped them put the team in the barn for the night. How thankful they were to get in by a warm fire. In the morning the storm had let up and they continued on home.

By the latter part of April the houses were finished enough that the rest of the family could come. On April 27, 1917, Gertrude (expecting their fifth child), the three girls, and the milk cow Daisy, arrived at Orpha. Henry



Henry Numrich in front of his rock barn.

and son John were waiting for them with the team and wagon. After loading all their wares on the wagon with the milk cow tied on behind they started on their 20 mile trip, following a bumpy trail, to their new home. After traveling about half way, Gertrude was getting very tired and kept asking Henry "How much farther is it?" and Henry would say "Not too much farther, just over that next hill." The milk cow, too, was getting tired and started lagging so John and Emma took turns walking along behind with a little switch to pep her up a little. What a relief when they finally got over "that next hill" and could see the little homestead houses!

The water situation posed a problem in those early years. There were ponds with plenty of water for live-stock but water had to be hauled from a spring about a mile from the house for family use. Henry's first attempt to dig a well by the house failed. They didn't know wells had to be drilled in Wyoming. In Springfield a shallow well could be dug most anywhere. That first summer Gertrude did the washing beside a pond near the house. Henry had built a rock stove to set the tub on. John and Emma picked up cow chips and chopped sagebrush to burn to heat the water.

That first summer a barn and workshop had to be built. To build the walls they picked up flat rocks that were found plentiful on the hill tops. The rocks were stuck together with pond mud. The roof was covered with logs then covered with sod. It made a good warm barn that lasted for years.

That fall on August 6, their fifth child, a true pioneer baby, Ella Marie, was born. The only attendance besides Henry was Mrs. Conrad Numrick. Mother and baby did fine.

In March of 1918, Henry got permission to leave the homestead to go to work for Fred Dilts at LaBonte, Wyoming. The family went with him. He helped with the irrigating and putting up the hay and Gertrude did the cooking for the ranch hands. That fall, the three oldest children attended the Sullivan School. This was the last year John went to school. He was now twelve years old and went to work herding sheep for John Morton. With the first money he earned he bought a saddle horse "Trinket" for the folks to use. That fall the family went back to the homestead. More improvements must be made. That winter, Emma and Margaret didn't go to school as there was no school in this vicinity.

In the spring some of the fields must be gotten ready to plant grain. After the fields were plowed and disked, they were harrowed to clear off the brush. The seed was scattered by hand then harrowed under. Gertrude was out in the field helping while Emma did the cooking and cared for the smaller children. The horse drawn machinery was crude but they made a start.

During the summer of 1920 the Fowler-Cowger School was built. There had to be six pupils to get a school so Ruth started at age five. This first term was for six months. The school was a mile and three fourths from the house and this is a long ways for small children to walk. If a storm came up during the day or it turned too cold, Henry would come after the children with the team and wagon.

In those early years our mail boxes were on the Ross Road, about nine miles from the house. The neighbors took turns once a week going after the mail. They rode horseback or took the team and wagon.

About the only entertainment they had were the dances held at the Hyland School House. It was centrally located in the community and people came from miles around, some on horseback and some with team and wagon. They would dance and visit till dawn when it was light enough to see to go home.

At home the children created their own fun and games. They had rag dolls Mother made, cut paper dolls out of the catalogs, made mud pies using pieces of broken glass for dishes. In the winter time it was great fun sliding down the snow drifts on a scoop shovel.

During the winter months Gertrude liked to sew, making clothing for the children. She made blankets and quilts, did beautiful crochet work and hooked many a rag rug. How nice it was to have a rag rug beside the bed. The winters were long, very cold and hard to endure but when the sweet song of the meadowlark heralded the return of spring and Mother Nature spread her carpet of green, spirits were lifted and efforts renewed to succeed hoping each new year would be better than the last.

Sometime early in 1919, Fred and Conrad Jr. went to work on Governor Carey's ranch at Careyhurst, Wyoming. Here a tragedy happened in January of 1920 when

Conrad Jr. was killed in a runaway team accident. Fred continued to work here until after his father's death in July 1922. Then he went to Kansas City, Missouri where he attended an auto mechanic school. He received his diploma in July 1923 and returned home. On October 23 he and Emma were married in Douglas. Soon afterward they went to Springfield, Illinois to make their home. Here Fred had worked at Lauterback's Garage. On January 14, 1926 their only child, Betty Ruth, was born. After Fred retired from the garage they bought a farm near Palmyra, Illinois in May of 1948. In September 1960 Fred died from cancer. Emma still lives on this farm near her daughter and family.

In 1923 Henry bought their first car, a Model T Ford. What an improvement over the team and wagon. He had his troubles learning to drive it. About the first time he took it out to get the mail he turned a corner too fast and upset it. He had to walk to the nearest neighbor to get help to set it upright again.

On December 28, 1924 about two o'clock in the morning, another daughter, Dorothy, was born. The baby came at an unexpected time being two months premature. Outside, a winter storm was taking place, making roads impossible to get to town to a doctor. Without doctor or nurse, this tiny two and one half pound baby was saved.

With the car, a trip to town could be made in one day. Now Gertrude could go once in a while. How nice if she brought home a new piece of oilcloth to brighten up the kitchen. The children looked forward to Mother going to town, they knew among those necessities would be a small sack of candy.

Things were progressing fairly well when the depression of 1929 hit, followed by the drought years of the early '30s. The fall of 1929 Ruth was ready for high school. She worked for her room and board in order to go. Later that fall, Margaret left home and went to work for Jennie Chamberlin in Douglas. She worked here until on December 9, 1931 she was married to Arthur M. Sims. They made their home at 222 North Third Street in Douglas. To them three children were born: Margaret on August 20, 1933, Arthur M. Jr., December 25, 1935 and Allen Lee on March 28, 1945. She lost her husband in February 1957. She made her home in Douglas until her death in late April 1969. Her son, Arthur, resides in the family home.

Ruth graduated from high school in May 1933, attended the Chadron State Teachers College one year and started teaching in the rural areas of Converse County in the fall of 1934. In 1936 while teaching the Walker Creek School, she met Adolph "Bubs" Whiting. On November 13, 1937 they were married at Deadwood, South Dakota. She finished that term and quit teaching for the next five years. During this time their two sons were born, Jimmie Dale, December 14, 1938 and Larry Joe, December 14, 1940. During World War II, in November 1943, she started teaching again, finishing a term where the teacher had resigned. She continued to teach for the next 14½ years, taking Jim and Joe with her after they were of school age. In March of 1944 Bubs was drafted in the Marine Corps.

After his discharge in January 1946 he bought a place six miles west of Orpha where they made their home. They retired in 1974 and Jim took over the place.

In 1935 John returned to Springfield. He soon found work with the Central Illinois Power and Light Co. He enrolled in night school to learn the mechanics of the light company. He worked for this company until his retirement in 1971. The latter half of these years he worked as a foreman. His main hobby was his gun collection, having collected 463 guns. On March 11, 1940 he married Ida Mae Timms. Ida had two little girls from a former marriage. On September 1, 1974, Ida Mae died. Five years later, John died. Both are buried in the Springfield Cemetery.

Marie graduated from Glenrock High School in 1935, attended the Chadron State Teachers College one year and started teaching in the rural schools of Converse County. She was married to Daniel Saxon July 18, 1942 in San Diego, California. Dan was serving in the navy at that time. They returned to Wyoming in 1945. Dan went back to work for Continental Oil Co and was transferred to Guernsey, Wyoming. Here Marie taught sixth grade for three years then went to Torrington and taught sixth grade until the spring of 1955. During the summers she went to school at Laramie and received a BA degree. In the summer of 1955 Dan was transferred to Cherokee Pipe Line at Wood River, Illinois. He worked there until his retirement on October 1, 1967. Marie continued teaching at Wood River Elementary until May 1973 when she retired after teaching a total of 32 years. At the present time they are enjoying retirement on a farm near Vienna, Missouri. Their only child, David, was born September 4, 1950.

Dorothy graduated from the Converse County High School in 1942. That fall she enrolled in the NRA School for Defense in Cheyenne. Here she met Albert Jack Swearingen. They were married April 19, 1943 at Kimball, Nebraska. On May 19, 1943 Jack left for New Orleans, Louisiana for training with the army. Dorothy could be with him but returned to Douglas when in 1944 he was sent overseas to the Asiatic Theater for about four months, then he was attached to General Patton's Command in the European Theater. He was discharged in April 1946. He came home to his wife and new baby daughter, Karen Marie, who was born in Douglas July 8, 1945. They returned to Cheyenne where Jack returned to his job working as a pipe fitter for the U.P. Railroad. Their son, Albert John, was born there November 1, 1948. In 1975 Jack was transferred to North Platte, Nebraska. Due to poor health he retired in 1979. They still make there home there living near their daughter and family.

Now that their family had all left home, Henry and Gertrude went on making progress. The increased number of livestock made a need for more range. Many of the homesteaders were selling their places thinking they could find better living conditions elsewhere. Henry was able to buy the adjoining sections making enough range to run enough livestock to make a comfortable living.

On November 5, 1955 they were baptized by Rev. Clyde Thompson and became active members of the First Baptist Church.

In 1955 they had the honor of celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary with all their children attending. That fall after Henry had suffered a light heart attack he

decided to retire. He leased the place and bought a house in town where they spent their later years. On August 5, 1958, Henry died. On September 12, 1966, Gertrude died. Both are buried in the Douglas Park Cemetery.

We are happy that the place is still owned and operated by the family. At the present time, Jim and Joe Whiting are using the range for summer pasture.

As I bring this story to an end I want to add that what we all held most dear in our memories of the homestead days is the love and happiness we shared living and working together as a family.

Ruth Numrich Whiting

## Nunn, Walter and Mary

Born in Kansas in 1885 to William G. and Elizabeth Geddes Nunn, Walter came to Wyoming with his brother, William G., in 1910. They leased the old Charles Pollard Ranch on LaBonte. His brother, William, later bought the place from Arthur W. Phillips on June 17, 1919.

Walter married Mary Allas Newell in 1914 at Mitchell, Nebraska, at the home of her parents John and Catherine Newell.

Mary was born December 14, 1888 on the old Beer-Keg Ranch, now owned by Dick Pexton in the valley west



Walter Nunn

of Springhill. As a child, she attended school in the summer time with her sisters and their Newell cousins at the Springhill School.

Mary received her high school diploma and a teacher's certificate in 1906 in Nebraska. She then returned to teach the LaBonte, Starr, Gray Rock, Foxton and the Orin Junction Schools. While at the Gray Rock School she taught the two Perrio children. She stayed at the George Howe Ranch on the North Platte River while teaching the Orin Junction School and it was here that she met and dated her husband to be.

For their honeymoon, the newly wed couple climbed Laramie Peak.

They leased the O. P. Johnson Ranch on LaBonte Creek, living there until 1919. A son, Robert Victor, was born in Douglas, May 16, 1919.

In the fall of 1919 the family moved to Douglas where they spent the winter. In 1920 they moved to Lander, Wyoming where they purchased a ranch on Willow Creek.

Walter passed away in the early 1930's. Robert and Mary continued operating the ranch until 1950 when they sold it and moved to Lander. Mary died June 23, 1970.

Audrey Bayne

## Nunn, William and Maude Family

William Guest Nunn was born in Kansas on January 28, 1883, the son of William G. and Elizabeth Geddes Nunn. His father was born in England, his mother in Scotland. William and Elizabeth came to the United States as young people. They first met each other in Illinois and later were married there. Shortly thereafter, the family migrated into Kansas and later to Iowa to engage in farming.

William was educated in the schools in Marne, Iowa and at Drake University. He farmed in Kansas for a time, coming to Wyoming in 1908 to visit a friend. He returned to Wyoming from Iowa in 1910 on his way to Colorado to look at the farming country there. The train stopped in Douglas where Will got off to look around. There was work available and he decided to stay awhile.

William worked at several different places in the LaBonte area. He found the people friendly and was welcomed into the community. He was invited to join in the community dances and it was at one such gathering that Guy George introduced Will to his little sister, Maude. Soon Maude and Will were making plans of their own.

Olive Maude George was the daughter of Frederick and Mary Copsey George. Maude's mother and father were born and raised in Wisconsin and were married there.

In the late fall of 1910 Will succeeded in leasing the Phillips place on LaBonte Creek. Will and Maude were married on January 11, 1911. They moved to the Phillips place to make their home.

Mr. Phillips, an Englishman, continued to lease his land to the Nunns until 1920 when he came to Wyoming from England to visit. He told the Nunns that his "geologists" had determined that there was no oil south of the river and therefore he wanted to sell his property.

This was a crisis in the lives of William and Maude since they had little money and loans were difficult to obtain. Will tried to make a land loan in the Douglas banks but failed in his attempt.

Someone at one of the banks told Will that he might see Sarah Morton to arrange for the money. She sometimes made loans if she thought it feasible. Will went to Mrs. Morton who was pleased with what she heard of Will's industriousness and his reputation and she agreed to lend him the money. Later Will's father sold some

property he owned in Iowa and was able to make Will a long-term loan.

Times were very hard but with hard work and determination, Will and Maude succeeded in their ranching venture. Land was added to the ranch by purchase and by homesteading on the east side where there had been open range.

Four children were born to this union. They were Clarence, Wilma, Harold and Lloyd. All were born and raised on the ranch. Will passed away in December 1936 of pneumonia. Maude and the boys continued to operate the business until 1946 when Maude moved to Douglas where she lived until her death in June 1980.

Clarence Arthur, born in 1912, was married to Bertie Edwards in 1938. Bertie and Clarence are the parents of three sons, William Arthur, Robert Lee and Paul Thomas.

Wilma Elizabeth, born in 1915, was married to Dale Ballard in 1936. They are the parents of two children, Dale Russell and Marilyn Sue.

Harold Colton was born in 1918 and was married to Alice Beach. They had one son, Larry Colton. Harold died on July 11, 1961.

William Lloyd was born in 1926, was married to Dorothy Jacobs in 1946 and has two children, William Gary and Barbara Jean.

Will's ranch is now in a corporation, being leased by Lloyd Nunn and his son. It is a beautiful, neat, well-kept place. Will's dream certainly did come true. He would be very proud if he could see it today.

Wilma Nunn Ballard

## Nuttall, William, Jr. and Catherine

In the summer of 1884, Vinton Peterson and his wife, Margaret Hutchison Peterson, came to Wyoming in a covered wagon. They had been married the year before in Keokuk County, Iowa. Vinton was a coal miner and Margaret was a practical nurse. After working a few months in the coal mines in Hanna they came to Glenrock. Their first son, Frank, was born in the fall of 1884. Other children born to the Petersons were Alma, Alice, Elizabeth, John, Carey and Helen.

In 1898 the Petersons moved to Douglas. Vinton worked in the Inez Coal Mine and mined coal along the Platte River north of Douglas. On weekends he walked back and forth from Douglas to the coal mines, sometimes riding the train to Inez on Sunday. In February 1902, he disappeared and was thought to have drowned in the Platte River.

On Thanksgiving 1903, Margaret Peterson and William Osborn Nuttall were married in Douglas. William Jr. was born in a little cabin on Helm Creek south of Glenrock on August 6, 1904. "Doc" Robbins used to jokingly tell Bill "that he was there the day they dipped him out of the creek." Their other son, George Cedric, was born on May 25, 1907 in Douglas.

Supposedly, William Nuttall, Sr. left to visit his relatives for Christmas in Elk County, Kansas in 1906. Neither his family or relatives heard from him again until his death in 1940 in Three Forks, Montana.

Margaret Nuttall made a living for her family in





L. to r. George and William Nuttall 1916

Douglas by running a rooming house, doing laundry and home nursing. She filed on a homestead which joined her daughter, Alma Elder's ranch.

Bill and George helped their mother prove up on her homestead. They attended the LaPrele Country School and the Douglas School. In 1921 Margaret, along with her daughters, Helen and Alma and sons, John and George, moved to California.

Bill stayed on in Converse County working for various ranchers. Among them were Grandpa Edward Eugene Allyn, Bert Sims, Bill Lindmier, Oliver and Charlie Hitshe, Fred Williams and the Reed Hereford Livestock Company. He was herding sheep for Mike Williams and Ross Barnes during the May blizzard of 1927, being caught out in the storm for two days and one night. He saved himself by lighting a fire to an old pine tree.

Catherine, the daughter of Charles Thomas and Elsie May Seaney Snyder, was born on her grandfather Jacob Seaney's farm near Arnold, Nebraska on May 31, 1907. After coming to Wyoming in 1914 to the Jim Shaw Ranch where her father worked for Mr. Shaw, Catherine lived in Douglas with her family and attended the school system there, graduating in 1924. She acquired her B.A. Degree in Education from the University of Nebraska in 1929 and began teaching in Wyoming.

While teaching in Lost Springs she met Bill whom she had first met in the third grade in Douglas. He was working for Charlie Hitshe at the time of their marriage on August 14, 1932, in Douglas at the Methodist Church. They moved immediately to Catherine's homestead 15 miles northeast of Lost Springs.

In 1976, the British Broadcasting Company documented their story in the film, "Have a Nice Day," taken at the anniversary celebration of Lost Springs.

At the time of this writing they still live on the ranch which has been their home for the last 51 years.

Catherine Snyder Nuttall

## Nylen, Charles and Mary Family

Charles William Nylen was born in Stockholm, Sweden on March 18, 1855 to Gustaf and Anne (Landquist) Nylen. His father was a minister of the gospel who served as a "spiritual adviser" to the King of Sweden, so Charles spent much of his childhood on the palace grounds in Stockholm. His father died in 1893; his mother in 1902, and both are buried in Sweden.

Charles had an adventurous spirit, and did not wish to follow in his father's footsteps, so at age 15 he stowed away on a boat for New York to make his life in the New World. After his arrival in 1870, he spent several months in Chicago, Minneapolis, and Duluth working at farm jobs, in hotels, and briefly on the Northern Pacific Railroad. In 1871 he took a boat down the Mississippi River to Fulton, Illinois and again moved around working on farms and on harvesting crews in Iowa and Minnesota, then returned to the Northern Pacific Railroad as a brakeman. In 1873 he went to work for the U.S. Government as a teamster at Ft. Abercrombie, North Dakota. In 1874 he transferred to Camp Carlin, Wyoming where he had charge of an outfit of mule and wagons for the use of General Crook's expedition against the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians. They were scheduled to rendezvous with General Custer in the infamous Battle of the Bighorn, but the massacre ended before they arrived. Charles remained in the employ of the U.S. Government until 1878 as a messenger for the quartermaster at Camp Carlin.

In July 1879, Charles married Miss Mary E. Butler, daughter of Thomas and Elisa Butler who were natives of Ireland. Her father served in the U.S. Infantry, and while on duty in Arizona was killed by the Indians.

From 1879-1881 Charles served as clerk for the sutler at Camp Carlin. In the spring of 1881, the Nylens moved to Denver and opened a restaurant, but soon disposed of that and took charge of a merchandise establishment in Hartville, Wyoming. During the winter of 1882, Charles opened his own store in Hartville where he remained until 1885.

In 1886, the Nylens homesteaded on the North Platte River about two miles east of Orin Junction on the site of Bridger's Ferry, and established through his homestead and the purchase of additional land that subsequently came to be known as the Orin Livestock Co. Charles and Mary had six children: Alice G., Charles P., Gustaf E.,



"Gus" Nylen on "Teddy Roosevelt" at the 1910 State Fair.

George, James R. and Thomas L., all surviving to adulthood except George, who died in 1888 at the age of four. James R. died Jan. 27, 1937.

After World War I, Charles and Mary Nylen purchased a stately residence in Douglas (since demolished) at 207 N. 4th St. from Governor Richards, and there they remained until their deaths; Mary passing away on Oct. 14, 1926; and Charles on July 16, 1939. The ranching operations at Orin Junction were carried on by the families of the two children who remained in Wyoming, namely Alice, who was married to L. C. "Mose" Gillespie, and "Gus", as he was affectionately known throughout the state. The ranch was sold in 1958 after the deaths of Gus Nylen and both Alice and "Mose" Gillespie.

Gustaf Edward Nylen was born on Dec. 15, 1884 at Camp Carlin, Wyoming to Charles W. and Mary (Butler) Nylen.

"Gus", as he became known throughout his life, grew up on the ranch established by his father about two miles east of Orin Junction. He learned ranching operations from his father, and that remained his lifelong occupation.

As a child he lost the sight in one eye to a slingshot accident, and while still a young man nearly lost a leg in a belt-driven machine accident. None of this, however, kept Gus from becoming an exceptional horseman and a top-notch rodeo saddle bronc rider with many wins to his credit, and an accumulation of saddles, boots, and hats received as prizes.

Gus worked many years of his life as a cowpuncher with nearly all the early day cow outfits from eastern Wyoming to Montana, as well as trail drives from Texas, and later was associated on the ranch at Orin Junction with his father, Charles W. and L. C. "Mose" Gillespie, who was married to his sister, Alice. They succeeded in raising some of the very finest horses for the U.S. Cavalry though their primary business was raising Hereford cattle.

Gus attended public schools in Converse County, and on Sept. 30, 1919, he married Miss Ethel Clanahan, a native of Brownfield, Illinois, who had come to Wyoming as a trained nurse, and was pursuing that occupation when they met. To Gus and Ethel were born four children; daughters Mary Ella, Lois Marie, and Helen Gayle; and one son, William Edward (better known as "Bud") who graduated from the Naval Academy in 1947 in the last accelerated (3-year) class of the World War II era.

After Gus gave up bronc riding as a competitor, he remained active for many years thereafter during the Wyoming State Fair, both as an arena judge and a pick-up man. He also entered several of his fine horses in State Fair races, and won his share of those events.

Gus remained active in the livestock business in varying degrees up to the time of his death in September, 1957.



Lois Nylen Belair

## O'Brien, Capt. John and Anna

John D. O'Brien was born in July 1838 in Kildare, Ireland, the son of David and Mary O'Brien. After coming to America he enlisted in the Army as a lad of 14 as a musician. He served in early Indian wars and the Civil War.

He came west in 1867 with the regiment which established Fort Fetterman. He served in the Big Horn and Yellowstone Expedition in 1876. He was discharged from the Army and settled on lower LaPrele Creek with his wife, Anna Statia.

The O'Briens' children were: John, Bill, Margaret, Annie, twins, Jim and Tom, Mary, Edward, Nora, Nellie, Ada and Lizzie.

Captain O'Brien enlisted again in the army during



Captain John D. O'Brien

the Spanish-American War and served in the Philippines.

Mrs. O'Brien died on January 12, 1914: John D. on August 6, 1915.

John R. Pexton

## O'Connell, Daniel V. and Catherine

My father, Daniel V. O'Connell, came to Douglas from Minnesota in late 1919 or early 1920, to be road-master on the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. My mother, Catherine F. (Martin), sisters, Margaret 8, Florence 6, and I, Catherine E. 10, followed in May 1920. We were there only eight or nine months when he was transferred to Lusk.

Dad had a house for us on the outskirts of town. Two things greatly impressed us: the great distance we could see and the amount of sand that blew onto the screened porch. Laramie Peak looked to be only an afternoon's walk away with nothing but flat, bare land in between.

We remember little of the town except the park with its bandshell where we often played, and the Catholic Church of which we were members. The only names we recall are those of the three priests: Fathers Adolph, George and Patterson, Mrs. John (Elizabeth) Flynn, who lived in a white house across from the church, and Mr. Trosper, a teacher new to the school that fall.

As the only male teacher, Mr. Trosper was quite a novelty to most of us; also he gave "readings," a second distinction. A third was that in the East, where he came from, dinner was the evening meal, not mid-days as was our custom. We had supper in the evening. This Mother learned, to her chagrin, the Sunday she asked him to dinner, neglecting to mention a time. One o'clock came, then two o'clock and still no Mr. Trosper. She assumed that he had forgotten. He hadn't; he arrived at five o'clock. I don't remember the meal, but I do recall the embarrassment on both sides.

One memory we cherish is that of the little man who took care of the railway station grounds. He sometimes brought a message from Dad to Mother and she often gave him a loaf of her home-baked bread or a freshly baked pie. Every once in a while he would ask if we would be home that evening. If "yes," he would come over, chat with our parents for a time, then, taking a can of shiny new pennies from his pocket and saying, "all right girls," would scatter them across the kitchen floor and watch us scramble for them.

Sometime after we had moved, I came over from Lusk to visit a former classmate. We were walking downtown when we saw this man and I stopped to greet him. He had just bought a cherry pie at the bakery and invited us to go to his home and share it. We did. His home was a boxcar in the railroad yard. He had a small table and one chair. Our "chairs" were up-ended wooden orange crates. He bustled about setting out plates, tin, if I remember correctly, and forks. A happy host to his young guests.

Needless to say, neither of us was very hungry at supper time. I don't recall what answer we gave when questioned, but I remember wondering what my companion's parents would say if we told them we had pie with a little man who lived by the railroad tracks. My parents, I was sure, would understand and approve, but I wasn't sure that her's would.

Dad died on January 16, 1958, Mother on November 8, 1976.

Catherine O'Connell Coutts

## Olds, Charles W. and Ida Family

Charles Olds was born in Milford, New York on February 25, 1865. He married Ida Tefft in 1889 in Lewis, Iowa.

Their children were; Gladys (b. May 7, 1898, married Mark Smith, d. March 18, 1976 and Ralph M. (b. May 25, 1890).

Ralph M. Sr. married Grace Daniels, daughter of J. B. Daniels, December 24, 1910 in Atlantic, Iowa. Two sons were born to them in Lewis, Iowa. They were; Ralph M. Jr., on April 28, 1912 and Gordon L., on August 21, 1914.

Dad's (Ralph Sr.) uncle, Holton Cotten, was a road-bed surveyor from Iowa to Lander for the Fremont, Elk-

horn & Missouri Valley Railroad. Uncle Holt was so taken with the Fetterman area that he managed to inspire the Olds to homestead here.

In 1917 grandfathers J. B. Daniels and C. W. Olds, and Dad drove C. W.'s new 1914, 25 hp. Buick Touring car from Lewis, Iowa to Douglas, over 650 miles of dirt roads. (This car had side curtains and leather straps to hold the top to the fenders.) They each filed on a one section claim on Sage Creek, north of Orpha, and built three houses. They hired Al Rice to truck the lumber from Douglas. Nearer Sage Creek they hand dug a ten foot well, rigged it with a pulley and bucket and used a wooden barrel on a horse drawn drag to haul water. Later they would all have "spudder" drilled wells. This land laid north across Sage Creek from the creek to the top of the hill on both sides of the road. Adjoining homesteads were, Wayne Bennett, Carl Williams (now Bill Smith's place), Whitmores, Doyles, Miss Downs (a retired school teacher) and Wilkinsons.

In April, Grandmothers Daniels and Olds, Gladys, Mother (Grace) and her two sons, rode the Northwestern Railroad coach from Lewis, Iowa to Douglas. Mark Smith rode the boxcar to care for the livestock and keep track of things. They had two or three cows, chickens, two teams and wagons, machinery and household goods loaded in at least two of the small boxcars. At Douglas the furniture was loaded on the wagons, including the organ that had survived a Kansas flood. It was rainy and all 18 miles of the road was mud, especially the Morton Lane.

The Ross Road went through the homesteads with Dad's buildings on the east side about halfway up the hill. There were still many string-team outfits hauling freight. An average string-team usually consisted of 22 horses on three wagons and a cooster. The driver slept in the cooster with his personal supplies. One wagon had hay and grain for the horses and the other two wagons carried freight. Fred Manning was one of the Ross string-team freighters as was George Hildebrand. Trucks gradually replaced the string-teams. They were slow, had hard rubber tires, no mufflers and usually gear-bound. Some were Macks, the earlier ones being chain-driven, and a lot of Duplexes, a four wheel drive supposed to be able to haul five tons. One of the Ross truckers, Ralph Randall, had a seven stall garage for his Duplex trucks on the corner of Clay and Second Streets. This was later the sight of the Honey Barn and now is Lyle Hoffman's.

When Dad worked on the Burlington Railroad section crew, Mother would drive a team and wagon to Douglas for supplies. Behind the City Hall were water troughs and a place to unhitch and feed the horses. Upstairs was a kitchenette that the city also furnished for the country folks to use. Mother would get oysters and make oyster stew for her and her sons. Besides the staples Mother got a lot of different dried fruits. Peyton Bolln's delivery "boys" would carry and load the 100 pound sacks of flour and sugar and the groceries into the wagon. It made a very good day for a team to return home that day, 36 miles round trip.

Mother was a good shot thinking nothing of hitting a running jack in the head. Once she picked up her rifle to shoot a rooster to eat while a fellow was there, which was very much against woman's equality. He made a crack about her crippling the thing to death. Mother retorted



Grace Olds and Pat Thomas in their 1924 Overland car at Natural Bridge.

that she could kill two birds with one shot. When she took aim she didn't have the slightest intention of doing so, the birds not being in line or very near each other. It was one of those freak shots where the bullet split and hit both roosters in the head dropping them dead. Mother calmly picked up her birds and retreated from sight of her wordless, open mouthed adversary to recover from her own astonishment!

We may take it for granted that in the winter a horse pawing through snow to the grass is an instinct. It is not. In Iowa the grass will not cure on the ground, henceforth the Iowa horses they brought to Wyoming would only stand around hungry. The folks had one horse that had been taken to Iowa as a bronc then brought back with them. They taught the Iowa horses to paw for grass.

Dad traded a big draft team, harness and wagon to Mr. Elliot for an Avery tractor, four bottom plow and a disc. This was used to break up about 50 acres of "nigger-wool" sod and plant millet.

Farther down Sager Creek, Grandfather Daniels helped Wayne Bennett build his house. He did all of the masonry and brick work. Grandfather was a professional brick layer. Later this was the house that John and Verbel Hildebrand lived in at their ranch on North Platte. Moving this one and a half story stuccoed building on four wagons, with teams across the sagebrush, was no simple feat.

In 1918, Ralph Jr. started school at the Brown or Hildebrand School, on Werner's land. Nina Bushey was his first grade teacher. To get him to school his folks lived on the Mike Williams' place (Richard Lisco lives there now.) Dad built a big barn and a house for Mike. Later years the barn burned down. In 1921 they tried driving the boys to school from the homestead across country in a Model T Touring car but conditions were too severe.

Around 1920 the rest of the family sold to Dad and returned to Iowa. With three telephone poles, two wagons and teams he moved their buildings to his place. He also bought the Wayne Bennett place and started running two thousand head of sheep. In 1923 Dad sold the sheep to Frank Amspoker and the land to John and Fred Hildebrand. The homestead brought \$5.00 an acre. The Hildebrands moved the buildings to their places with horses. Later, Verbel and Donald Hildebrand would sell the place to Eddie Moore. Nothing, not even the root cellars or wells remain to mark the Olds' homesteads.

Dad bought the I. S. Wilson place from C. D. Zimmerman. It consisted of one section, mostly irrigated, for a total price of \$12,500.00. This was under the LaPrele Irrigation Project. This place laid west across the road from Lloyd Beach, running north across the highway. The buildings were across the draw from School District No. 20, or LaPrele School, the school being on Dad's land. Later, the LaPrele Community Hall was built beside the school. In the mid 1950s, Ralph and I would move this school house to the 200 block of South Sixth Street in Douglas for Holloway. In the late 1970s, Chet Humphrey moved the LaPrele Hall to the Plains Motel for Wanda Heggund. The I. S. Wilson place had a lot of hay land, both alfalfa and native. Horses were used for all the haying. Dad had a 15-27 cross-framed Case tractor used for plowing and dragging the field. He also had a Cletrac crawler he used for dragging the fields and to run the AtaFeDan Baler. This baler was about the most helpless thing built and at the last, Dad borrowed Jack Schloss' baler. The Schloss family came from Virginia. The hay Dad baled was sold, with most of it Dad and Ralph hauling to town on two hay wagons with two teams. They hauled fifty 100# bales per wagon, two trips a day. It took three days to load the 15 tons, 300 bales in the wooden boxcars. This went to Noland Feed in Casper.

In 1925, Vonnice was born in the I. S. Wilson house. Dr. Storey came out for the birth. Later, Mrs. Dasie Agers, sister of Mrs. Mint Roush, and her six year old adopted daughter, Mary Ann, came from Midwest to stay with mother.

The family lived in the Wilson place seven years, on winter on the Gitthens place, south of Table Mountain, then moved to the Side Hill Place north of Grover Gallaghers. While on the Side Hill Place they farmed the old Maid's 80 acres on shares.

One summer they raised white beans, pulled them by hand and stored them in a house that Dad got by plowing 30 acres for George Warner. All winter they thrashed and sorted beans by hand and traded them to a grocery store at \$1.25 per hundred, for groceries.

One evening while coming home in a cart with bagged beans, the quaking aspen tongue broke and the team stampeded, as the double-trees were fastened to the hounds. Ralph, the driver, was jerked onto the tongue between the horses. Their hoofs were pounding beside his head for about 100 feet when he just fell limp. The hoofs and cart all missed him. Gordon and Vonnice riding on the back of the cart, fell off when the tongue broke and none of the three was hurt! The cart swung, breaking the double-trees loose, losing the cart with the team running down a woven wire fence stripping out about 100 feet before stopping. The sacks were scattered but unbroken.

There were many school activities and Mother greatly enjoyed her own 4-H Club. Some of the recalled members names are Afton Beach, Pauline Steiner, Bertha Larson, Margaret Fackler, Marjorie Brown, Maurine Bower, Martha Carlson, Vivian Brown and two Curtin girls.

It was at the Side Hill Place that the web-worms came through, a horde of devouring caterpillars. They turned out for nothing and left a 50 foot swath behind them as bare as a floor. They went through Dad's crop and hay land and the house was in their path. Some



invaded the house, but they went completely over the one and a half story building.

Mother burned sagebrush in her cook stove the same as on the homestead. We still have what she called her sagebrush paddle used for pushing the brush into the fire. It resembles an oversized butter paddle.

One summer they lived in Al Sim's house in Downey Park. While they were living there they raised 50 acres of peas on shares for the Kiwanis Club. An excellent crop was raised but just before the harvest, hail took everything. They had been offered \$500 cash or a one half crop share. Now they wished that they had heeded the little daughter's advice to take the money.

In 1930 Ralph Jr., after working for Hildebrands, worked for the Mountain Home Co. at Ft. Fetterman. The Mountain Home put a windmill on the soldier's hand dug well and made a barn out of the fort, the fort being the barn walls. Except for the barn and the officers building, all of the buildings were later torn down or moved. Around 1933, Ralph and Gordon worked for the CY or Careyhurst. Wages were \$30 a month starting, raising to \$35 per month, \$.50 a day extra for stacking hay, plus board. Ralph was a hay stacker. Careys fed good, had good horses and equipment. They kept a full time blacksmith to repair the machinery. They used McCormick-Deering tractors for plowing. Ralph first worked at the Pea Green where Sam McFarland was foreman, then two and one half years at the Lower Ranch where Jack Lewis was foreman and the last winter at the Upper Ranch where the main buildings are and Al Johnson was foreman. They put up ice off of Boxelder Creek and usually had trouble getting it thick enough, but that winter it got three feet thick. December, January and February were frigid, with five or six consecutive weeks of 30 degree below nights and 20 degree below days. The Careyhurst store was at the Lower Ranch with Jack Nelms running it. North of the store was a good rock bottom crossing on the river, great for fording but in later years gave the pile drivers building the bridge fits. The store burned down while Ralph still worked for the CY.

When Ralph was 21 he filed a homestead in the mountains south of LaBonte Creek and east of Big Bear Canyon. There were two families living on LaBonte Creek, Ashmeads, nearer the Fetterman Road, and Patricks, where the Curtis Gulch Campground is now. In about four years Patricks moved to Laramie for school. It was five and one half miles from the Fetterman road to Patricks and there were 14 creek crossings or fords. Ralph got a Model T truck and a 1926 Studebaker over this trail. From LaBonte, there was only a pack trail. The last mile, Ralph built a drag trail and using "Colie", an old logging horse on a log drag sled, transported the bigger pieces like the stove and roofing lumber. One still had to pack things up the first half mile up the canyon side as it was too steep for anything else. Once Ralph packed 100 pounds of potatoes clear in, only stopping to rest once. One has to see the country to appreciate this feat. Later, Ralph built a wagon trail east from the Devil's Pass Road. This trail was so rugged that they got the wagon in but had to break it down to a cart to pull it out. Lewis Hinton had a homestead further south and he and his brother-in-law, Harry Isaac, using Model A trucks, trucked through Devil's Pass. One day they were pulling

a sheepwagon and it tipped over just east of the pass.

Dad had a great interest in law and would spend hours in Joe Garst's office, the two of them doing nothing but discussing law. If Dad had not been such a "dyed-in-the-wool" farmer, I believe Garst would have successfully made a lawyer out of him.

Dad dealt with George Hildebrand for the River Place which is on a bend of the river north of Douglas, across the river, east of Mortons. Pap (Fred) Hildebrand Sr. filed a homestead claim on this, then changed to a desert claim paying \$1.75 per acre and not having to live on it to prove up. The patent was issued on September 24, 1892. He then moved up the river and filed on a homestead in what would become Hildebrand Valley. In 1934, Dad applied for and got a river water right for the land. After he died on January 13, 1938 the family moved to the River Place. Mother also took a desert claim here.

In 1938 Ralph started his general trucking business with a 1934 Ford truck that he got from Gus Race for \$100.

In WWII, Ralph served with the 12th Air Force from 1942 to late 1945, serving in England, North Africa, Sicily and Italy.

On January 5, 1943 Gordon married Beth Phinney, the oldest daughter of Brownie and Frances (Bourke) Phinney, in Utah where they were all working in the defense plant. After the war Gordon moved to South Fifth Street in Douglas with the Phinneys. He built his place on Washington Street and started a trucking business.

In 1949, Ralph Jr., Mother and Vonnice also moved from the ranch. Vonnice had her own band, played locally and was a writer. In 1950 Ralph married Leon and Gata Beaulieu's daughter, Leone. After our marriage, we both trucked, moved houses and started a salvage yard on the hill northeast of Douglas.

In the early 1950s the River Place was sold to Lee Peterson who unsuccessfully tried a sprinkler irrigation system. He sold to Jim Sherwin. We moved the Burlington Section House that was on South Second Street, south of the Co-op Elevator to the River Place for him. He sold to Bernice George and she sold to Renfro of Casper. This 176 acres had sold at various time for \$10,000, \$65,000 and \$250,000, quite a bit more than the five dollars an acre of homestead days!

Mother died on December 3, 1976 in Douglas.

G. Leone Olds  
Ralph Olds, Jr.

## O'Leary, James and Mary Family

James and Mary O'Leary arrived in Douglas in April of 1917, with nine of their 13 children. Two children died in infancy. The two eldest sons, Tom and Frank, were married and elected to stay in Iowa with the vast O'Leary holdings.

James and Mary had lived in Osceola, Iowa for 42 years before coming to Wyoming. James was a very successful farmer and a well known railroad contractor. He built many railroads in the Iowa area, doing all the work with horse drawn machinery.

James O'Leary was born in County Wexford, Ireland on May 19, 1851. He married Mary E. Keating, January





O'Leary Women 1923

12, 1874 in Kewanee, Illinois. Mary was born December 10, 1855 in Rochester, New York.

By 1917 the O'Leary children had grown to young adulthood. They had heard about all the free land to be had in Wyoming. Being very ambitious, prosperous farmers in Iowa, James and Mary could see brighter prospects in the west and decided to travel toward the setting sun to be near their children.

It took ten railroad cars to bring the family belongings to Douglas. James was used to doing things first class with the best materials. So they hauled all they could from Iowa, including all the hedge posts for their homestead properties. The hedge posts are still standing today.

This venturesome family homesteaded on nine sections of Dry Creek flats, 32 miles north of Douglas, the land lying on both sides of Highway 59. Each proved up on his own homestead.

A sad time lay ahead for James and Mary. After being in Wyoming for a year, their youngest son, Edward, was struck down by pneumonia. He died April 10, 1918. He would have turned 18 in June.

When the United States entered the first World War, John Bernard O'Leary entered the service and returned to the homestead in 1919, having seen 18 months of service in France. Then one day in August 1920, John was a victim of a peculiar accident. He was working with a pitchfork when a horse lunged out with its heels and struck the fork, driving the handle through John's ribs. The fractured ribs punctured his lungs. John died within a month, on September 9, 1920.

Mr. O'Leary had been in ill health at the time of his son's death. He died on September 15, 1920, within a week of John's death. He seemed to grieve himself to death over his son.

The O'Learys bought a home in Douglas right where the telephone company is today. They also had a rooming house in back of their home. It is still standing at 217 South Third Street. It is now an apartment house. Mary O'Leary lived out the rest of her life in Douglas. She died April 12, 1924.

Their son, James P. O'Leary, was born in Osceola, Iowa in 1877. He homesteaded at the same time as his

folks. He lived 32 miles north of Douglas on the west side of Highway 59 for several years, but the land proved to be barren and unproductive. He learned it was more profitable to lease the land for grazing. He put away his cooking utensils, closed up his homestead shack and moved into town with his sister, Margaret. He became a familiar figure around Douglas. With his keen Irish wit, he became quite a philosopher. Jim was a life long bachelor. James passed away in 1960.

Mayme O'Leary Hunt and Charles Hunt arrived in Wyoming with the O'Leary family. They homesteaded on the east side of the highway where the Barb Estates are now. They made their home there until 1926, when they moved to Cheyenne. In 1927, Charles entered Civil Service and became a fireman at the Fort Warren Post. Mr. Hunt passed away February 14, 1936 in Cheyenne. Mayme remained in Cheyenne until her death. The Hunt's had four sons, Francis, James, Leonard and John. Mayme was born in 1885 and died in 1962.

Margaret O'Leary's homestead was just across the highway from her brother, Jim. After proving up on her homestead she moved to Douglas. In 1918 she became manager of the LaFayette Cafe. What a grand establishment it was, being the center of activity with so many local people and the railroad crews eating there. It was located on North Second Street, where the parking lot is now. It was about three doors south of the corner. Margaret also owned and operated the O'Leary Rooming House until her death on February 2, 1963. Margaret was born in Osceola, Iowa in 1883.

Catherine "Kate" O'Leary was born in 1890 in Osceola, Iowa. She married Merrill Olson May 28, 1918. They lived in Douglas for a short time, then Casper and Riverton. They eventually settled in Lander, Wyoming where the Olsons owned and operated the Olson Dairy for many years. They sold the dairy to their son, Bob. The Olsons ran Hereford cattle on the ranch for twelve years. They then retired and moved into Lander. They had four children, twins Bob and Betty, Jo Anne, and Teresa. Kate passed away in 1980. The Olsons enjoyed a long and happy life of over 60 years of marriage. Merrill died in 1982.

Rose O'Leary was born in Osceola, Iowa in 1892. She homesteaded just west of her parents. She married John Hillman in 1920 and he took up his homestead right next to Rose's. After proving up on their homesteads, the Hillmans moved to Douglas. They lived out their lives at 309 North Second. Rose had a maternity home there. Many babies were born at the Hillman home. Rose wrote the names and dates of the birth on the side of the baby basket and many of those people still live in the Douglas area. The basket was placed on display in the Wyoming Pioneer Museum.

Rose was office nurse for Dr. Hylton for many years. John and Rose took in several old folks at different times caring for them, much like a nursing home. Aunt Rose and Uncle John, as they were fondly known throughout the community, were well known for their interest in children and elderly people. They were both very active in the Catholic Church, helping in any way possible.

John had been associated with several bar establishments in Douglas. At the time of his October 16, 1947, he was employed as a bartender

Tavern.

Rose kept on looking after other people and helping wherever she was needed. Rose passed away in 1971. The Hillmans will always be remembered as a very loving, gracious couple.

Angeline O'Leary was born in Osceola, Iowa on May 7, 1894. She married Rhea N. Tillard on September 9, 1919 in Douglas. Angie, as she was fondly known, was teaching the O'Leary School at the time. The school was named in her honor. It was the first country school in District 17. The Tillards had two children, Helen and Rhea A. "Bud." The Tillards ranched on the Cheyenne River (see Tillard story.) Most of the O'Leary homestead properties are still in the Tillard family holdings. Angie passed away June 24, 1980.

Bess O'Leary, the youngest daughter, was born in Osceola, Iowa on December 18, 1896. She married Jim Finnerty on June 27, 1919 in Casper, Wyoming. There were nine children born to this union. The Finnertys made their home in Cheyenne, Wyoming where Jim worked for the Colorado Southern Railroad for 25 years. After his retirement from the railroad, he purchased the "M Bar" Ranch out of Chugwater. The Finnertys operated the ranch until Jim's death in 1972. Their son, Jack, is still on the ranch. Bess died January 21, 1978. The Finnerty's nine children are James P., Irene, Mary, Eddie, Tom, Bob, Jack, Dan and Pat.

The O'Leary family made quite an impact on Converse County and the Douglas area.

Bette Tillard

## Olin, Erick and BIRTHA Family

Erick O. Alund (Americanized spelling, Olin) was born in Sweden on December 25, 1845. He was united in marriage to BIRTHA Wenstrom, who was born October 2, 1855 in Sweden and to this union six children were born: Charles, Ed, Erick L., Hulda and Najma. One child died early in life.

In 1866 Erick came to Texas from Sweden. He was employed there to help load cotton. From Texas he went to Colorado where he found work on railroad construction. Later in Leadville, he worked in the mines in addition to burning charcoal for the smelters. He was often required to help clear the mine shafts after there had been an explosion and cave-in and frequently the rubble contained the bodies of miners who had perished there.

Seven years later Erick set out on a journey to the Black Hills in South Dakota but due to the fact that there was much unrest among the Indians in that area, his journey ended when he reached Fort Fetterman and he was not allowed to continue on. Disappointed, he decided to return to his homeland, taking a bar of silver to use as money on the way. He was unable to exchange it for currency however, so he still had his silver bar when he reached Sweden.

After his arrival he purchased the farm of his brother-in-law, married BIRTHA and settled down. Three of his children were born there. Evidently he became dissatisfied with his life in Sweden since he returned to the United States in 1879 bringing his family and his bar of silver with him. He came first to York, Nebraska where



L. to r. Ed Olin, Charlie Olin, Vern Spracklen and Erick Olin.

he bought a team and wagon and engaged in the freight business for two years. He then moved nine miles north of Grant, Nebraska where he homesteaded and engaged in farming.

During the next ten years BIRTHA and Erick were the parents of three more children. The farming venture was not very profitable. The summers were, for the most part, hot and dry and his crops were never abundant. Erick then decided that he would move further west into Wyoming. The Olin family came to the Boxelder community south of Glenrock in a covered wagon in 1895. The trip took about three weeks.

Erick filed a claim on Boxelder Creek and built a house of stone there. He worked as a blacksmith in the coal mine at Glenrock for four winters to support his homestead. He also ran a sawmill, raised horses and was credited with having discovered the sample ore which was responsible for the development of the Elkhorn Mine near Glenrock.

Charles was born in 1882 in Sweden, coming to the United States with his parents when he was aged a year and a half. He received his common schooling in the Nebraska and Wyoming rural schools. He took a homestead claim in 1903 near that of his father in the Boxelder area. He engaged in the cattle business with his father and brothers. Charles was never married, passing away in 1963.

The second son, Ed H., was born on November 26, 1885 in Ogallala, Nebraska. He attended school in Nebraska and later in Wyoming. He homesteaded in 1906 taking a claim near that of his father and elder brother, engaging in business with them. He was married to Mary Lucile Williams Bondurant, the daughter of George F. and Stella Beale Williams on October 8, 1960. Ed and Lucile had no children.

Lucile Williams Olin was born in Portsmouth, Iowa. Her first husband, Perle Bondurant, was a member of an early Wyoming family. Perle's father came to Wyoming in 1897 on his way to Oregon. He was delayed a number of times, finally deciding to end his travels and remain in Wyoming. He established a store and post office which bears his name and later homesteaded in Park County in 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Bondurant became the parents of six children.

In addition to his ranching interests, Ed was a director of the First National Bank of Glenrock. He was at one time the president of the Wyoming Pioneer

Association. Lucile, as well, belonged to the Pioneer Association and was a member of the WCTU.

Erick L. was born July 26, 1888 in Ogallala, Nebraska. He was educated in the rural schools of Wyoming. When he was of age he took a homestead claim near that of his two older brothers in the Boxelder area where he engaged with his family in the livestock business.

Erick served in the United States Army during the first World War with Company D, 62nd Infantry of the 8th Division. His company was half way across the ocean when the Armistice was signed and so the company was returned to the United States.

Erick was married on September 6, 1959 to Nora Parks Walkinshaw, the daughter of James C. and Elizabeth Perkins Parks. Nora was born in Cheriton, Iowa. She had been married previously to Fred Walkinshaw who passed away in 1956. Fred and Nora were the parents of a daughter, Mildred Mae, who died in infancy. Erick and Nora had no children.

Erick was a director and one of the founders of the First National Bank of Glenrock.

Najma, born on May 9, 1893 in Ogallala, Nebraska, received her education in a rural school in Converse County which was located on land belonging to Fred Grant. The school was located four miles from the Olin home. Najma completed three years of school.

When she was old enough, Najma took a homestead claim near that of her brothers and her sister, Hulda. She was married to Lloyd Huxtable in September of 1921 in Douglas, Wyoming.

Hulda married Vern Spracklen.

The Olin brothers and their father were engaged in the ranching business together until Erick, the father, died. They began their operation in the mountains south of Glenrock on Red Canyon Creek, later extending their holdings to 12,000 acres upon which they ran a herd of 1100 commercial grade Hereford cattle. In addition to their extensive mountain range the brothers owned a ranch near Glenrock.

After the death of their father the brothers purchased his land, the claims of their two sisters and bought the homesteads of Captain White, Pete Virden, Fred Knox, Dave Smyth and the O.D. Ferguson place on Dry Creek near Glenrock. Later they also bought the Higgins land on Boxelder Creek close to Glenrock. The brothers continued in the ranching business until 1963 when they sold the Upper Boxelder holdings, retaining the lower ranch on Deer Creek.

The Olin brothers are remembered with respect in the Glenrock community. They were serious about their business and did not take their responsibilities lightly. They were congenial men, hard-working and thrifty. They developed meadows from some of the bottom land they owned, digging ditches to irrigate them with flood waters. The three boys built a good-sized frame house a couple of miles from the home of their parents, using lumber which they produced at the sawmill. The boys hunted and trapped during their early years of homesteading to help support themselves. The family also raised numbers of horses, both draft and saddle animals for their own use and to sell.

On one occasion the three boys were trailing a black

bear which had been killing their stock. Finally the bear went into a cave in a canyon. Now, somehow, the men must entice the bear out of the cave or go in after it. Finally, Erick decided that he would just go in and have a look. He met the bear several yards inside the cave, the bear was on his way out. The bear reared up within about six feet of Erick, its mouth wide open, about to attack him. Erick was able to get off a shot, which, fortunately for Erick, struck the bear in the mouth, killing it instantly. Quipped Erick, "It's no fun, unless it's close."

Once, when Charles was riding a bronc, the horse fell with him. Charles' foot was hung up in the stirrup and the horse, frightened, ran off, dragging Charles with him. Ed, who was riding with Charles, stepped off his horse, shot and killed the bronc and saved his brother from serious injury.

As it is with many family names, the Olin name has come to an end, at least in the United States. Charles never married and Ed and Erick had no children, so the Olin name has no one to carry it on.

Howard Huxtable

## Olsen, Per and Heller, John

Per Olsen was born in Boden, Sweden on April 7, 1858, a son of Johann Vosburg's first marriage. He received his education in his native city after which he came to America, arriving in 1879. He lived in St. Paul for a time, leaving there to come to Laramie, Wyoming, where he was joined in 1880 by his half brother, John Heller. For one year, the two brothers were employed in the rolling mills in Laramie, after which they moved to Carbon County, still employed in mining operations until the fall of 1885, when Per went to Buffalo to work in the mining industry for a time.

Later, Per and his half brother migrated to Deer Creek near Glenrock where they discovered the Glenrock Coal Mine and filed on the location containing it. The mine had a six foot seam of lignite coal of superior quality. The brothers worked the mine, selling the coal to neighboring ranchers and townspeople. There was no railroad there at the time, so the coal could not be shipped elsewhere.

In 1887, they sold the property to Baker & Johnston, Cheyenne merchants, and settled on property on Deer Creek, one mile south of Glenrock where they turned their attention to ranching. During the winter months they prospected and mined and during the summer they raised crops of hay and grain.

Among other men, these brothers were progressive, hard working men of industry and intelligence and practical ability. They did much toward the development of the mining and stockraising businesses in the early days of Wyoming.

Ruth Grant



## Onyon, Baxter and Alma Family

Baxter W. Onyon was born in Navenby (Lincolnshire) England on the first of November, 1846, the son of Thomas and Ann Baxter Onyon. Thomas was a cordwainer (a bootmaker who had served his apprenticeship and worked with the better Cordovan leathers.) The family immigrated to the United States in 1850, locating in New Albany, Indiana for some five years, after which they settled in Eagle, Wisconsin.

Baxter Onyon grew up near Eagle and became a carpenter and cabinet maker. There he met Alma L. Sprague whom he married on November 12, 1873. Alma was a teacher.

Five children were born to this union, Jessie Mae, Everett F. (b. August 1, 1876), Chauncey W., (b. May 25, 1879), Willard B. and Mary Leona. The family moved to Harvey, Illinois in 1890 where Baxter built homes for the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. Several of these homes are in use at this time.

Chauncey and his brother, Everett, worked with their father as lathers, but were not fond of the work. After the fair was over, times were hard and work was scarce. Everett and Chauncey went to the Dakotas to work in the harvest fields in 1895.

The Onyon brothers had been told by Jim Bates, then the Chief of Police in Harvey, that his brother was a station agent at Lost Springs, Wyoming. When the harvest was completed in the Dakotas, Everett and Chauncey, "Chance", went to visit Mr. Bates. There they found employment with Addison Spaugh. Everett was hired as cook and Chance as ranch hand. Both young men took homesteads northwest of Lost Springs.

In August of 1904, Everett discovered sizeable coal deposits northeast of the present site of Shawnee, Wyoming, which later were developed.

By 1908 the Onyon brothers felt that they were becoming well enough established to support wives. Everett returned to Harvey to be married to Sabra Gurnsey of that city on the 25th of June. Chauncey was

married to Vera Ocene Anderson of Ionia, Michigan two months later, August 26. Both couples were married in Harvey.

The young ladies were well acquainted before their marriages and were a great help to each other after their arrival in Wyoming. In those days it was not considered fashionable for young ladies to be involved with cooking or finances, so the brides had no cooking skills, learning the hard way. Vera tells of cooking breakfasts for ranch hands, when one of them requested that he would like his eggs cooked more; she took offense and served up the rawest batch of eggs ever served. She said that they ate them and never said a word.

Baxter Onyon and his wife, Alma, also came to the Lost Springs area where they homesteaded, but later they returned to Harvey. Baxter died June 10, 1909, Alma the fifth of December 1910. Both are buried in Harvey.

Everett and Sabra had two children, Laura Belle (b. April 13, 1909) and Frederick Baxter (b. September 22, 1911), both of whom were born in Lost Springs. Chauncey and Vera were the parents of seven children, Alma Elizabeth (1909), Rita (1910), Katherine (1913), Edward Wilson (1914), Paul Chauncey (1917), Wilfred (1918) and Everett C. (1922). All were born at the family home in Lost Springs, with the exception of Rita, who was born in the Douglas hospital.

For the births of her children at home, Vera was attended by the local midwife, Sadie Fenton. A length of rope was tied between the bedposts at the head of the bed. The prospective mother was to pull on the rope to help with the birth.

The washing machine was a large wooden affair, powered by a gasoline engine. One day, Rita got her left arm caught in the wringer. Her arm was mangled to the shoulder. She was taken to Douglas where Dr. Hylton was able to save her arm. She has full use of her arm but carries the scars.

Of interest is the fact that most of the groceries in those days had to be bought from mail order houses, such as Sears & Roebuck and Montgomery Ward. They were of the non-perishable variety, such as dried fruit, beans, flour and canned goods.

In the fall, a steer was butchered, part of it being hung outside on the porch. This arrangement was fine for the cold months, but in summer the family ate corned beef or salt pork. In addition to the red meat, the Onyons raised turkeys, geese and chickens. They also kept a few guinea hens to act as watch dogs to protect the other poultry from chicken hawks.

Chauncey ordered boots and shoes for his family from the mail order catalog. They were very sturdy and practical, but Vera objected since the footwear was not at all similar to what she was accustomed.

Chauncey Onyon, though his home was in Lost Springs, was appointed postmaster at Shawnee February 28, 1911. The office was discontinued April 15, 1912, and the mail drop moved to Lost Springs. From 1913 until 1916, Chauncey was a member of the Wyoming National Guard. He was the chairman of the school board for the district and was instrumental in improving the status of the Lost Springs school to "accredited."

The children of the two Onyon families were particularly close since, in winter during the school year, Laura



Chauncey and Vera Onyon 1909



Belle and Frederick lived in Lost Springs with the Chauncey Onyon family, and in the summer, the children all lived with the Everett Onyon family near the mine.

The Onyons raised some sheep along with their cattle and horses. The children would tease the rams. When Aunt Sabra went to hang her washing on the line, the rams would butt her. They also had a billy goat which they kept to protect the sheep from the coyotes. The children would hitch the billy goat to a cart and drive him around. When the goat tired of this, he would leap through a barbed wire fence and leave the children stranded, scratched and bleeding from the barbs. They tracked pack rats to their nests, examining all the trinkets which the rats collected.

Frederick and Katherine were the great hunters and kept the family supplied with rabbits using single shot rifles to bag their game.

The children also spent many hours riding up and down the railroad track from the mine to Shawnee, using a hand car which their parents owned.

In the early 1920's, a severe blizzard put the Onyon brothers out of the livestock business. Everett and his family returned to make their home in Harvey, Illinois in 1925. Chauncey Onyon moved to the oil field at Midwest to work and to pay off his debts, one of which was owed to Mr. Fogarty who operated the grocery store in Lost Springs. When Mr. Fogarty moved his grocery store to Casper, he found an out-dated check under the drawer in his cash register. The check has been written to him by Chauncey Onyon. Later, Chauncey went to Casper to pay Mr. Fogarty the amount of the check.

Chauncey Onyon and his family left the Salt Creek oil field in 1929 and returned to Harvey, Illinois to make their home.

Everett F. Onyon died in 1960, his wife, Sabra, in 1964. Chauncey died in 1958, his wife, Vera, in 1970. All are buried in Harvey, Illinois.

Edward W. Onyon

## Ormsby, Major and Jessie

Major Ormsby was born in Pennsylvania in 1869, the son of Leander Ormsby. He grew to manhood there, migrating to Arlington, Nebraska in the late 1880's. He was united in marriage to Jessie Ann Fink of Arlington on July 24, 1895. Jessie was a native of the town, having been born there on January 25, 1875. Five children, Orland, Helen, Lawrence, Roland and Alice were born to the couple in Casper, Wyoming.

Eventually Ormsby homesteaded in western Converse County, taking isolated unadjoined tracts to make up his 320 acre claim. His home place, called the Spearhead, was located on one 40 acre tract. The original house he built was destroyed by fire and was replaced by a new dwelling in 1915.

In 1913, Major Ormsby built his town home located on Center Street in the city of Casper. He entered into a business relationship with Frank G. Scherck and together they erected a four-story office building located between Wolcott and Center Streets. This building, called the O-S

Building was managed by Ormsby and Scherck for several years. Ormsby's son, Orland, was associated in that business.

By the year 1916, Ormsby had acquired a sizeable amount of land which he sold to Herman Werner, retaining his Spearhead headquarters and some 2000 acres of land. A year later, Ormsby sold this to Mr. Werner.

Due to Major Ormsby's failing health, he and his wife were obliged to move to Phoenix, Arizona in 1941. He disposed of his interest in the O-S Building to his son, Orland. Later the building was purchased by Dr. N. E. Morad, a Casper physician.

Major Ormsby was one of Casper's most prominent businessmen for over a quarter of a century. The Ormsby Road, which branches off the Casper-Midwest highway north of Casper, was named for him.

Mr. Ormsby died in 1948 in Phoenix but was interred in a cemetery in Casper. Jessie Ormsby returned to Casper to make her home with her daughter, Helen, until her death on May 30, 1952. One son, Roland, preceded his parents in death, leaving to survive the Ormsbys four children, ten grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Trula Cooper

## Owen, Ross and Blanche Family

Ross Owen and Blanche Warriner were married on September 6, 1908 in Franklin, Nebraska. Ross was working as a carpenter and cabinet maker. They built their first home there.

Clinton and Clora were born in this house.

Ross and Blanche could see that it was going to be hard to live there and continue in that trade so they moved to Central City, Nebraska.

After living in Central City, Nebraska the winter of 1916-17, Ross and two other carpenters shipped their furniture to Douglas and homestead on three sections of land just off Fiddleback road about 46 miles north of Douglas.

The only place Ross and his two friends could find to live in Douglas was the old Haslam Carpenter Shop.

Blanche, and their children, Clinton and Clora went to Franklin where Clinton finished his school grade. Clora had been going to kindergarten in Central City but finished up the year in the first grade.

In June 1917, Blanche, Clinton and Clora moved to Douglas. The two carpenters' wives had taken one look at the crowded, wet town of Douglas and shipped their furniture back to Nebraska.

Ross worked as a carpenter off and on here in Douglas and with Bernie Ford they built his and Bernie Ford's shack up on the Cheyenne River.

Ross also worked in Henry, Nebraska that first summer. Clora got rheumatic fever that summer so Ross rode the freight home to Douglas. They didn't move to the homestead until the spring of 1918.

They used creek water for washing but hauled their drinking water from the Fiddleback shearing pens. They were about five miles south of the section that Ross had. They had two wooden vinegar barrels. Bernie Ford had





Anna and Clinton Owen

whiskey barrels. They always had to keep the barrels soaked up or they would leak.

Ross' sister, Carrie, and her husband, Dr. Charles E. Cross, and sons came out in 1918. They filed on the section that cornered the one that Ross had. They built their house just northwest of the shack Ross had.

Charles L. Owen (Grandpa) came out and filed on the section just north of the Ross Owen place. Each had shacks on the three corners. No one stayed on the homestead that winter of 1918-1919.

They all moved out in the spring of 1919. By this time, Ross and Blanche had acquired a team and wagon.

The fall of 1919 Carrie Cross taught her two youngest boys, Donald and Charles, and Clinton and Clara. She taught in Grandpa's shack.

Dr. Cross and son, Owen, had moved back to Franklin for the winter where he practiced dentistry and Owen went to high school.

Clinton, Clara, Donald and Charles were picking potato bugs and the leaves with eggs on them off of the potato plants. They had coal oil in their syrup buckets to kill the bugs. They got some matches and decided to burn the bugs. The barn, harness and saddle and a little of the hay went up in smoke. All four children were scared, but safe.

One of the worst jobs was cleaning the chicken house. The bark made a good place for the mites to hide. Mother usually had a tub of water ready for Clinton and Clara

when they got through.

Dr. Cross did some dental work for people who needed it. Mr. and Mrs. Jake Riehle and twin baby boys came from their place with a team and wagon. Also, Mrs. Schick brought her daughter, Anna, over in a wagon to have a tooth fixed. The doctor used a grinder that ran with a foot pedal.

Dr. Cross had purchased a truck that summer. He very seldom made it to town and back without stopping to grind the valves or clean the spark plugs. That truck worked fine on level ground and in dry weather. It had hard rubber tires on the back.

One morning Ross noticed a shack across the road at his southeast corner. The section was the one east of his and just north of the timber road. The fellow's name was Thomas Holdsworth, a painter by trade. He had a small kitchen and a one stall barn all together. When Ross rode up, "Old Tom" was busy cutting up two dead horses out of the stall. He was cutting them up with an ax and carrying the pieces out of the kitchen door. Tom hadn't turned the horses loose because he couldn't catch them. He had run out of oats so he fed them pinto beans. He said, "You know they just didn't relish the beans. They died."

Ross could never remember Thomas Holdsworth's name so they all got to calling him "Old Tom, Mr. Beans." The name stuck.

Perry and Ada Burden moved into their log building across on their southwest corner. They later moved just south and west of the Cross house.

Ross' brother, Noble Owen, homesteaded across the corner south of Thomas Holdsworth's house. It had a small shack on it. The land ran along the south side of the road to the timber. Will and Marg Wagoner had land southeast of Uncle Noble's land.

That fall, Ross built the Pleasant Hill School on a hill just east of Tom Holdsworth's shack. Flora Wollen was the first teacher. Early in the fall she had Donald and Charles Cross, Howard and Bob Wagoner, Clinton and Clara Owen, and Harold, Elsie and Faye Baker. Only the Owen and Baker children finished up the season. Orville Pellatz taught several years after Flora Wollen stopped.

In the winter of 1921 or 1922, Elsie Baker was killed when her horse fell on her. That next summer, Faye died of diphtheria. Marie Baker died of the same disease. After that, Harold either moved away or quit school.

The Pleasant Hill School was moved in 1925 just west of the Owen house on the Perry Burden place. It was later moved to Verse where Clara taught in it and was later moved to the Dry Creek Community School and used as a teacherage.

A.E. Hyde was the first County Agent and started the Dry Creek Ladies Club. Many new ideas were brought to the wives of the homesteaders. Blanche was the first president.

One Fourth of July, the Dudleys had a ball game in the afternoon and a dance in the evening. The Owens went in their team and wagon and stayed a while for the dance the Curry boys and Buster Goodrich played at. That night it rained some and then turned to snow. The only one warm was Mr. Shrader who had a long cow hide coat on.

The Fiddleback had a telephone line along the road

from Douglas to the ranch on the Cheyenne River. Ella Featherston got permission from Carroll Mohr, the manager, to have a phone. The neighbors would call Ella and she could change phones and call town. This helped a lot when they needed supplies sent out by mail or someone was sick.

Most everyone had phones which worked on the top wire of the fences. Over gates and at the corners there were high poles with a wire running between them. Everyone had a different ring. Bill Barker liked to call everyone at night and play his fiddle over the phone.

The Blackmans and Dorrs had the first radio. The Blackmans would call on the line and people would listen to the pretty music. One night, Carrie Cross sang over the Hastings, Nebraska station. The Blackmans had everyone trying to listen that night.

The fall of 1925 brought a big change to the Owen family. Ross' mother, Clara M. moved out from Franklin Nebraska to live in Douglas. Clinton and Clara moved into town to live with their grandmother and go to high school.

Rosina Margaret was born on September 1, 1925 to Ross and Blanche.

The next year Clinton and Clara stayed with Grandma Clara Owen but when Will Bernhard and Ross added a long room onto Grandpa's shack, Grandma moved to the ranch.

Clinton and Clara worked for their board and room the last two years of school.

When Clinton was 21 he took a homestead around different places. Some of the land was north of the Cross land among the Rife land.

Ross and Blanche bought part of the Wagoner land and Rife land. They also bought Tin-Can-Lake from the Fiddleback. It had originally been bought with Civil War script. Ross died of cancer on January 28, 1958.

Clinton got the Charles L. Owen land after Grandmother broke her hip and they moved her to live with Uncle Noble in California. She and Charles L. both died near Santa Rosa where Noble had a cottage court and worked as a cook in the hospital.

Blanche stayed on at the ranch until 1960 when Clinton bought their land and the Cross place. She lived in apartments here in Douglas several years and lived with Clara for two and one half years and was in Michael Manor for almost five years. She died on November 23, 1973.

Noble now lives by himself in Santa Rosa, California. Laura Schrader lives with Rosina Owen Bernhard in San Jose, California and Clinton and Anna Lynch Owen live in Douglas. Clara and her husband, Durward Robertson, also live in Douglas.

Clara Owen Robertson

## Parker, Harry, Emma and Carolyn

One day in mid September 1915, a stocky man in his early 30's got off the C&NW Train at Lost Springs, Wyoming. He introduced himself as Harry Parker from Ohio, in search of land to homestead in Wyoming. His reason was that his wife had a bronchial problem.

Among the first people he met were Albert L. Hoge



Metz homestead L. to r. Mr. Metz, Mrs. Metz, Way Parker, Emma Parker and Harry Parker.

and his father, Ras Baughn (who helped people find suitable land), Henry McGowan (also known as "Sugar Foot-Shug" because of his odorous feet) and Mr. Brink and his wife who ran a family rooming house known as "The Bee Hive."

A few days later Mr. Baughn loaded Dad and some camping gear into a wagon, and they were off to look at land. The first night they made camp, he was introduced to the typical bed roll, a tarp, pillow and some quilts. He learned that was standard equipment for all cowboys and others who spent time in the out-of-doors. About this time he heard a loud dog-like noise. He told Mr. Baughn that they must be near someone's house. Mr. Baughn suppressed a laugh and told Dad that it was a coyote and what a coyote was.

In the next few days, they found a place that suited Dad. He went to Douglas, where the Land Office was, filed on the land, told the people he would see them next spring, and went back to Ohio to work in the coal mine where he had worked for several years.

My grandfather, Mother's dad, besides having a large farm, also had an agency for farm machinery and helped Dad get some things he knew he would need: a walking plow with a wooden beam, a harrow, disk, mower, and wagon. The next April, 1916, he rented what was termed an "Emigrant Car" from the railroad. He loaded all of our belongings, including four milk cows into the car. About this time a single man Dad knew in the mine wanted to get away. His name was Wm. H. Abels. They weren't rich so Dad stowed him away in the car and brought him along. He homesteaded a place about a mile from where Dad built the house. The place was about three miles north of Flat Top.

Around April 16, my mother, Emma (Way), arrived in Lost Springs with a ten month old baby in her arms. That is me, Way E. Parker. That summer we lived in a tent a little ways up the hill from where Dad and Mr. Abels were building the house. That first summer was quite an ordeal for my mother, who had always lived in a fairly nice place with lots of people close by. That summer, Mr. George Parks with his wife and two small children built a house about half a mile northeast of our place so Mother had one woman she could see.



Parker homestead house

It happened that our place was exactly at the cross-roads of the two major trails through that country. Therefore, we had most of the cowboys in eastern Wyoming come by sooner or later. One day when my mother was over at the Parks, one "Toothless Bill" Campbell came by after a little too much liquid refreshment in Douglas. Dad told him that milk was the best hangover remedy and went into the little cave we had and got a pan of milk and gave Bill several glasses. Every swallow he complained of the terrible taste, but if Dad said it would help—down the hatch. That evening my mother asked Dad what had happened to that pan of sour milk she was aiming to make cottage cheese of.

By fall the house was done—it was logs, 16x26 feet, and a story and one half high. Dad bought lumber for the gable ends and roof with three "V" crimp red iron roofing. The house was supported by several large pitch pine posts.

About a half mile from our house, which is now owned by the family of Willard Hoffman, there was a little house which belonged to an old country German bachelor carpenter. One evening, the fall of 1916, Dad saw a big fire over that way but it didn't look like the house so he didn't pay any more attention. "Dutch John" Wilkes was never seen again. A few years later Charley Crosley happened to dig through a pile of ashes and found the burned remains of a double hernia truss, the very kind John was known to have worn.

In the spring of 1917, a single man by the name of John Tipton acquired that place and started farming it. He proved to be a good neighbor and one of my favorite people. My other favorite person at this very young age was the Al Hoge I mentioned earlier. He had a place about two miles down the West Fork of Twenty Mile Creek.

On the evening of November 9, 1917, Dad was building a barn. About five, Dad stepped into the house to tell my mother that he was going after the milk cows. What he saw was my mother lying on the floor with me tugging at her clothes and holding my coat in one hand. I wanted to go see my dad. He thought at first that she had just fainted. He ran up on the hill toward Tipton's and yelled to John for help. He came over immediately and right away said, "Harry, she is gone." Later it was

figured out she had what was then called inflammatory rheumatism now known as rheumatic fever that had damaged her heart.

Dad left me with John, whom I liked real well. He had a grown family so he knew how to care for a two year old.

Dad rode about six miles over to the Marion Whitings with whom we had become well acquainted and somehow even then they had a phone. He called the proper people in Douglas where my mother's body was taken and prepared for burial which was to be in Ohio in the plot with my brother who had lived only a few hours. He would have been about a year and a half older than I was if he had lived. After the funeral, Dad left me with my mother's older sister for a while and came back west alone for the time being.

My very well meaning grandfather, Mother's dad, had what might be called a woodshed session with Dad. He tried to get Dad to sell out what he had in Wyoming and come back to Ohio, but Dad just wouldn't hear that. Grandfather also pointed out that it would be terribly difficult for a man alone out there to try to farm and raise cattle and raise a small boy at the same time. He also had a wife all picked out for Dad, his favorite niece Carolyn Sheldon, who was a practicing Doctor of Osteopathy, having graduated from the school in Kirksville, Missouri. For various reasons, she wanted to get away from the East too. Anyway, it was arranged by mail, and she picked me up at my aunt's and brought me to Douglas where they were married before she even saw the ranch. It was a romanceless marriage for business reasons, but they stayed together until Dad's death in 1951.

She had her diploma and Ohio license in similar frames, and they were hung on the wall where they remained until they sold the ranch to Paul Williams in 1946. They then returned to "Good Old Ohio" as Dad referred to it.

Mom, as I called my stepmother, was an old maid doctor from the East and eleven years Dad's senior. Because of her age and background I don't think she ever got "climatized" to the West and western ways. She never even tried to take out a license in Wyoming but she practiced considerable from the ranch. She delivered a number of babies; the three youngest Crosleys, Jess, Agnes and Thelma; and one of the Dickau girls, Ila Mae, if I remember correctly. She set at least one broken arm for Daryl Alsup, Jim Valentine's cousin, and gave innumerable spinal manipulation treatments. Once she was even called to ride a saddle horse about five miles through the timber with the Spellman girls to treat their mother who had been struck by lightning. She was burned some but with a little time, completely recovered to live many more years.

Ordinarily, men stopped, one or two at a time, but once, I well remember was different. I believe it was Thanksgiving Day 1919. We heard something, looking west around the end of a hill came more cattle than I knew there were in the whole world. It was Dick Pfister's fall roundup, about four hundred cattle. It was a dreary day and Dad almost insisted that they bed the cattle in the lea of a crescent shaped strip of jack pines above the house and stay the night. I still remember Dick sitting on his horse, looking all around at the lead colored sky. He then asked the men if they would like to sleep in a house

for a change. There was a yell of approval. It turned out they were there four nights. A northwest wind blew in a full blown blizzard during that night. To a four year old boy that was a party. The roundup cook practically took over the cooking and almost everything came from the well stocked chuck wagon, including fresh beef they had recently butchered. The men helped Dad with the chores, did the wood cutting and whatever else they could. One of the men was a pretty good "second" on the pump organ and Dad had done a lot of old-time dance fiddlin' so we had a concert every evening. I woke up each morning in time to see 19 bed rolls in the process of getting rolled and put up for the day. When the storm finally broke and the cattle started to move, the men saddled up and Dick had the cook bring us in a very large piece of that beef, keeping just what he would need to get them to Manville.

In the spring of 1918, Crosleys moved into their house which was about a mile from ours and on the hillside. This made it in sight of our house a feature which turned out to be mutually beneficial. They had seven children of which Dorothy (Reese) was just a baby at that time. Willard was just a little older than I. Then there were Raymond, Gladys (Herrick), Harry, Ervie and Delbert, the oldest. We soon got a school house built, the "Twenty Mile" School it was named. In that one room school building over a period of years a lot of us got more or less our grade school, including the eight older Crosleys, Howard and Curtis Hanson, Jim Valentine, Freda, Merlyn and Wendell Crawford, that I remember. As it happened, 1927-1928 was the last year of school held there. The total enrollment was two eighth graders, taught by Mrs. Zelta Baughn. The graduation class was James Otis Valentine and yours truly.

During the first few years after the end of World War I there was a large increase in the population of the neighborhood. Several were recently discharged veterans; Walter Dickau and his wife, her single brother, Harry Hoffman, who later married Etta Reed; Jake Reed and family; Andrew "Dude" J. Young and family; Harry Crawford and family; William Mann whose wife, Opal, was a relative of Mrs. Crawford; Roscoe Baughn, a bachelor who, years later, married Zelta Wintermote, the teacher previously mentioned; James Herrick and his wife; Ulysses Grant Evans, "Preacher Evans"; and Julius Conner and family. Of the early arrivals most stayed, but some found they didn't like the country, or fit, or for some reason stayed only a few years. George Parks stayed only two summers. An elderly couple by the name of Metz homesteaded just north of us and stayed only a short time. Another family of note was a Lutheran Minister, Hans Hanson. He and his wife had three children; Mildred, who later married "Slip" Chambers of Douglas, Howard, and Curtis. They came in 1918 and settled just south of Al Hoge. They stayed only a year or two then went back to eastern Nebraska where Rev. Hanson died. The three children spent a period in a church home in Lincoln, Nebraska then in the spring of 1923 Mrs. Hanson brought the children out and married Al Hoge. They lived in his place until her rather untimely death in January 1934, I believe.

In about 1924 then County Ag Agent A. E. Hyde got us to start 4-H clubs; the girls had a sewing and cooking club and we boys chose corn and pig projects. The one who

really worked at the pig project was Louie Meinzer. I chose corn; planted and hoed my acre of corn. I was doing reasonably well to a point, then some of our fence crawling cows got tired of the dried grass and tore down the fence; and, you guessed it, proceeded to make a mess of my cornfield. About two years of that and I gave up on corn and 4-H in general.

In May 1922 it rained for two days and then the wind changed to the northwest and for two more days we had one of the worst spring blizzards to hit in many years. While we were trying to assess the damage a man and boy rode into the ranch. He introduced himself as Ray Valentine and his son Jim. That was the start of a buddy acquaintance that lasted for several years. He and I were into and out of quite an assortment of endeavors; nothing bad, but sometimes funny. One happened on a day he, Merlyn and Wendell Crawford, Jim's cousin, Daryl Alsop from Manville, and I decided we would be rodeoers. In the process of trying to ride a big yearling or two year old steer, Daryl broke his arm. The next stop was Parkers to have Mrs. Parker set his arm.

About the only thing I accomplished that I can point to with pride is the job I did of breaking and training a horse. In the spring of '25 Dad gave me a mare colt. Dad also had her half brother. I had been taught that the way to have a good horse was to first gentle, then break and train it. I started gentling those two colts when they were about a week old. Dad sold the gelding but almost two years later he was still not paid for and just running loose so we went to repossess him. Two young boys had been trying to ride him some. All they had succeeded in doing was getting him just plain spoiled and causing three cinch sores a foot long, so I rode him home bareback. I promptly started to rehabilitate him into a good horse instead of a spoiled brat. I was progressing when school started so I had less time for horses. It came threshing day at our place, the machine was owned by Walter Dickau and Harry Hoffman. Walt was standing on the machine when he saw me walk up behind Sally, speak, put my hands on her rump and jump aboard, and ride her to where I kept my tack. He told Dad he had promised his children a horse when he could find a suitably gentle one, and Sally was it. He offered Dad the preposterous price of \$25, premium for that time. That was the fall of 1929, in case anyone remembers. Dad offered me a trade, the gelding, Tom I called him, for Sally so he could sell her to Walt, so I traded. Years later Walt told me that was the best investment he had ever made - she had half raised his whole family. They had her nearly 20 years till the blizzard of 1949. When I left, I gave Tom back to Dad and he still had him when he sold the ranch in 1946.

Jim Valentine decided not to go to high school but I did. The first year the bus was driven by Charley Crosley and carried the six younger Crosleys, Merlyn and Wendell Crawford, Paul Mann, Florence Johnson, the Turners who lived just north of Shawnee, the Millers, who lived west of town, besides this writer. That winter we had quite a lot of snow and the ever present wind so we older boys got a lot of practice with scoop shovels. The next year, Horace Nelson drove the bus, about the same load except the families nearer town had a third route which shortened our end several miles. Not too much snow that winter, but we had enough cold to make up for



it. One stretch it stayed in the 40 below range for a number of days. The third year Harold Cram drove without major problems. My senior year, Charley Crosley drove again and that wasn't too bad but we did get drifted in a few times. The graduating class of '32 consisted of; Irene May Price, Hugh Kornegay, Marvin Nelson and last, yours truly.

The next year I went to Douglas where there was a college extension post grad normal class. In '34 it was the middle of the drought and middle of the great depression. Money was scarce so I joined the CCC for 16 months. Then I taught two terms. I worked at Seminole Dam during the summer, where I was introduced to industrial construction.

That is where I ultimately made a career of some 40 years which took me to every western state except Nevada and Louisiana, plus two years in Libya. I was there before and after the take over by Colonel Muammar Kadaffi, but that is another story.

On June 3, 1938 I married a girl from Hartville, Theodora Brott. We raised five children; Patti W. Kirst, born in Guernsey, March 4, 1940, now retired Captain USAF in Boerne, Texas; Samuel R., born in Guernsey, December 8, 1941, now in communications electronics, Fairbanks, Alaska; Fern L. Francois, born in Ontario, Oregon, April 9, 1944, accountant, Longmont, Colorado; Fredrick A., born August 10, 1949 in Casper, now a Major USMC, Springfield, Virginia; and Linda K. Parker born in Casper, June 25, 1954, interior decorator, Bend, Oregon.

When Patti was five we decided we should settle down for several years, at least for the children's schooling. We bought a place near Casper which was the family home until 1968. There are three grandchildren; Larry D. Johnston, 19, Fern's son by a former marriage; Derek, 12 and Kristen, 8, Fred's children. The children's mother passed away February 8, 1974. We had been separated for several years and both remarried. My second wife since July 1, 1966, passed away January 26, 1984, after being almost totally helpless and suffering for a little more than six years. At this writing I am still trying to play "Rip Van Winkle" and wake up in the world I now live in after having had to retire to care for her almost entirely by myself.

Way E. Parker

## Partridge, Robert and Roxana T.

I think it was about 1915 when my husband's older brother, Elbert Partridge heard that there was land in Wyoming which could be homesteaded. He was not married and had a friend, Will Osgood, also not married. They both decided to go to Converse County, Wyoming and apply for a homestead. They were so pleased with the country that they wanted my husband to come out there, too. We were living in Kansas, where we owned a 160 acre farm on which we raised wheat and alfalfa, but we decided that we could keep that and still go to Wyoming and apply for a homestead there. We had two little girls, Pearl two years old, and Ula just six months old.

So in the fall of 1918 after my husband had planted the wheat in Kansas we left by train for Orin Junction,

Wyoming. Robert's brother Elbert came back to Kansas to stay with their mother, who had been living with us, while we were living in Wyoming. We left our Model T Ford car for them to use. We used a team of horses and a spring wagon for transportation all the time that we lived there.

This is the land that we homesteaded: Section 34, T32N, R.70.W.

At this time in order to prove up a homestead we had to follow these conditions. We had to put up fencing, build a house and live there for seven months out of the year for three years. So we followed these conditions.

Elbert Partridge, being a carpenter, built us a two room house which was ready for us when we came out in November of 1918. We came in to Orin Junction by train and a neighbor met us and took us out to our place.

This was the year of the bad flu epidemic and the first night that we were there, Robert and I both came down with the flu. We finally got a doctor to come out from Douglas to see us. He told us that we would have to go to the hospital in Douglas, so he just loaded us into his car and as there was no one to take care of the little girls, they just had to stay with us in the hospital, although they were not ill. That was quite an introduction to Wyoming, but we both recovered and were able to go out to our new home.

We enjoyed those three winters that we spent in Converse County, Wyoming. We would plant the winter wheat crop in Kansas, then head for Wyoming, live there until May, then go back to Kansas to harvest the wheat that had been planted in the fall. Before we left Wyoming in May, my husband would plant carrots, potatoes, a little corn and beans, and these would be ready to harvest when we got back in the fall.

Our house was small but comfortable, and we enjoyed the time that we spent there, it was almost like a vacation. We kept busy with our daily chores. We liked to put the baby in her cart and go for walks over the hill and one day while out for a walk, I found a five dollar bill. I had no idea where it came from as we had no close neighbors; the wind must have blown it in, as we had plenty of that. Sometimes my husband and I played horse-shoes, or we would do some target practicing with the rifle, (the first that I had ever handled a gun). And we read quite a lot. Once in a while we would drive four or five miles to visit a neighbor or they would come to visit us. We went to Orin for our mail and maybe to get a few groceries. My husband often walked there as it was only three or four miles. One morning he decided to walk there for the mail and when he got there they told him it was 60 degrees below zero, but he hadn't minded the walk and didn't know it was so cold.

Once in a while we drove to Douglas for supplies (I think this was about twelve miles) so with the teams and wagon it was an all-day trip. We bought canned milk by the case and other groceries in quantity, for we didn't often make the trip. The highlight of the trip, for me at least, was our visit to the library. We would check out books to last until our next trip, even children's books which I read to Pearl, the older girl, and even the little one learned to like the stories. She tells me what she remembers most was that she was so scared when the coyotes howled at night. Of course she was only three



years old the last year that we lived out there. The older girl, Pearl was five and would be ready for school, so it was time for us to prove up on our homestead and stay in Kansas. When our son George was born in 1922, we were wanting to go back to see our place. When he was four years old we planned a vacation, drove the Ford out there, stayed a few days at the ranch, then drove to Yellowstone National Park. That was a nice trip which our family always remembered. When the girls had to write an essay for English at school, they would write about this trip, tell about our place and of course about Yellowstone Park.

Through the years we were busy on the farm in Kansas, and putting the children through school. Both girls live here at Osborne, Kansas. Pearl is a registered nurse, Ula lives on a farm, but also worked for twenty-five years as a nurse's aide at our hospital. George was in the Army and was wounded in World War II, then after living as a civilian for three years he re-enlisted and spent twenty more years at Ft. Bliss in the Army, then in work under Civil Service.

We have never forgotten Wyoming and kept our land there. Most of the time it has been leased to a neighbor, George Carmin, for grazing cattle. Also part of the time it has also been leased for oil.

In 1946 my husband Robert died and by this time the children were grown so I sold the Kansas farm and moved to Osborne to be near my daughters. I wanted our son George to have the Wyoming land, so I deeded it to him, and although he still lives in El Paso, Texas, and is retired, he plans to make a trip to Wyoming in the future to see the land. He does keep in touch with George Carmin as he still leases the land for grazing.

Roxana T. Partridge

## Patterson, Taylor and Kate

Taylor Patterson was born in Georgetown, Kentucky. He married Catherine "Kate" Wise, the daughter of William Wise. Kate was born on November 6, 1850 in Georgetown, Kentucky.

In his reminiscences, Edward E. Cushman, son of Elizabeth Newell Cushman, told the following about Patterson, "Taylor Patterson, a bullwhacker of the old school who, when a boy, was stolen from home and raised by the Indians. Upon occasion he would demonstrate with a butcher knife the technique of the Arapahoe and Sioux in the gentle art of scalping. While but a boy he escaped from the Indians, hiding the first day of their search for him in a pond, his head above the leaves of a lily pad."

Patterson received a patent for lands on LaBonte Creek on June 7, 1893. These lands are now owned by Charles and Shirley Forgey. Water rights were issued on these same lands on May 1, 1887 and in 1889.

Taylor and Kate had one son, Luke (b. July 25, 1875 in Leavenworth, Kansas, d. April 28, 1935), and one daughter, Anna (b. December 16, 1878 in Leavenworth, Kansas, d. December 28, 1925). Luke had a barbershop in Douglas in his later years. Anna married Joe Dunn.

Taylor died on July 8, 1910; Kate on April 9, 1931.

John R. Pexton

## Patzold, O. A. and Ida

Joseph and Sophia Patzold, natives of Germany, were the parents of nine children, the youngest of whom was O. A. Patzold. In the early 1840's, Joseph and Sophia, in the company of Joseph's older brother, sailed from Germany to Galveston, Texas, finally finding permanent residence in the then distinctively German city of Cincinnati, Ohio. Joseph was a skilled artisan in cabinet making, having followed that trade all of his life. He was for many years a stockholder and manager of the Cabinet Makers' Union which did an extensive manufacturing business and in which he was employed at the time of his death in 1876.

O. A. Patzold was born in Cincinnati on August 2, 1870. He attended both grade school and high school there and furthered his education at an excellent commercial college. After he completed his studies he was associated as a bookkeeper for three years with the Campbell Coal Company, after which he moved to Denver. There he entered the employ of the Halleck and Howard Lumber Company, continuing there for seven years as an accountant, after which he was retained for several years by the receiver of the United Coal Company. He came to Glenrock in 1898 at the request of the Glenrock Coal Company to become their general agent, a position which he held for many years.

On June 27, 1893, Mr. Patzold and Miss Ida Burns of Denver were united in marriage. Miss Burns was the daughter of the Honorable D. V. Burns, judge of the District Court of Denver District of Colorado.

Mr. Patzold was associated with the Slaughter-Patzold Sheep Company which conducted extensive sheep business on the Platte River below and north of Glenrock and in the mountains south of Glenrock on Box Elder and Willow Creeks.

Mr. Patzold was an enterprising business man, active in commercial and industrial activities of Wyoming; a man of energy and ability, highly respected, very progressive and prosperous. He was a popular, well-thought of individual in the community in which he lived and served.

Ruth Grant

## Paull Family

William Paull, a tall broad-shouldered man and his youngest brother, John Paull, a short heavy-set fellow, were among the early day freighters who blazed the trails for the West and saw that the salt-side bacon and cases of canned tomatoes reached their destination in the new territory of Wyoming in spite of the Sioux.

Of Scotch descent, the Paulls were among the early settlers of Virginia. William Paull Jones, the planter, who served with Major George Washington's battalion of Virginia Provincials in the Braddock expedition was reputed to be related to the John Paull family of Virginia. John Paull, who lived in Virginia, married Margaret Campbell and they had two sons; William and John C.

John C. Paull was born in Virginia in 1816. He married Nancy Potter, daughter of David Potter and Mary Lawson Potter. To this union, four sons: Robert,



Charlie Paull with a catch of wolf pelts. 1919

David, William and John and six daughters: Mary Ann, Sarah Jane, Marthae, Nancy, Lucretia and Elvira were born. The older children were born in Virginia, but just prior to the Civil War, the John C. Paulls moved to Illinois.

When the Paulls were leaving Virginia, the slave market left such an impact on young William's mind that he determined to fight to end slavery. With the Civil War the family was torn on both sides of the Mason Dixon line, but Will's family had arrived in Illinois where Nancy was born February 21, 1850. William "Will" served in the Civil War with the 99th Regiment of Illinois, and, upon receiving his honorable discharge in 1869, returned to the family home in Kansas where he met Ed Smith. Smith was courting Will's sister, Nancy, but planned to return to Wyoming. Will had a wagon and team of mules and Ed persuaded him to go to Wyoming and do some freighting.

Will and Ed hauled supplies from Rock Creek to Fort Fetterman and other places. They met George Powell; and Ed, who had other plans, turned his team and wagon to Will. During 1870 and 1871, Will Paull and George Powell worked together. They hauled the surplus supplies from Ft. Caspar to Ft. Fetterman for the government when Ft. Caspar was closed.

In 1871 Ed Smith and Will Paull made a trip to Kansas. When they returned to Wyoming, John Paull, Will's brother, who had served with the 19th Kansas Cavalry against the combined forces of the Indians, went with them. Oliver "Ol" Rice, a Paull relative, and Clay Jones went with them, also.

John put his team of mules with his brother's team and hauled freight to Ft. McKinney and other places along the Bozeman Trail. John Paull did not stay in Wyoming very long at a time, but was in Colorado, Wyo-

ming, Utah, Nevada and Idaho, covering a vast amount of mountain country with saddle and pack horses.

When General Crook called for volunteers with knowledge of Sioux country, John Paull joined them. In the spring of 1876, John hired out to the government as a scout serving under "Kanaka Frank", Frank Grouard, chief scout, and sub-chief scout, Edmo LeClaire, going with Crook's expedition at the time of the Custer massacre.

John Paull said, "In spite of things that went down in history, I never believed that General Custer attacked that huge Sioux army." In his opinion, Custer was attacked by the Indians and murdered before the reinforcements that Custer had reason to believe would meet him, could come to his assistance. John said Frank Grouard had taken the last message to Custer before the battle. As usual, scouts were camped several miles from the army; John was with the horses.

John said that his first notice of the Indians, aside from their tracks which were probably tracks of Indian scouts who saw Grouard leave his sub-scouts before he reported to the General, was when he heard the government teams running with hundreds of howling Indians after them.

John always laughed when he said that the Lord heard him say, "Lord save us!" when his horse was shot from beneath him. Nell, the bell mare, came along just in time for him to grab her blind bridle as he scrambled to his feet and swung up on her back. Nell raced among the shouting Indians in such a cloud of dust that the Indians following the rest of the teams failed to see John lying flat on the back of the faithful old mare. When the wild stampede was over, John found himself and his steaming steed not more than a couple of miles from the battleground.

In the fall after the Custer massacre, John Paull returned to Kansas where he married petite, lovely, Martha Jane Bowen in Sedan, Kansas, September 13, 1879. John's sister, Nancy, had married Edwin C. Smith at Independence, Kansas, February 12, 1879, and left immediately for Wyoming (see Edwin C. Smith story).

William Paull divided his time between freighting and working with Jim Bragg, Edwin Smith's brother-in-law, at Tie Siding and Laramie City. The Bragg operation consisted of bringing railroad ties out of Colorado, chiefly North Park, for the Union Pacific railroad. William finally went to Washington where he settled on a fruit farm in Yakima Valley.

In the spring of 1881, John Paull, with his wife, Martha, and baby, Ida, returned to Wyoming in a covered wagon. They settled on a small piece of land in the lower LaPrele Valley but worked in various parts of Wyoming. The Paull's second child, Jessie, was born in Buffalo, April 6, 1883. In September of 1883, John and his family went back to Kansas where they stayed until the spring of 1885. In 1885 the Paulls went to Colorado where Madge was born.

John and Martha and their brood made their way back to the Pat Tobin place on lower LaPrele in Wyoming in the spring of 1886. John put his teams to work on the roadbed for the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad.

At that time, the town of Douglas had not started;

however, Charley Clay and others were at the tent town of Antelope, just north of the present town of Douglas. The Paull family lived at that camp until John finished his contract for work that extended to the camp at the Rock in the Glen, west of present Glenrock.

The John Pauls returned to the Tobin place in LaPrele Valley where they lived until some time after the town of Douglas started. John Paull was ready to settle down, and the family moved south to Indian territory to farm and wait until Oklahoma would be opened for settlement. In 1889 John settled in Oklahoma where he established three farms, and his son, Charles, was born.

John Paull only returned to Wyoming for very short visits, but Martha came at every opportunity. Wyoming attracted the newest Paull, John's son, Charles or "Charley." The young Charley came to Wyoming and worked on the Pleasant Valley Ranch. For as long as he lived, Charley had a second home with his cousin, Pauline E. Smith Peyton, and her family.

Charley served with the U.S. army in France during World War I. Charley returned to Pleasant Valley Ranch and soon went to work as a government trapper. Charley loved the mountains and established a Shorthorn ranch on the upper Boxelder near his best friend, Lloyd Huxtable. Charley was always a great hunter and fisherman. Charley trained his cattle, horses and dogs to respond to their owner's whistle. His dogs would jump on Charley's horse to ford a stream.

Charley had found time to travel throughout the West

and had become familiar with the Feather River country near where his sister lived.

In Wyoming, Charley had bought a ranch on the Wagonhound for winter pasture. He always laughed about the house on this ranch with its many hidey holes suggesting a sideline during prohibition days. His home was always the mountains. Charley married Mrs. Nellie Rice and established an idyllic relationship for his later years.

When an ailing heart suggested that Charley move out of Wyoming's high mountains, he bought a small ranch in California's Feather River country where he duplicated his Wyoming existence on a small scale.

During the 1880s and '90s, Oliver Rice "Ol," a cousin of Nancy Paull Smith, spent much time with the Edwin Smiths. He was popular with the family and claimed that Pleasant Valley ranch was where he kept his dress boots.

After Douglas was established, Oliver served as town marshal. Ol married Kate Scogland, Margaret Powell's sister. They moved to Casper where Ol ranched, raised children and served several terms as Natrona County Sheriff.

William Paull visited Douglas in 1918 when he was 82 years old. An old friend, Harvey Allen, greeted him, "Can this be Bill Paull? I thought you would have been dead long ago!" The two enjoyed reminiscing about camping on Crazy Woman Creek, freighting to Buffalo and Ft. McKinney and other old time experiences.

Pauline Peyton



Gene L. Payne store

## Payne, Gene L. Sr., Golda and Ferne Family

Gene was born November 6, 1896 in Laurel, Nebraska but at the age of six months moved to Wayne, Nebraska where he attended school and graduated from high school in 1914. In April 1916 he came to Douglas, Wyoming with his father to file on a homestead. Tony Logan helped them find land that was open. This filing was northeast of Douglas about 14 miles. The fee was \$50.00.

After returning to Wayne, Nebraska, Gene married Golda Kimble on October 14, 1915. After loading up their belongings on an emigrant car, Gene traveled with the CNW Railroad on a boxcar to Wyoming. Golda followed with his parents and his brother, Hugo, on the passenger train.

They struggled hard to prove up on 40 acres. Gene and Golda helped his parents build a house with lumber they brought with them from Nebraska. Gene and Golda lived in a tent for two months. They bought 75 head of chickens and two pigs. After the chickens were old enough they turned them out into the wheat field nearby and the coyotes ate all of them. They also lost the two pigs, as they foundered and died. They soon ran out of money and Gene went to Douglas and got a job with the Douglas Mercantile Co. for \$50.00 per month. He "boarded" with Mrs. Mecum and after all expenses, he had \$10.00 take home pay.

The Payne Co. was started in May 1922 with the help of the local banker Ral Collins. Gene and Golda had four children: Kimble, Betty, Shirley and Gene Jr. Kimble and Shirley are deceased. Golda passed away in 1956 and Gene married Ferne Carothers in 1957. He remained active in his business until the time of his death, January 25, 1984.

Betty Payne Dilts



McDonald General Store L. to r. Sam Shave and George McDonald

## Payton, James and Hannah

James Payton, "Jim," was born in Canada, June 1854, and moved with his family to Boone, Iowa, where he spent several years before coming to Wyoming in 1888. He first settled in the Shawnee and Douglas area. He was a foot racer, a blacksmith and miner. As soon as Jim got settled he sent for his wife, Hannah Stephney Payton, born June 5, 1868 in Illinois. Jim and Hannah moved to Glenrock in 1890 and operated a rooming and boarding house for two or three years. This was during the time of the Johnson County War, and many times men from both sides of the war stayed at the same time. They were careful to keep this a secret!

Hannah and Jim had four children; Walter, Harrison, Della Inez and George Michael "Mike". Walter and Harrison were born in Happy Hollow in Glenrock. Della Inez was born while they lived at the Inez Mine. Mike was born prematurely at a sheep camp northeast of Glenrock. He was kept in a padded cigar box for three weeks after birth, and was fed by a medicine dropper.

Walter, Harrison and Della all had typhoid fever. They all seemed to be recovering, but one day Walter screamed and died suddenly from a heart attack. He was buried in the old Douglas Cemetery, but the location was lost. Harrison tried to locate the grave around 1948, but was unable to do so.

Jim sharpened picks for the coal miners and ran from one mine to the other. Many times mountain lions followed him.

One day in 1894, Jim went to a Glenrock underground coal mine. He saw smoke coming from the shaft and rushed down into the mine to alert the miners and get them out as fast as he could. The miners all got out safely just before the mine burst into flames. The miners all rejoiced and carried Jim into a jewelry store in Glenrock to purchase a watch that they had inscribed "Presented to James Payton for rescuing the Glenrock Miners, 1894." This watch is now in the Pioneer Museum at Douglas. That mine burned for many years before they finally extinguished the flames.

On May 31, 1899 James Payton was issued a U. S. Government Patent on his homestead south of Glenrock, Township 33, Range 76, Section 16. Jim sold the homestead to the Tolland Company May 7, 1900. Soon after this, the Paytons moved to Esterbrook where Jim worked in the mine and Hannah ran a boarding house.

It was a hardship for the children to get to school. The terms were only three or four months. One of their teachers was Maggie Reid, later Maggie Bolln.

Later the Paytons moved to Platte County and Hannah homesteaded in 1911 on Spring Creek, north of Horseshoe Creek. They moved to the 4T Ranch on Horseshoe, and Jim died there on October 9, 1923. Hannah died February 18, 1931. They were both buried in the Horseshoe Cemetery at Glendo.

Della married Clifford Adsit of Casper and they had three children, Dorothy (deceased), Jim Harrison and Katherine Marie.

Mike married Bessie Chroninger and they had one son, George, who passed away in his senior year of high school.

Harrison served in the U.S. Army in World War I





**Glenrock Miners — 1895** Front row: George Goff, Oliver Goff, unknown, Charlie Padden, George McDonald, John Morgan, John Miller, unknown. Second row: Unknown, unknown, unknown, Noah Young, unknown, Stuart Anderson, unknown, unknown, unknown, James Payton (x). Upper right with beard: Erick Olin.

from July 1918 to July 1919. He married Frances Johnson December 16, 1930 at Wheatland and to this union was born Helen Wyoma, July 29, 1933, and Roma Lee, September 19, 1937. Harrison died May 25, 1961.

Helen returned to Converse County when she married a native, LeRoy Wulff in the Episcopal Church at Glendo December 18, 1955. They live in Douglas and have three sons, Kurt, born March 20, 1957, Dirk, born June 23, 1959 and Bain, born July 30, 1962. Kurt attended school at the University of Wyoming and Rangely Colorado. Dirk is married to Cynthia Lou Lewis of Casper. They both attended Casper College and are presently students at the University of Wyoming. Bain attended Casper College and is now at the University of Wyoming.

Roma Lee married John Mathson of Evanston in the Episcopal Church in Glendo May 8, 1965. They live at Evanston, Wyoming and have one daughter, Debbie Lee, and one son, Robert Payton.

Frances Payton  
Helen W. Wulff

## Pellatz, Orville L. and Vena Family

Vena Victoria Ford was born in Missouri in 1895. When she was about ten years old her family moved to Nebraska where she was educated. Vena and her next older sister, Dessie, attended Lincoln Business College at Lincoln, Nebraska after having completed their high

school education. There they became acquainted with Leta Pellatz, a young woman who lived in the same boarding house as Vena and Dessie, and through her met her brother, Orville Pellatz. He was attending the University of Nebraska, from which he graduated with a degree in law in 1915.

Orville was born and raised on a farm near Ceresco in eastern Nebraska. His father, Carl G. Pellatz, had immigrated from Germany at the age of 16 in the company of several of his brothers and sisters. Carl and two of his brothers worked in a dairy in Illinois for five years, then came to Nebraska with their employer. Carl and his brother, Otto, rented land and farmed. Carl and his wife, Isabel Yergen Pellatz, bought the "home" 80 acres in 1897 and built all the buildings on the farm. Later they added an additional 180 acres and lived their lives there. Orville's younger brother and sister are still living on the farm, though they lease out the farm land.

The lure of free land to be homesteaded in Wyoming enticed Vena, Dessie and Dessie's husband, Clarence Gilmore, to come to the Dry Creek community. In 1917, the Gilmores filed their claims, as did Vena. In order to get lumber for her homestead house, Vena was obliged to take a team and wagon to Douglas, a distance of nearly 100 miles, round trip. She made the three or four day journey alone.

Orville and Vena had been going together for several years. In 1918 he filed next to Vena's homestead located between the Cheyenne River and Woody Creek. They



were married in Douglas in 1918 by the Congregational minister. Bernie and Anna Ford were their attendants. Orville was inducted into the army at Wahoo, Nebraska two days after his wedding. He spent his service time at Camp Funstan, Kansas. He was discharged in January of 1919, after which Vena and Orville returned to the homestead in April of 1919.

The Pellatzs were the parents of five children, two boys and three girls. The two eldest were born in Nebraska, the others in Wyoming. When the eldest daughter, Mary, was old enough for the first grade, Vena taught her at home. The following year, the Bill School was moved to a new location about three miles south of the Pellatz home. Lincoln, the second child, and Mary rode to school, riding "double" on one horse. After Donald, the third child, was old enough, Orville bought a two wheeled cart drawn by one horse for the children to use for their daily trip to school. The four older children used this cart until Mary and Lincoln, by then in the same grade, were ready for high school.

One afternoon in 1933, while they were driving home from school, a wild animal ran across the road at the river crossing. The children took a line off the harness, made a loop in one end and gave chase to the critter, which was a badger. They "roped" him around the middle and dragged him back to the cart, where they put him in the space behind the seat. They managed to tie him down by putting the line through a crack in the floor boards of the cart and fastening it securely. The badger, by then in a very ill-temper, prompted the children to drive the last mile home in record time. Orville killed and skinned the animal, selling the hide later for \$12.00. This money paid for the cement for a foundation needed in order to build an addition to the Pellatz house.

The family of seven had lived in two rooms, measuring overall, 14 x 16 feet, a very small area for that many people. The new addition was to be about 26 x 32 feet, containing four big rooms and a bath, though it would be some time before it became a "real" bathroom with plumbing and fixtures. The walls were constructed of cottonwood logs, large enough so that Orville and the boys could saw them lengthwise, thus having a smooth wall surface on the inside. It was a wonderful thing to have all the extra room.

Vena loved flowers and houseplants. She and her mother and sisters exchanged seeds and plants through the mail. To please her, Orville and the boys hauled rocks and dirt to make a level flower bed for her, next to the new addition to the house.

As a means of extra income, Orville taught school. His first school was held in Rose Walton's homestead house. That term, 1920-21, he taught Rose Schick Walton's daughters, Anna, Elizabeth and Helen Schick. Also enrolled was Nonnie Geick, a niece of Harry Russell. One side of the house was curtained off. There they placed the children's desks and that of the teacher. The term lasted five months.

During the winter of 1922-23, Orville taught the Pleasant Hill School, located about one and one quarter miles east on Pinto Bean's place on the Cow Creek Road. Some of his pupils in this school were Clinton and Clara Owen, Harold, Elsie and Faye Baker, Owen and Donald Cross and Bob and Howard Waggoner. The Pellatzs lived

that winter in McRobert's house one mile southwest of the Owen home so that Orville might be closer to the school. Had they lived in their own home, they would have been eight miles from the school.

For two years, Orville taught at the Dorr School located three miles northeast of Pellatz's. Some of his students in that school were Howard and Dorothy Dickson, Dean, Robert and Milo Moye, and Thelma Henley.

In 1939 the Bill School was consolidated with the Dry Creek School. Four school buses brought children to the Dry Creek School. Orville drove the north route for five years bringing the Pellatz, Walton, Steinle and Johnson children to school. There were two teachers who taught grades one through ten.

Vena died in 1944 after a short illness. Orville continued in the ranching business, adding the Federer and Henry ranches to his holdings. Besides these properties, Orville bought a house in Douglas, and the Conlogue farm located west of Douglas.

In 1961, Orville married Bertha Lampman of Glenrock, a widow. He had become acquainted with her through the church. Together they retired to live in



Vena Ford (Pellatz) 1916

Douglas in 1968. Three years later on October 21, 1971, Orville died and after his death his property was divided among the heirs. The land is still owned by the descendants of Orville and Vena.

Mary Pellatz Nachtman, the first child of Orville and Vena Pellatz, received her elementary education at the Bill School, the first two years of high school at Dry Creek and then graduated from the Douglas High School in 1939. She was employed at the Converse County Welfare Office and later in the County Assessor's office. She was married to Victor J. Nachtman in 1942 at Ft. Lewis, Washington, where Victor was stationed. He served in the United States Cavalry, Mechanized Division for five years. During that time he was stationed in Washington, Oregon, California, Louisiana, Kentucky, the Phillippine Islands and Japan. Mary followed him around the country until he was sent overseas. He was discharged in 1945, after which they moved to the Ira Dull place. There they were engaged in ranching. Later they bought the Paul Miller ranch, raising sheep as well as cattle. Victor also did contract earth moving. They carried the Dull Center mail route for 24 years and Mary has taken care of the Dull Center Weather Bureau Station since 1952.

The Nachtmans had four children, three boys and a

girl, namely Russell Lee, Jack Dean, Jerry Joseph and Lona Jean. The second son, Jack, was associated with the ranch until he and his father, Victor, were killed in a small plane crash. After the accident in 1974, Jerry returned to the ranch to manage it until 1983 when he and his family bought a ranch near Wheatland. After Jerry left, Lona returned home to manage the ranch for her mother with part-time help from the eldest son, Russell Lee. Mary makes her home at the ranch.

Lincoln Pellatz was born in 1922 at the home of paternal grandparents in Nebraska. He attended the Dry Creek School for ten years, completing his education in the Douglas High School in 1939. After graduation, he worked at various jobs finally enlisting in the air force in 1942. He completed his training, graduating as a bombardier from Carlsbad Air Force Base in 1944. He was married in 1944 to Ruth Eleanor Johnson of the Dry Creek community by Reverend Louis Gale of the Congregational Church in Douglas. He was sent overseas in the fall of 1944 to the Phillipines, and returned to the United States the following May. He was discharged in November of 1945.

Lincoln worked for a time as a ranch hand, eventually buying the Perry Burden place in the fall of 1949. For the next ten years they lived there, but moved to Farson, Wyoming to an irrigated farm in the Eden Valley Irrigation District primarily for the education of their eldest child who was then of high school age. Lincoln sold this property in 1968 and the family returned to Converse County. They make their home on a portion of Orville Pellatz's holdings. Their buildings are situated near the river in a grove of trees which Orville planted in the early 1950's. Lincoln and Ruth are the parents of three children, Steven Lincoln, Robert Dean and Joan Ruth.

Donald Dean Pellatz is the third child of Orville and Vena Pellatz. He graduated from the high school in Douglas in 1943, enlisting in the navy that fall. He was stationed in several places in the United States, and then sent to the Phillipines. He was discharged in the spring of 1946 in Washington. He made the trip from Washington to his home on a motorcycle.

For the next few years, Donald worked at home and on other ranches. He met Betty Lighthall of Clinton, Illinois. Betty was a relative of the Jim Facklers and of Sara Nachtman. After a few months' courtship, they married in 1951. They were employed by Rollie Sadler about two years and then moved to the Ray Henry place to make their home. Donald and Betty have five children, Nancy Ann, David William, Carl Dean, Charles Amos and Jane Louise.

June Pellatz was born in 1927 and educated in the Dry Creek schools, graduating from the Douglas High School in 1945. After graduation she worked in the AAA office until her marriage to Charles Radford, a native of Nebraska, in 1948. Charles entered the army in 1942 and was discharged in 1945. Charles and June were married in Nebraska in 1946 and to this union two children were born. The son, who was born in 1947, died as a result of an accident in 1959.

Jewell Pellatz was born in 1930. She was educated in the Bill and Dry Creek schools, graduating from the high school in Douglas in 1948. She attended one semester at Barnes Business College in Denver. Jewell was married

to Earl W. Reed in 1949. They make their home on a ranch eight miles northeast of Bill where they are engaged in the livestock business, raising both cattle and sheep. There were four children born to Jewell and Earl, namely Larry Wayne, Thomas Lee, Bruce Francis and Mary Katherine.

Jewell Reed

## Perrine, Roy and Frances Family

Roy A. Perrine was born in Northboro, Iowa, December 25, 1882, the son of Henry and Ruth Perrine. While he was still small the family moved to Larkin, Missouri. He was reared and went to school in Larkin. When he was 21 years old he came west to Douglas in July of 1902. He moved west because of more work and better wages. He earned \$50.00 per month instead of \$35.00. He went to work for A.R. Merritt General Store.

While delivering groceries to the John Morton home he met Frances M. Hendryx, daughter of James and Margret Hendryx. She was born in Abbott, Nebraska December 20, 1880. She attended school at Abbott and Omaha, Nebraska. She came west in the fall of 1900 for better wages and more work. She hired out to Mrs. Sarah Morton as a live-in housekeeper. Later she worked for Mrs. Jacob Jenne.

Roy and Frances were married September 21, 1903. They were married by a Methodist minister by the name of Harry Kemp, in a Methodist parsonage located at that time in the 400 block on South Third Street.

Frances came west by train and in those days it left much to be desired. The train left Crawford, Nebraska at 6:00 a.m. It stopped in Van Tassell so the crew and passengers could watch men brand horses. Next stop was Shawnee so a man could buy a coal mine. The train was warmed by a coal stove in one end of the passenger car. The train carried mail, freight and livestock. An engine, nine cars and a coal car made up the train. They arrived in Douglas at 10:00 p.m.

Nine children were born to Roy and Frances; six of them are still living.

In 1908 his sister, Bess Irene Perrine, came to live with them for many years. She worked in the telephone office located upstairs next to the old Budget office. She also worked in the post office located in the middle of the block in the 100 block on South Third Street. I believe it is now a store room for Bolln Grocery.

Roy worked for different stores and a brick yard. Then he went to work for Ed Reville, a contractor. Many of the cement walks they laid are still in use on Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Streets. Roy laid the tile floor in the LaBonte Hotel and in the post office. In 1918 he bought the Rice Hardware located in the 100 block on North Second Street. He operated the store until Wyoming Bank and Trust Company went broke. That, and the depression starting, caused him to go broke. They moved to LaPrele Community where they ranched and raised poultry and sold milk until their son, John, came home from the service.

They both did a lot for the community. Frances and Mrs. George Doyle canvassed the town for funds to get water put in the park and cemetery. The men had

secured and planted trees up there.

At that time, Douglas was small and most entertainment had to be provided by the people. There was a committee of women organized to help get entertainment. Mrs. Doyle, Mrs. H. G. Peters, Mrs. Kellogg, Mrs. Jackson and Frances made up the committee. At Christmas time they held suppers and programs in the Opera House. It was located where the Ben Franklin Store is now. Women brought food and all the men came for supper. After supper they spoke pieces and read poems. The four churches (Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist and Congregational) furnished candy and oranges for all the children. Oranges were a real treat as they were only available at holidays. The evening was closed by singing carols led by the ministers. Mrs. E. T. David played the organ. In the late part of July the committee planned picnics. Children ran races and played games in the afternoon. Women brought food and the men all came for supper. They built bonfires and when they died down everyone sang "Till We Meet Again." This was held at the fairgrounds. Again, everyone came and the churches all took part. These get-togethers were discontinued when World War I started.

Roy organized Jobs Daughters in Wyoming while Master of the Masonic Lodge. Douglas was Bethel No. 1 and still is. He also started plans and named committees for building Masonic Temples.

When their son, John, returned home from World War II Frances was very near blind and they moved to Casper. Frances passed away March 6, 1963 at the age of 82 and Roy passed away September 21, 1973 at the age of 90.

Mayme Perrine Hill

## Peters, Howard G. and Ella Family

On April 12, 1861, the Confederates fired on Fort Sumter. The Civil War had begun. Lee's army was defeated at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania two years later in July of 1863. The area around Gettysburg had been overrun by warring soldiers wearing both the blue of the Union Army and the gray of the Confederacy. Farms of families living in the vicinity were devastated. Their crops were destroyed — their livestock confiscated by the troops.

A family by the name of Peters owned a farm near Gettysburg. The Peters had eleven children. Howard G. Peters was born at the family home in 1857. After the battle of Gettysburg, the family was destitute.

Howard Peters grew to manhood in Pennsylvania, learning the trade of harness-maker. In 1880, he migrated to Iowa where he was in the harness business with one George DeWolf. In 1885, he left Iowa and his partnership to take a homestead near Ainsworth, Nebraska. For some obscure reason, he left Nebraska only a year later and came to Wyoming.

Douglas was a tent town located on the mouth of Antelope Creek when Howard arrived. He opened a harness shop there, and his business flourished.

On Thanksgiving Day 1885, Howard had a turkey roasting for his dinner. The famous, or infamous, George W. Pike stole the bird from Peters' oven, and returned to

invite Howard to take Thanksgiving dinner in his tent.

With others in the struggling community, Howard helped grub sagebrush from the newly laid out streets of Douglas in 1886. Mr. Peters loved trees. He planted, or helped plant, nearly two-thirds of the trees along the streets of the new town. He and Fatty Hardenbrook, the local barber, planted the cottonwood in front of the College Inn saloon. The town well was located in front of Hardenbrook's shop. The entire population of Douglas used the water from the well. Of interest, is the fact that the pumps were worn out at the rate of one pump per month.

Peters built a new harness shop on Second Street. His former partner, George DeWolf, came to Douglas from Iowa and, once again, was engaged in harness making with Howard.

In 1888, Howard journeyed to Rothville, Pennsylvania, where he was united in marriage to Ella Jane Hobough, daughter of David Hobough. He brought his bride to Douglas that same year.

Howard Peters eventually disposed of his harness business, and established the Douglas Brickyard. Many of the older homes in town were constructed of bricks from his kilns.

On December 18, 1945, at the age of 88, Howard Peters died. His wife, Ella, died on March 13, 1930.

A livery stable occupied the corner of 2nd and Oak Streets in Douglas in 1900; in 1910, the livery was razed to make room for the Arnold Lumber Company. The company was managed by R. W. Bahken for a period of four years when Bahken moved to Keeline, Wyoming to open the Bahken Lumber Yard. The Arnold Lumber Company was sold to Peter Mintener. Bloedorn Lumber Company of Torrington purchased the Mintener yard in 1935, and the business was then called the Converse Lumber Company.

H. M. "Mort" Peters was born to Ella and Howard Peters in Douglas on April 4, 1895, and received his education there. Shortly after he graduated from high school, Mort established a lumber yard in Chugwater. In 1915, he accepted a position as manager of the Mintener Lumber Company in Douglas.

Mort married Esther Ruby Nelson in Douglas on September 23, 1930. Miss Nelson had come to Douglas in 1926 to work as a nurse in the Douglas Hospital. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nelson and was born in Idaho Springs, Colorado on August 25, 1903. She attended the Idaho Springs elementary and high schools and following graduation went to Denver where she worked as a nurses aid. Esther took her formal nurses training at a hospital in White Plains, New York and later worked for the Immigration Service at the Port of New York.

When the Mintener Lumber Company changed hands in 1935, Mort remained as manager of the new Converse Lumber Company.

Mort and Esther had two children who both died shortly after birth. Esther died from complications of diabetes in early April 1952.

On April 3, 1956 in Torrington, Mort married Carrie Johnson Larson of Douglas. Carrie was the widow of Axel Henning Larson who had passed away June 3, 1951. She had two daughters Margaret and Alice; a son Joe was killed in World War II.

Upon his retirement in 1960, Mort had completed 47

years in the lumber business. Mort and Carrie were both avid and expert fishermen, and they spent much time during the year proving their skill in lakes and mountain streams.

In addition to being a vice president of the Wyoming Pioneer Association, Mort was a charter member of Samuel Mares Post No. 8 of the American Legion and served as commander for 1922-1923, a member of the Masonic Lodge, and served 21 years as treasurer of the Christ Episcopal Church.

Mort died in his sleep January 13, 1970 and is buried in the Douglas Park Cemetery.

Ruth Grant

## Peterson, "Lars" and Caroline

Laurence G. "Lars" Peterson was born September 5, 1840, the son of P. Peterson. He was united in marriage to Caroline Eklund and to this union four children were born, all in Sweden.

The eldest son, Gus, was born September 9, 1861. He and his wife, Emma Jane, were the parents of two children, Laurence and Nettie. Gus died November 9, 1938.

Percy "Pete" was born September 17, 1875, was married to Zella Van Dalsem in 1913, and died February 10, 1938. To this union four children were born: Mary, Lisbeth, Van and Rose Leigh.

Eli, the third son, was born September 12, 1870. He was never married and died August 4, 1960.

Anna was born in 1873. She was married to Adam Schneider in 1907. There were no children born to the couple. Anna died in June of 1964.

Eli came to the United States with his family in 1879. They first settled near Odebolt, Iowa where Lars was engaged in farming for several years. When Eli was 16 years old he hired out to a farmer who paid him \$10 per month wages. The working hours were long and hard and Eli held all Iowa farmers in very low regard. In 1885 Eli's mother died. Two years later the family left Iowa and came to Wyoming, arriving in Lusk on a cold, miserable day in early spring. Eli got into an argument over the adverse weather with a total stranger and finally the two men came to blows. "Damned if I didn't come out second best!" quipped Eli.

The family continued their journey westward, settling near Irvine. Eli's father was hired as section foreman on the Northwestern Railroad. Eli went to work for the Douglas Willan's outfit located across the river from Irvine. After about two weeks Eli became uneasy. There had been nothing said about wages and the work he was doing was so easy compared to that which he had done in Iowa. He was not at all sure he was even on the payroll. He went to the foreman, Mr. Childs, and told him that he would like to start work and was astounded to find that he had already earned half his month's wages, \$12.50. His work consisted of mending fences, milking cows and helping to break horses. He remained at the job for almost five years, at the end of which time he had worked his way up to the top man with a wage of \$45.00 per month.

In 1890 Eli's father bought the old Westwick place on



Left to right: Percy, Gus, Anna (Schneider) and Eli Peterson.

Wagonhound Creek south of Douglas. Westwick had been a pattern marker before he came to Wyoming, working in a foundry in Galena, Illinois. In 1893 Eli bought the Wagonhound ranch from his father and operated it until 1906 when he sold it to Harry Pollard.

A close friend of the Peterson family at that time was Kelly Peach who, although he was a wealthy man, lived in a tent on the Peterson place. When Mr. Peach left, he gave Eli his two teams of horses, a wagon, traps and various other possessions which he had stored in boxes.

After finalizing the sale of his ranch to Pollard, Eli began to clear out his belongings prior to vacating the ranch. He came across some of the boxes which Peach had left. Not bothering to look inside, Eli took one box into the shop and threw the box on the bench. There was a horrible explosion which tore Eli's clothes to shreds and demolished the shop. The box had contained dynamite caps.

Eli was taken to a hospital in Omaha, Nebraska where Dr. Gifford had to remove one of Eli's eyes. For nine months he remained in the hospital. About 18 months after his release he developed a dreadful earache from an abscess in his ear. Finally the abscess burst and Dr. Hylton removed a piece of copper that had been embedded there since the dynamite caps had exploded.

After his accident Eli lived in Douglas helping his brother, Pete. Pete was a carpenter and contractor. The Petersons built many dwellings and other buildings in town, among them the log cabin, which is located on the fairgrounds and is used by the Wyoming Pioneer Association, and the old Catholic Church.

Pete was a multi-talented person. Besides being a carpenter, he was a brick-layer, a mason and a mechanic. He built a stone house for Curtis Sears who raised horses on a ranch about 45 miles northeast of Douglas. He fashioned a pair of spurs for Curtis which Sears wore with pride.

Eli could remember many of the early residents of Douglas and of Converse County. There was Charles Nysten who had been with General Crook when the army gathered up the dead on the Custer Battlefield in 1876; Kion Hart, an Irishman and a Civil War Veteran who came to Fort Laramie after the war; Duke Connely, an orderly at Fort Laramie; Bobby Fryer, the poet-blacksmith at Fort Fetterman. He was a good man, well educated. He liked his whiskey but was not a drunkard.



Eli remembered this little rhyme which Fryer composed:

"When I'm dead and in my grave,  
No more whiskey will I crave,  
And on my tombstone I want this wrote,  
Many a drink's gone done my throat."

Of George Pike, Eli said that he was a "shining light in the tinhorn fraternity."

A more villaneous character who lived on LaPrele was George Lambe. He was wealthy but had acquired his wealth through devious and illegal methods. A man by the name of Baumgartner caught him stealing cattle so Lambe killed him. Lambe was prosecuted and sent to the penitentiary in Rawlins. He tried to buy his way out but his efforts failed.

"Dutch" Henry had a ranch on the river bottom across from the Morton ranch. He was a bachelor and a well-built man, noted for his strength. Oddly, he loved to read ancient history and was quite an expert on the subject.

Natchez Perez came from Colorado in 1866. He could not read or write and was not sure of his age, but he was a good, honest man. His French name was too hard to remember so George Cross, Sr. called him Nels Perry, a name which stayed with him the rest of his life. Nels never put anything by for his old age and when he could no longer make a living, Eli built a cabin on a lot in Douglas and moved Nels in. Nels was suffering from cancer. While he lived in the cabin, three ladies, Mrs. Schneider, Mrs. Slichter and Mrs. Webster, brought food to him. Eight days before he died, Billy Gerlach and Eli took him to the hospital.

The first restaurant in Douglas was operated by Demy Olivereau who came to the area in 1876. Mr. Olivereau was a Latin scholar who had studied for the priesthood. He lived to be 102 years old, spending the last years in California.

Douglas' first school teacher was Mrs. Lizzie Cushman. The school was built of sand-rolled bricks. It was located on the site of the present North Grade School. The bricks were made by Brenning and McFarland who operated a brick yard located where the Payne Company stands today.

Douglas once had 24 saloons, one wholesale liquor house and two dance halls. There was an alfalfa mill, a flour mill, two brick yards and a seed house.

Francis Cushman and Eli were very good friends. Eli said of Frank that he was a poor cook but a natural wit. Mr. Cushman said of Eli that as a correspondent, he was much like a flashlight, intermittent flashes of brightness between long periods of darkness.

Eli's sister, Anna Schneider, lost her husband in 1914. After that, Eli shared a home with her on South Fourth Street where Eli died August 4, 1960. Anna lived until 1964. She was confined the last two months of her life to the hospital, the result of a fall.

The entire Peterson family came to love their adopted homeland. Lars studied and received his citizenship papers. Though they were born in Sweden, Gus, the blacksmith, Percy, the carpenter, Eli, the rancher and Anna, the devoted sister, all contributed much to the development of Converse County.

Esther Ryder

## Pexton, Charles and Gilberta

Charles Pexton and Gilberta Barnhill were married in Douglas at the Episcopal Church on Easter Sunday, April 13, 1941. Gilberta was born and raised east of Chugwater, Wyoming. She came to Douglas to teach the Pexton-Dunn School in 1940.

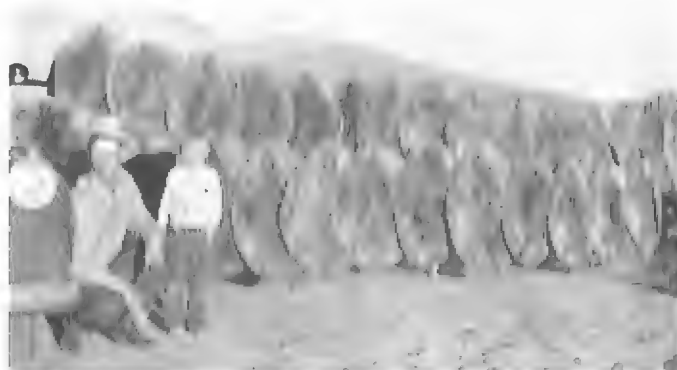
John Edward Pexton was born to Charles and Gilberta on August 31, 1942; Mary Charlene was born on October 6, 1943 and Gene Ray was born on November 16, 1952.

From 1941 to 1947 Charles and Gilberta worked on the ranch for Charles's father, Lisle. Lisle sold them the ranch they presently own. It is located on Reid Creek, or known to some as Rutherford Creek. Raising Hereford cattle was the main project besides putting up native and alfalfa hay. They strived to improve their ranch through the years. Developing more meadows, raising a large garden, and each year increasing the size of the yard for the abundance of flowers Gilberta wanted to grow.

During the growing years of her children, Gilberta became involved with the 4-H program. She was a leader for 25 years and still serves as a resource leader making it 33 years. She is a member of the extension homemakers and has been for 43 years . . . now serving as secretary of the Wyoming Homemakers Council.

Charles was elected to the Federal Land Bank board in 1969 and is still serving in that capacity. Because of his interest in the betterment of people in agriculture, he became active in Farm Bureau. He has served in many offices and is presently district director of central district and Wyoming Farm Bureau membership chairman. Because of his interest, Gilberta became involved also. She has served as treasurer to Converse County Farm Bureau since 1964; of that time, she also served 12 years as secretary. They are members of the Stockgrowers and Gilberta is serving as Converse County Cow-Belles president.

In 1948, Gilberta was bitten by a rattlesnake which nearly cost her life. She had gone up the creek taking Ed and Charlene with her to enjoy a day picking gooseberries and chokecherries to make jelly and jam. Charles was in the mountains hauling hay with their only vehicle, a pick-up. She called Pansy Dunn on the old crank phone and Pansy took her to meet Dr. Everett Gardner whom Gilberta had called about her bite. He met them near Brow's Ranch and administered a venom shot. It took



Left to right: Charles Pexton and Richard Pexton with beaver catch, 1940.



eleven shots to save her. A den of rattlers was located several years later and around 100 were killed.

Ed graduated from the University of Wyoming and from Morgantown University in West Virginia with a Doctors Degree. He is married to Jeannie Bindschadler, and they have two sons, Jed, who is attending Central College in McPherson, Kansas and Terry, who is a senior at Ft. Collins High School. Ed is a professor at C.S.U.

Charlene graduated from Central Business College in Denver and worked in the Douglas High School as secretary before joining the Vista Program. She worked with the Swinimish Indians in Puget Sound, Washington. She married Kendell Brown, and they live in Omak, Washington where they are buying his folks' ranch. They have a son, Kendell, Jr., who is in the seventh grade and a daughter, Mona, who is in the sixth grade.

Gene graduated from the University of Wyoming with an Animal Science Degree.

Gene is incorporated in the family ranch with his parents. He married Janet Read, and they have two sons, Travis, who is in the second grade and Dustin, who is in the kindergarten at the White School.

Gilberta Pexton

## Pexton, James and Lillian

James Pexton was born on April 25, 1874 in Beverley, England, the son of Thomas S. and Mary Sturdy Pexton.

Coming to the United States in 1880 at the age of six with his parents, he grew to early manhood in Neligh, Nebraska.

On November 27, 1901, he married Lillian G. Hinsdale, the daughter of George and Ada Gilbert Hinsdale.

They became the parents of two sons, Fred and George.

Coming to Converse County they bought land under the LaPrele Irrigation Project near his brothers, John and Tom. Andy Moore owns the land in 1985.

Lillian died on March 7, 1936; James on July 10, 1948.

Fred and George attended school in Douglas. Fred was an outstanding football player while in school and in order to keep playing he would attend high school in the fall during the football season then drop out of school until next fall. He was able to do this until he graduated. Douglas had championship teams during these times and was due no doubt to their seasoned players.

Fred joined the merchant marine and went to sea while George went to work for the Union Pacific Railroad and lived in Cheyenne.

John R. Pexton

## Pexton, John and Mary Family

John Pexton came to the United States from England at the age of 17 with his folks, Thomas and Mary Jane Sturdy Pexton, in 1880. He grew to manhood in Neligh Nebraska.

In 1907, upon learning of land for sale under the proposed LaPrele Dam, John and his wife, Mary Krebs, the daughter of Henry Krebs, whom he had married July 31, 1889, along with children Glen (born 1890), Ada (born



John and Mary Pexton at sheepcamp on Upper Horseshoe Creek in 1920.

July 31, 1893), Dora (born 1897), and Lisle (born Mar. 9, 1899), came to Douglas. An emigrant railway car brought their six horses, two mules, four milk cows, chickens, machinery and wagons along with Glen and a friend, while the rest of the family came by passenger train. Lisle remembers it was Halloween as there were yard gates, outhouses and other things all over the streets. Also a buggy was on top of a livery barn.

After living in Douglas for awhile they moved to the Frank Wheelock place six miles west of Douglas. These are the buildings immediately north of the LaPrele interchange on I-25.

During the winter of 1907-1908, John and Glen hauled cement from Inez to the LaPrele Dam staying in the oil company shacks on the hill west of the Ed Smith Ranch on LaPrele Creek.

The Ben Wheelock Ranch, on LaPrele Creek, located west of the Frank Wheelock place, was leased for one year after which they moved to their property under the LaPrele ditch. This is located where Don AuFrance lives presently (1984). It took two or three years to clear off all the sagebrush. Water from the dam became available in 1911 or 1912.

During the winter of 1909-10, which was very cold and a lot of snow fell, John and Glen Pexton and Joe Bergstrand hauled corn north for the Logan Bros. and later in the spring hauled wool for them.

Ada, Doris, and Lisle went to school at the O'Brien School with Verda Wiker as their first teacher and Mable Swartz as the second. They had to walk most of the time the 2½ miles to school. Lisle remembers there was a building close to the school house where they would go during recesses and noons. There they would dance using whistling and singing for the music.

In 1910, John filed on a homestead one mile south of the place under the ditch. They moved into a two-story house which along with a barn he had built there.

John contracted clearing sagebrush, disking the ground and planting alfalfa for several people. A cutter was used which had a pair of blades in a V-shape fastened under a frame on four wheels. It was pulled by a team of six horses and cut a swath of 5 to 6 feet wide. The sagebrush was raked up and burned allowing the disking of 3 or 4 times and planting to be done. Raking and burn-

ing of practically all the land from Water Tank Hill to LaPrele Creek was done by John and his sons.

After the bad blizzard of April 1912, in which many sheep and some lives were lost, John bought 300 yearling ewes and took them to Shawnee to be run by Henry Reese and Mr. Rheusart. In the fall, 1200 ewes were bought along with 160 acres and some leased lands in Downey Park on Rocky Ford and Ghost Creeks from L. W. Clelland. This land was used until 1915.

The Bolln-Rice Ranch near Laramie Peak, now owned by the Werners, was leased in 1915 for putting up the hay. There was also an option to buy made but after learning that the Thomas and Charlie Shepard lands were for sale, it was decided to purchase them. These lands, which belonged at one time to John Newell and Arthur Kenyon and known as the "Beer Keg Ranch", are still owned by the Pexton Family. Richard and his son, Randy, summer their cattle there.

While leasing the Bolln-Rice place, the family lived in the old Giles Strangways' house on Munday Creek. Lisle tells, "the packrats were so thick and made so much noise rolling an empty barrel back and forth upstairs that we had a hard time sleeping".

During the winter of 1915 Frank Edmison, who was nicknamed "Fuzzy" because his hair was never combed, helped Lisle feed the cattle that they had bought from the Shepards. The following story was told by Lisle about "Fuzzy". "A Dutchman, who was working alongside "Fuzzy", was found to have cootie bugs on him by "Fuzzy". "Fuzzy" decided to burn all the Dutchman's clothes. You can imagine how that set with the Dutchman and, of course, started a fight. I finally got them settled down and went to the bunkhouse to look if there were any more bugs and I found some of "Fuzzy's" clothes about ready to crawl off, they were so thick with cooties, so I took them out and poured coal oil all over them and also fumigated the bunkhouse."

Springhill, the nearest post office, was east over the first mountain and there was a telephone line from Esterbrook to the Shepard place and on over to Bert Bell's on Forty Mile near the Laramie Plains. There was a switch to connect the two lines when anyone wanted to talk.

Ada married Fred Hildebrand in 1915 going to live on his place on the Platte River west of Orpha.

Glen and Anna Hildebrand were married March 26, 1916. Following an appendicitis operation he passed away on May 6, 1916. Anna later married Clarence Marsh.

After Glen's death Lisle took over the active management of the sheep. They were trailed by way of King Creek, over Magpie Hill and through Downey Park to the head of Horseshoe Creek where they were lambed down the creek and sheared at a corral some four or five miles from the head of the creek.

In the summer of 1917, when Lisle was riding from the ranch west of Douglas to the mountain place, he stopped at the Jeff and Robert Scott Ranch on Wagonhound. While eating dinner a pretty girl sailed through the room so fast he hardly got to see her but he saw enough of her to want to see her again. She was Lucille Scott, the daughter of Joseph Robert Scott. J. Robert and his brother had purchased the place in the spring of 1917 from Lyman Cooper.



Left to right: William Pexton, Lisle Pexton and unknown man docking lambs, 1920's.

Lucille (born May 30, 1900 in Abilene, Texas) had lost her mother, Nellie Bollin Scott, when she was twelve. The Scotts lived on a homestead in eastern Colorado near Haswell prior to coming to Wyoming. Lucille and Lisle were married in Douglas on March 23, 1920.

Dora was married in 1919 to Robert Coil. They moved later to Crawford, Nebraska where they had a farm.

In 1918, John and Mary moved to Douglas, first living in the 500 block on South 5th Street, then buying the E. T. David house on East Center. They lived there until 1935 when they traded houses with Mike and Eleanor Williams who lived at 428 So. 5th. John died October 28, 1937 and Mary November 14, 1940.

A son, Charles E., was born to Lisle and Lucille on April 20, 1921. That spring the sheep were lambed on upper Bedtick Creek prior to taking them to the mountains.

While Lisle and Lucille were living at the ranch, west of Douglas, John R. was born on September 27, 1925.

By 1927, needing more range to run the sheep on, a ranch on Horseshoe Creek belonging to Henry and Willard Saul, was purchased. This ranch, called the 4T, had originally been owned by the Freeney's.

In the spring of 1928, while trailing some sheep to the mountains from the Horseshoe place, a bad storm came through and found them at the Saul Mines. After getting them to the timber, south of there, they spent two days until the storm was spent. Forty head of ewes were lost. A week or so later the county attorney in Laramie wrote that the dead sheep would have to be buried as some of the people in Esterbrook were complaining of the smell.

Two daughters and a son were born to Lisle and Lucille while they were living on the Horseshoe place west of Glendo: Barbara Lee, Aug. 17, 1930, and passed away on Nov. 21, 1932; Joan L., Sept. 4, 1934; and Richard L., Apr. 6, 1937.

During the drought of 1933 and 1934, land was leased from A. A. Spaugh and Magoon north of Manville. The fall of 1934 found the U.S. Government buying old ewes for 12.00, \$3.00 per calf and \$10.00 for old canner cows. They then killed and skinned them as there was no market for them. The meat was home canned, in a lot of cases.

After having to sell the rest of the sheep and turning the Horseshoe Ranch to the bank in 1936, the family lived

on the old Harmon place just west of the 4T for one year.

In the spring of 1937, the family moved to the Rutherford place on Reid Creek, which was purchased from C. J. Saul.

Lisle served as County Commissioner from Jan. 1, 1947 to Jan. 1, 1951.

The George Foxton, or Mills Ranch, as it is commonly called, was bought in 1945 from C. D. Zimmerman, aka the Douglas Securities. John and his family own this now. John married Noramae Philbrick in 1948. They had four sons: Frank, Mike, Tim, and Jeff, and one daughter, Melanie. Noramae died in 1972; and in 1974, John married Catherine Larkin.

The county line between Albany County and Converse had a boundary change in 1955. Lisle was instrumental in getting this change made. It enabled them to do county business in Douglas instead of Laramie.

The Fred Manning Ranch on LaBonte was broken up and sold to their neighbors in 1960. Lisle and son, Richard, bought the portion on LaBonte and Lower Owl Creek. Richard and his family live in the Saul bungalow now. Richard married Jacque Wilkinson in 1960. They have one son, Randy, and two daughters, Valerie and Kim.

Joan married Charles Woodin, Jr. Jan. 8, 1955. They live in Casper where he works for True Oil Co. Their children are Debbie, Greg, and Becky.

Lisle E. Pexton

## Pexton, Tom and Mamie Family

An English lad of seven years of age sailed from Liverpool on the British Steamship, The SS Polynesian, arriving at the Port of Baltimore on March 22, 1880 with his parents, Thomas Pexton and Mary Jane Sturdy Pexton, and seven brothers and sisters — all born in Beverley, Yorkshire, England. Only Annie, his oldest sister, remained behind. They settled in Neligh, Nebraska, which according to history, had just rid itself, in 1877, of a devastating seige of grasshoppers lasting four years.<sup>1</sup>

Tom, named Thomas Stephenson Pexton, was educated at Gates College. Widowed after a marriage of ten years to Effie Jones, he married Mamie Ella Hurst on July 10, 1911. He was with the Atlas Bank at the time. Four years later he "bought a controlling interest in the Pioneer Bank of Basin, Wyoming"<sup>2</sup> and moved there in late April of 1916 with his wife and three children — Emly, Edwin, and Maxine.

In early 1918 another move was made to Douglas, Wyoming where a ranch, seven miles west of town, was purchased from Adam Schmiedlein. This was to be the Tom Pexton Ranch for seven years in Converse County.

Barren of trees and with a sparse amount of buildings of which the big red barn dominated, Tom developed the ranch into an ultimate oasis. The house became completely surrounded by lawn and a large grove of trees, mostly cottonwood, planted by Tom. Lawns were irrigated by water in a pond made by a dam in a gulley a few hundred yards above the house. The pond was fed by springs and there was plenty of water to keep the grass green and the



Top: Mamie Pexton. Left to right: Emly, Edwin, and Maxine Pexton. 1920.

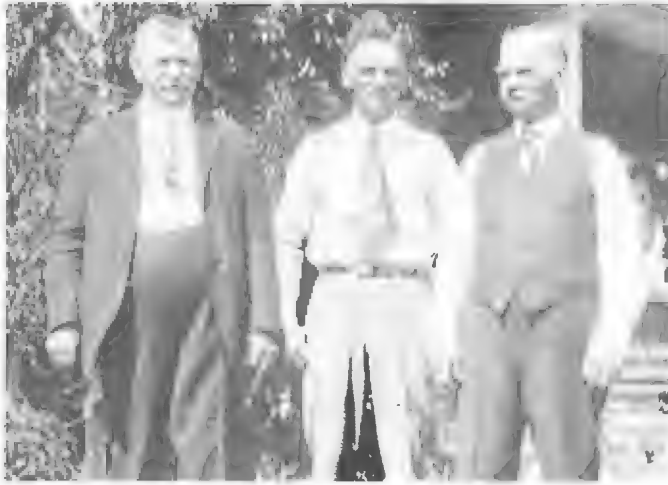
flowers — sweet peas, nasturtiums, and hollyhocks — growing. Tom adopted "Oasis" as the official name for his ranch and it truly was an oasis.

Tom enlarged the house to three bedrooms, front room or living room, dining room, bath, kitchen, breakfast room, and backporch. To house the car, he built a garage with an icehouse underneath and built a new red chickenhouse, cattle sheds, and a windmill with a tank to store water. Quite a change took place in seven years.

The Tom Pexton Ranch house became comfortable with a coal furnace which was banked with coals at night in winter. A large green curtain hung in the archway sealing off the living room and the guest bedroom during the cold weather. At first, water was heated in a boiler in the stove and baths were taken in a large galvanized tub behind a screen frame covered with green burlap. Later a bathtub was installed in the bathroom.

Boxes of Crystle White Bar Soap were stored by the inside stairway in the basement and shavings of the bars were melted for the laundry. An oval copper-bottomed tub with water was placed on the wood and coal stove and clothes were washed in it with a stomper. Later an elec-





Left to right: John Pexton, Tom Pexton and William Pexton.

tric washer with a wringer on the side helped make the task easier.

A Lally Lite electric plant, run with batteries, producing 32 volts, was in the basement of the house. This made possible the use of 32-volt appliances — a vacuum cleaner, an electric iron (replacing the old cast iron flat irons heated on the stove and clamped onto a handle), electric lights (replacing the kerosene wick lamps), electric toaster, curling iron, and the washing machine. Tom's was the first of the ranches in the area to have these conveniences. Still in the spring all the rugs were hung on the clothes line and beaten with a wire beater — spring house cleaning.

A DeLaval separator was on the backporch used to separate the cream and milk. The cream was churned into butter in an old-fashioned crock churn with a stomper. At times milk, cream, butter, and eggs were delivered to customers. When first settling on the ranch, Tom ran sheep. Supplies to his sheep camp were listed in his ledger in 1919. Later the sheep were sold and twenty or so cows were milked with a milking machine and the whole milk was placed in five and ten-gallon cans which were left on the Yellowstone Highway to Casper to be picked up by a creamery truck. The cooling of the milk was done with ice cut into one hundred pound blocks at a pond in winter and brought by wagon to the "icehouse" under the garage where it was packed in straw. It kept frozen quite well. Blocks were chipped off and carried with tongs and placed in an icebox on the backporch for refrigeration.

Irrigated land produced alfalfa for feed and a surplus to sell. More land was homesteaded above the "big ditch" increasing the ranch to 520 acres in total. It was in the sagebrush above the "big ditch" where a sheepherder, Pete Higgney, lived in a covered wagon which was moved about with the grazing sheep. When he went to town, he purchased quite a stack of records. As he played them on his Victor Phonograph with a horn speaker, he would sail the ones he didn't like out over the sagebrush. It was in his covered wagon that Tom and family shared two sets of earphones and heard music from Cincinnati over the air for the first time. Tom was much impressed with that phenomenon. It was a tedious trip home that dark night in a box wagon pulled by a team of horses through the lightly falling snow without a road

to follow.

When the children reached school age, they attended class in a schoolhouse built nearby. Tom was chairman of the school board, so when a tie vote resulted, it was his vote that located the school on its site to the chagrin of those living farther away.

A barn dance was held in the big red barn hayloft, entered at the top of the hillside. Bales of hay surrounded the dance floor for seating. The neighbors came from all around dancing to the strains of "Three O'Clock in the Morning"; "Oh, You Beautiful Doll"; and other popular music of the time. Tom was a talented fiddler, so no doubt, contributed to the evening with a rendition of "Turkey in the Straw".

At the country school, box socials were held. Food, such as fried chicken, rolls, pie, etc., were placed in decorated boxes and auctioned off to the highest bidder who ate with the one who prepared the food.

Much handiwork — embroidery, tatting, crocheting, stitching — was done in the evenings by Mamie. She gave most of it away for gifts, but she didn't own a pair of pillowslips that weren't decorated with embroidery and crocheting. Mrs. Myrtle Bicknell came to the ranch for two weeks before school started to help sew clothing for the children, as most clothing was handmade.

A number of vacations were spent at Tom's brother, John Pexton's upper ranch near the foot of Laramie Peak, when relatives from Iowa came for a two-week stay. One summer all slept in the hay loft on blankets spread out in the hay. Tom's brother, William Sturdy Pexton, silhouetted in the loft doorway, proved himself quite a storyteller. Among his stories were his staying at the ranch one winter rounding up stock when a blizzard struck. He and a ranch hand almost camped at a corral next to the ranch house before discovering where they were. Another late night he saw a man hanging by the neck from a tree. After throwing his jacket over his horses' head and leaving, he returned to find the hanging man was but a broken limb moving about in the moonlight. William also broke forth into song singing "Bringing in the Sheaves" and "Showers of Blessings".

Tom Pexton was a soft spoken man, young at heart, and a loving father. One May Day the children heard a knock at the front door which was seldom used. Slow in deciding who should answer it, the door was opened and there were three May Baskets and no one there. Delighted with the homemade baskets, showing their mother, who had secretly made them, how they were constructed with sewn cardboard and covered with colorful crepe-paper, they didn't see their father jump over the calf pasture fence catching his toe and going head over heels as he hurried away not knowing that no one was chasing him. The conversation in the house was that maybe the Beach children, Afton, Kenneth, and Alice, who were neighbors two miles away, had made them and left them at the door.

Wanting the best education available for his children, Tom began sending them to Douglas schools in preference to the country school where the teachers changed frequently. In 1920 Tom's family lived at Verley's in Douglas while the children attended the North Grade School. In 1921 Mamie and the children resided at the Scott Hamilton house while Tom remained on the ranch.

Then two winters were spent in D. D. Caley's front apartment and all three children were in the South Grade School. Martha Caley became a dear friend. For the 1924-1925 school year, when Emly and Edwin had Charles Roush, a ranch neighbor, for their sixth grade teacher, they resided at the Cook house. The latter was where a new son, Charles William Pexton, was born in February. The following summer on June 20, 1925, Tom sold the ranch for \$15,000.00 to Mrs. Etta Angell Hart who had a dairy ranch and raised horses.

There was an auction held at the ranch on September 1, 1925 for all the farm implements and livestock. The children's horse, "Hammet", was previously spoken for and sold to Tom's nephew, Lisle Pexton, for his son, Charles. The furniture was crated and with other household goods filled half a boxcar going by rail to California where Mamie's sister, who had written of the opportunities and mild climate, lived.

Purchasing a new 1925 four-door sedan, with ruxel gear, the Tom Pexton Family drove to Santa Rosa, California by way of Eugene, Oregon to visit Annie Pexton Bulmer, Tom's oldest sister. A third son, Ned Arden Pexton, was born in July 1927 to complete Tom's family of five children. Residing in Santa Rosa, Mamie passed away in 1937 and Tom in 1945.

Mary Maxine Pexton Deurell



Albert Peyton 1912

<sup>1</sup>*History of Nebraska* published by "The Western Historical Company", A. T. Andrews Proprietor, Chicago, Ill. 1882.

<sup>2</sup>*The Douglas Budget* March 20, 1916 Douglas, Wyoming.

## Peyton, Albert and Pauline Family

The Anglum-Peyton families arrived in Wyoming from Ireland via Stratford, Ontario, Canada and Boone and Ayreshire, Iowa.

The sudden unexpected death of father Thomas Peyton, and the lack of legal inheritance rights for women leaving mother Mary Anglum Peyton frustrated about the care of seven children and two step-children, led young Albert William to hop a freight to Wyoming in 1893. Laughing blue-eyed, brown-haired Albert had been born in Boone, Iowa, May 24, 1879, but Wyoming was the home of his heart.

Established in the Kirby Hotel, which was operated by his cousins in Glenrock, Albert felt that he had reached manhood capable of handling the world.

Glenrock was a lively mining town with a rip-roaring payday every two weeks. Albert and a young cohort felt very adult playing pool on a brawling payday night. Suddenly the fight between a Polish and an Irish miner erupted into the pool room. The boys were paralyzed, but as the Polish contender turned toward Albert, the boy swung his cue with all his might, laying the miner out. The terrified boys streaked for home with Albert convinced that he had killed the man. Albert crawled between the featherbed and mattress and spent the night in terror. His cousin, Maggie, had heard the story and knew that the miner had not been injured. When she saw the quivering mass of featherbed, she made the best of a fine joke.

Albert tried his hand in the mines for two weeks,

pitying himself and the little donkeys that worked in the mines. He always said that underground was no place for man nor beast. Albert was convinced that the foreman for the next two weeks was always determined by the payday fight.

Albert decided that the life of a cowboy was for him as he was well acquainted with animals and had ridden all of his life. However, he could not bear to see an animal mistreated and often had a fracas with a freighter who was beating his team. The VR Ranch was Albert's home for some time and he enjoyed all of the community dances.

Whenever a posse was called, Albert joined if possible. Albert was fascinated by the law and studied Wyoming law books like later youngsters read "Whiz Bang."

When sheep raising became an established industry, shearing became highly competitive and profitable. The shearing was done with hand shears and bets were sometimes placed on the shearers. This profession gave Albert an opportunity to travel about the state.

Near the turn of the century, John, Albert's half-brother, came to Glenrock to operate a grocery store. John married Alma "Allie" Businger, March 2, 1898. Allie operated a ready-to-wear shop in Glenrock for several years. Kirby, their son, was born in 1902. After several years, the John Peytons moved to Glendora, California.

By the turn of the century, the Douglas social life was attracting young people. Dances, programs, plays and band concerts were held in the Opera House. The Episcopal, Catholic, Methodist and Congregational Churches were thriving. Whist was becoming the rage. Men on Second Street indulged in poker and hi-low-jack





Pauline Smith Peyton 1912

and the game.

The cowboys kept neat through the Chinese laundry. Their laundryman, like Bret Harte's "Heathen Chinese" loved to play poker but was honest and usually lucky. The laundryman wore a queue of which he was inordinately proud and which was a constant source of teasing from the cowboys. One night the Chinese was unusually lucky, and while he was engrossed in the play, someone slipped behind him and snipped off the queue. The Chinese immediately left the game with considerable winnings and was never seen in Douglas again. No one knew whether it was the loss of his queue or that his winnings had made him a victim of foul play. Anyway, the cowboys who liked to play the dandy for the Douglas girls were furious over the loss of their laundryman and friend.

Albert was working for George Bolln Co. when he married Pauline E. "Lena" Smith, May 3, 1902. The wedding was solemnized by B. J. Erwin at the North Fourth Street home of the bride's mother. The couple bought a small three bedroom house on South Fifth Street but soon moved to the Pleasant Valley Ranch. Albert spent spare time working on the LaPrele Dam as well as the Brenning Basin oil ventures.

The Peytons belonged to the Douglas Social Club, Good Roads Club and participated in the musical and dramatic events popular in the community.

Their auburn-haired son, Albert Lester, later known as "Pete," was born June 6, 1903. He learned riding, hunting and fishing at an early age. Probably the first sheep to be raised on the ranch were "Henry" and "Jake", two bum lambs which Henry Brenning and Jake Schneider gave to Lester. The rams became unusually large and gave the community much entertainment because they fancied that they were watch dogs.

Albert's sister, Gertrude, who had been a bank teller in Iowa, had contracted tuberculosis. She came to Wyoming to see if the dry climate would improve her health. When two younger girls, Ella and Ida developed the disease, Albert's mother, Mary, decided to move the family to Wyoming. Ed and Bernard, who had finished at St. Thomas Academy, Marguerite, the eldest who had been in Montana and Mary's father, John Anglum, who had been born in Ireland in 1810, completed the family.

Mary built a home on South Sixth Street. In spite of trying various western states, Gertrude, Ella and Ida all succumbed within five years. John Anglum died in 1905.

Mary invested in several businesses including a used furniture store and a building of small apartments. Marguerite operated a needlework and art shop and taught china painting.

Ed and Bernard (Birney) participated in local athletics as well as social affairs. In 1907, Ed joined the Navy. Bernard passed the examination for railway clerk and went to Cheyenne.

Pauline M., the second child of Albert and Pauline E. (better known as "Lena" much to her disgust) came as something of a shock to the family when she arrived May 23, 1911. The Old Timers honored Ed Smith by inviting Lena to attend their 1911 meeting at fair time. She attended with baby, Pauline.

Albert ran for sheriff and served the 1912-13 term. Albert and Lena moved into a house on Third and Oak Streets. Albert used his own horses for transportation and often set after desperadoes by himself; his gun was a colt cylinder action with a terrific kick. He used the gun effectively to bring in some rustlers who had sent him a threatening note.

Hub Southwick was Al's deputy; if Al set out alone, he left a note for Hub to join him or to get a posse if necessary. Robbery and rustling were the primary problems. The Mormon Canyon area was a popular hideout. Sometimes, tin-horn gamblers or too much booze caused shoot-'em-ups. Brothels were quite well controlled. At times the inmates of the little red brick jail (high school rodeo office, now) did disturb the peace; but the horror of drug abuse was absent.

The public generally supported law enforcement officers and respected the law. Dances had bouncers and



Illegal liquor still l. to r. sheriff Al Peyton, deputy George "Red" Smith. "Pete" Peyton kneeling.

did not allow boozing at the ball. Men knew where to go for ladies-of-the-night and women and children were not molested. The object was to protect the public from the law-breaker rather than to protect the criminal from the public.

At this time, Albert's youngest brother, Bernard, married Lena's youngest sister, Elvira, and they soon followed Mary and Marguerite who had moved to Montana. However, Elvira and Birney took care that their children, Edna Mae, Richard, Madeen and Robert were born in Douglas.

1914 brought a new project; Al and Waldo Bolln opened a grocery store. Some Douglasites may remember blocks of maple sugar and small glass windows in the counter with cookies that said NBC. They had a Model T delivery truck. Men from throughout the state dropped in to compare ideas. Old Lady Abe came with a black stocking full of silver dollars. Bob Carey and John Kendrick could be seen exchanging thoughts and jokes with Douglas men as they leaned against a counter and Dutch Phelan draped over the stool that was his perch.

War came. Elvira came back to sing "Over There" with the Douglas band at the railroad station. People shouted and marched and knitted grey wristlets, but the excitement couldn't alleviate the pain when Al sold his interest in the store and joined the army in 1917. Ed Peyton scoured the bottom of the North Sea in the submarine corps.

At home, Lena made bread and mixed Klim. She ran for clerk of court and lost by 27 votes; thanks, said the politicians, to the misguided campaigning of her seven year old daughter.

The men were all tired when they came home. The ranch seemed the best place to be. Uncle Jim Smith and John Paull and Billy Howard came to visit and talked about the Civil War. Lester and Mike Roush fished and took the Model T apart. Al raised fine oats, alfalfa and potatoes; and taught his daughter how to know the wild animals.

R. L. Markley, "Red," was superintendent of schools. He taught the boys to play football, basketball, and go out for track. They went from awful to superior. Lester won state championship in discus and javelin. After graduating from high school, Lester went to Billings Business College and then to work for Mountain Bell.

In 1922 Al was elected sheriff again. He still cared about people and justice and the law. In the ten years which had elapsed since Al's first term, many changes had taken place.

Rustlers and horse thieves were still at work, but there was no worry about vigilantes stringing them up. Robbers were still at work but train robbers weren't common. Thieves and robbers used the train to get to and from the Sandbar, Casper's infamous bottom. Mormon Canyon was a haven for the lawless but now bootleggers were captured in the vicinity.

Al's family moved into the sheriff's residence and duty was not just 24 hours a day for Al; it was for the whole family, but they loved it. There was no welfare nor job service. People brought their problems to the sheriff. Many new homesteaders had come to Wyoming with neither resources nor knowledge of the land. Al couldn't

neglect their worries. Sarah Morton told him to send groceries to the needy and charge them to her.

Cars had replaced horses but there were very few "good graveled roads." There were no Wyoming driver's licenses nor speed limits, just the need to get places in a hurry. Matt Berg who came from the Canadian Mounties to be under-sheriff said that he rode on the running board for the first six months he knew Al. Matt bought Zip, the largest registered German police dog in the United States. When he got to Douglas, Zip joined the Peyton family. Finally, Matt laughingly gave the dog to Pauline. A big red-haired cowboy with a terrific smile was George "Red" Smith, deputy sheriff.

Prohibition - nobody wanted it; but it made a terrible impact upon the law. Teetotalers began to experiment with bathtub gin and home brew. Everybody with a bottle of brandy in the house began to feel guilty, resentful or devilish. Good people began to identify with law breakers. It was hard to get a conviction on anything.

Alcoholics stumbled around with "jake leg", ate canned heat, drank anything. Harmless old men became monsters; one bit a great big hunk out of Al's hand when he was trying to take him to get sobered up.

Federal agents created scheduling problems; generally they were a good lot, but sometimes their mere presence suggested a raid. It was essential for county officers to cooperate, particularly those of Converse and Natrona. The Sandbar became a haven for federal vice. Mobsters created a ring with Chicago, Kansas City and the Sandbar as depots for car theft, white slavery and booze, often "micky finns." Criminals escaped from San Quentin and racketeers on the run made for the security of the Sandbar and Converse County was on the way. Stories of officers cooperating with bootleggers or taking a private stock home were false during Al's terms.

Raids were many and varied. Sometimes it was necessary for officers to spend two or three nights in the cold, waiting for moonshiners to return to their place of business. Then it was necessary to get the coil or the whole thing could be lost time. Without the coil, moonshiners claimed that they were making hog mash (with the nearest hog in Nebraska.) At a trial, a weeping wife would appear with all of the kids in the neighborhood to show how difficult it was to feed their family (they would have had to have them in litters.)

The largest still captured in Converse County was operated by some Greeks newly arrived in the United States with a lifetime knowledge of making good liquor. The still was raided on the first run and all of the officers deplored the necessity because so many bootleggers were making poison; but the law made no distinction.

At approximately the same time as the above raid, a black man in Glenrock was arrested for operating two stills; one was an old fire extinguisher, the other a tin milk can. When the district attorney asked the bootlegger if he drank the booze from the milk can, he answered, "Lawd, no, man, that stuff ud kill you!"

In 1923 the town council and people of Lost Spring gave Al a written commendation for putting two stills in the Lost Spring area out of business. One was fifty gallon, the other 20 gallon with 350 gallons of mash.

John Mihas from Casper came to Douglas in a car without a license. Sheriff Peyton arrested Mihas and told

him to go to the city jail. When Peyton stepped on the running board of the car, Mihas stuck a gun in his ribs and threatened to blow him to kingdom come. Peyton knocked the gun out of Mihas hand and took him to jail. Mihas had come to town to interest himself in behalf of two bootleggers who had been arrested for operating a still seven miles southwest of town. Judge Arnold fined Mihas \$35.00 for threatening the sheriff.

The saddest and most exhausting time of Al's terms came with the Cole Creek train wreck when the sheriff spent a week on the cold river looking for bodies, many of them friends. Al spent the next week with pneumonia.

One local couple had a habit of quarreling at three o'clock in the morning and calling the sheriff to protect one or the other. When Al arrived they would refuse to file a complaint. Finally he told them that he was no referee and that if they did this again he would arrest them both; a remarkable cure for marital difficulties.

One man in Shawnee had been a frequent nuisance to his neighbors and the officers. He finally shot himself in the head during a blizzard. The trains and roads were all blocked by snow. In his Buick Al went after the man. It seemed impossible for the man to survive and when they got to the Douglas hospital it was found that the bullet could not be removed. The injured man recovered and Al thought that he had more sense than ever before.

One morning a ghostly pale Lena wakened her daughter at 5 a.m.; a telephone call had informed her that there had been a shooting, either someone had shot Al or vice versa. It was seven o'clock before the family discovered that Al had killed Fred Van Gorden who had murdered his wife and son in Casper. Van Gorden was a Camp Perry marksman who fired first; Al thought that it was a miracle that he had survived. Al did not like to kill anything and the shock of the shootout in the LaBonte Hotel caused him much suffering.

When the county began to plant sugar beets, a new threat came to the community; marijuana. A short time after the plant appeared in 1927 a dance hall opened in an old laundry building, a nickel a dance. Little bottles of a clear fragrant liquid were given to the kids and later sold for 15 cents. The liquids was a dip for cigarettes. Fights and strange behavior began to appear among normally well-behaved youths. Al began a campaign against the drug.

A saddle thief was picked up in Cody. Ed Lambert and Mr. Benham brought him to Douglas. They ate lunch at Thermopolis. When the thief came out of the restroom, he was sniffing; as they drove through the canyon he increased his sniffing. By the time they were out of the canyon he was hallucinating. He fancied that the trees in the distance were giant rabbits. He thought that the rabbits were trying to attack him and was wild by the time they reached Douglas. He had been sniffing cocaine which appeared a few times later among prisoners.

Two young "clothing salesmen" registered at the LaBonte. They were well dressed, good-looking young men and they soon appeared at the dances. With all the latest steps, they were popular. They only seemed to show the clothes to two young girls, but they stayed in town too long. One day the girls disappeared but the "pimps" had underestimated the girls' supervision and a frantic mother contacted Al who called the Casper

sheriff. Fortunately the word got out in Casper that Al was after the men and they took off for Chicago. The locals in the white-slave ring didn't want to get involved. Al and the Casper sheriff searched the likely spots but it was three days before they found the girls locked in a room on the top floor of the Virginia Hotel. The girls had thought that they were eloping. They had been drugged and their swains had gone looking for a sale, never to return. Strangely enough, this was very similar to the story of the best known madam in Douglas. She had not been as fortunate as the two Douglas high school girls.

Al loved young people and found time to take them to football and basketball games, swimming and picnics. Lena found time to provide parties and feeds, sponsor the girls' cavalry as well as American Legion scholarship programs and Episcopal activities. Both of them preferred to have the young entertained at home.

Pauline M. Peyton

## Pfeifer, Andreas and Anna Family

Andreas (Andrew) Pfeifer was born in Baden-Baden, Germany on December 1, 1865. As a young man he came to the United States to join his two older brothers, Joseph and Louis, and his older sister, Mary, who had immigrated earlier.

Mary, born October 20, 1859, was married to William



Andrew and Anna Pfeifer on their wedding day 1907



Louis Pfeifer 1900

Werner in 1885. Werner had been born in Achem Baden, Germany, November 11, 1854. The couple settled near Inez, Wyoming.

All three of the brothers homesteaded land near Orpha, Wyoming. Joseph sold his share to Fred Hildebrand in 1904, moving then to Mexico City, Missouri where he married and raised a family.

Louis lived on his claim until 1927 when, due to failing health, he too disposed of his land to Fred Hildebrand and moved into Douglas. He built a small house on property owned by his brother, Andrew, and lived there until his death in 1929. He is buried in the Douglas cemetery.

Andrew was married on April 2, 1907 to Anna Holtcamp. Anna was born February 8, 1886 in Coberly, Germany, the daughter of Joseph and Annie Eicogle Holtcamp. Andrew and Anna lived on the homestead until 1912. Their first two daughters were born there. He sold his land to Fred Hildebrand and bought property in Douglas located on North Fourth Street. In 1914 he bought the Shoe Repair Shop which belonged to B. Bucelowsky and was located on Center Street. He operated his business alone until 1929 when he took a shoe salesman, Herman Vander Griend, of Lincoln, Nebraska to be his partner. They sold shoes as well as repairing them and soon opened a candy and cigar store next to the shoe shop.

After the partnership dissolved, Andrew continued to operate the Shoe Repair Shop until his death on February 9, 1938. He is buried next to his brother, Louis, in the Douglas cemetery.

Andrew and Anna were the parents of four daughters, Edna Ann, Emma Catherine, Clara Agnes and Helen Elizabeth. All of the children received their education in the Douglas school system.

Edna Anne Pfeifer was born September 12, 1908 and died September 20, 1978 as a result of an automobile accident which also claimed the life of her husband, Walter L. Alexander, Sr. The couple had married on November 30, 1925. They had three children: Walter L. Jr., Donald, and Shirley.

Emma Catherine was born on October 2, 1910. She was married in 1929 to Sigfrid E. Olson. Olson was born in

Jamtland, Sweden. He was employed by the railroad after coming to the United States. Later he engaged in the carpentry business. To this union a daughter, Delores Loretta, and a son, Charles Darryl, were born. Emma and Sigfrid were divorced in 1949 after which she married John Paul Williams who owns and operates a ranch northeast of Douglas. Emma was active in many community endeavors, serving as Superintendent of the Culinary Department of the Wyoming State Fair for 34 years.

Clara Agnes, born February 8, 1913 began a career as a beautician before she finished high school. She called the shop, which was located next door to her father's shoe shop, the Polly Prim. After completing her high school education she attended the Washington School of Cosmetology.

She was married to Roy Van Pelt in 1931, divorced in 1936; married to Jesse Martin Kraner in 1942, divorced in 1952; married to William C. Hamilton in 1952 and widowed in 1974. Her final marriage was to Gordon Fitzhugh in 1980. She was widowed in 1981. Clara lived with her mother from 1974 to 1979 at Irwin Towers. Since Fitzhugh's death she has made her home in Yuba City, California.

Helen Elizabeth was born August 8, 1914. She was married to Byron Simonson but divorced him in 1940. They were the parents of one daughter. Helen was married for the second time to Roy Amick in 1940. Roy had a son by a previous marriage. Roy and Helen were the parents of a daughter. The marriage ended in divorce in 1946. In 1946 Helen was married to C. William (Bill) Brock. They were the parents of one daughter. Bill was engaged in the ranching business in Wyoming. Later they moved to Nevada and continued in that business. Bill passed away in April of 1985.

Anna and Andrew were members of the Catholic Church and raised all their children in that faith. Anna was married to Edward Hunter in 1940. They made their home in Douglas. Mr. Hunter died on December 6, 1957 and Anna lived in the family home until she moved to Irwin Towers in 1974. She died in 1979 and is buried in the Douglas Park Cemetery.

The Pfeifers had eight grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

Emma Williams



Andrew Pfeifer in his Shoe Repair Shop 1914



## Philbrick, Oscar and Lizzie Family

Frank Hutchinson Philbrick, born April 8, 1880 in Grinnell, Iowa, came to Wyoming in 1898 and died November 1941.

Frank first worked for U.S. Grant and then at other ranches around the area.

Frank married Mary Ann Sullivan, June 14, 1909 at her folks' home on LaPrele Creek (Will and Nora Sullivan.) She was born October 6, 1887 at Granite Canyon, Wyoming.

Mary came to Converse County in a covered wagon from Granite Canyon near Cheyenne.

Frank bought the Johnson ranch on Boxelder Creek where they first lived in a two-story log home. Two boys were born here, William Nathan, born March 8, 1910 and Lawrence Frank "Buzz", born August 15, 1911.

Frank's father, Oscar Nathan Philbrick, (born 1851, died 1921), and wife, Lizzie, came to Laramie where Lizzie's sister lived. Grandmother died about this time and is buried at Laramie. After a visit there, Grandfather came on to spend time with us.

Grandfather then located in Glenrock and took a job hauling mail from Glenrock to Boxelder, a job he had for many years.

In 1913 Dad bought the Charley Smith ranch on Boxelder Creek. He bought the ranch from his brother-in-law Ray Pierce and we moved to the ranch. It is still known as the Philbrick Ranch.

We raised cattle, hogs, turkeys and chickens. Mother sold milk, cream, cheese, eggs and chickens for immediate cash. In the fall we shipped cattle.

Three more children were born in this union, James H. (January 13, 1915), Noramae (May 22, 1922) and Mary Ann, 1925 who died at birth.

I only went to school through the eighth grade. I then



Frank and Mary Philbrick, 1916, holding son, Jim. Bottom left to right: Lawrence "Buzz" and Bill.

Beaver Oct 9/1904

Mrs Wm C. Sullivan

As the seats in the School House of District 21 are all occupied, and there are no spare books; and as your children were not given in in our district, and our district does not get their School money, we are forced to notify you that your children cannot attend school here, unless you pay tuition for them at the rate of \$2.50 per month each and furnish seats and books for them. Tuition fee to be paid in advance each month.  
Frank Curtis  
Alb. Urban.

Letter to Mrs. Sullivan from Beaver School Board

went to work that summer stacking hay for Charley Grant and other neighbors. In 1937 I went to work in the oil fields and when the second World War started I was called into the service. After returning from the service, I went back to the oil fields and was sent to Lance Creek. While in Lance Creek, I met and married Mary Larsen, December 15, 1944.

In 1945 I went to work for Standard Oil Company of Indiana in Midwest, Wyoming. I stayed in Midwest until after my retirement in 1972. In 1977 we moved to our present home in Torrington.

Buzz finished high school and then went to Coyne Electric School in Chicago. After graduating he returned home and went to work for the Careyhurst Ranch which was later sold to W. E. Bixby. The ranch was managed by Buzz for four years during World War II.

Buzz married Beatrice Burks, May 31, 1939. Two boys were born to this union; Larry F. (born December 10, 1941) and James R. (August 17, 1944.)

Buzz and Bea then leased the I.G. Phillips Ranch where they lived until they bought the Edwards Ranch five miles south of Douglas on Bedtick Creek. They then moved there with their family. Buzz and Bea still reside there.

As the boys grew older, Buzz bought more land from



Fred Manning and Olins to enlarge the ranch.

Larry married Jeri Lee Olson and is now engaged in ranching with his father.

James went to college and became an electrical engineer and now works for Nerco Company and is located in Gillette.

My brother, James, grew up on my folks' ranch on Boxelder Creek, attended school at the old log school house located at Fred Grant's ranch.

James' great love was horses, so we always had many horses around. He broke many horses to ride and drive. He worked for Harry Yesness at his ranch near Casper and also the Careyhurst Ranch.

In 1937 he returned to the home ranch and lived there until his death in 1985.

James married Ruth Putnam in 1943 and to this union were born two daughters; Ella Marie and Sarah Ann.

Mother and Noramae then moved to Douglas where Noramae went to work in the courthouse. She worked there until she married John Pexton, October 2, 1948.

John and Noramae Pexton lived on their own ranch on LaBonte. They had five children. Noramae passed away July 9, 1972. Mary Ann Philbrick passed away September 30, 1955.

William Philbrick



Mr. and Mrs. Lou Steckley and son, Donald, taken at homestead in 1940.

## Phillips Family

My brothers, George, Charles, Warren and Cecil Phillips and I, Velma (Steckley), played a small part in the heritage of Converse County, Wyoming.

Our father, George, was a baby when his parents,



Charles Phillips standing in front of his sod house on his homestead in Wyoming, 1930.

Frank and Margaret (Fox) Phillips, natives of Pennsylvania, came to Nebraska, making the journey in a covered wagon. They settled south of Alliance in 1887. George grew up there. When he became of age, he filed on a homestead in Cherry County, Nebraska in 1900. He married Jessie Piester on June 4, 1900. Her grandfather was one of the earliest settlers of La Salle County, Illinois, settling there in 1847. Jessie was six years old when her parents, Benjamin and Amanda (Hadley) Piester, natives of Illinois, came by covered wagon to Nebraska and first settled west of Alliance in 1886. Later they moved to Cherry County and filed on a homestead in 1899.

George and Jessie started their life together on George's 640 acres of land with ten head of cattle Jessie's father gave her. They increased their acreage of land and herds of cattle over the years. They reared a family of 13 children, six of whom survive.

We children whose names head this sketch were raised on the ranch and received our early education in a rural school. The older boys in their early teens hired out as ranch hands on large cattle ranches, when not needed to help at home. When they became of age, they had an intense desire to own some land they could call their own, establish a home, be self-employed and independent. There was no land open for homesteading and no land for sale in Nebraska in the 1920's.

Homestead days began on a spring day in the late 1920's when we were all at home. My brother, George, had been to Mullen and had heard there was free land in Wyoming still open for homesteading. He contacted a homesteader from Wyoming, then visiting in Mullen, Ne-



Gerald Hineman and Cecil Phillips clearing sagebrush from in front of Cecil's place, 1929.

braska, who told him there was free land north of Douglas, Wyoming open for homesteading. One could file on 640 acres, establish a home, put improvements on the place, live on it for three years and the land would be his.

The spring of 1929, George, Charles, Warren, Cecil and two friends, Gerald Hineman and Ivar Rawles packed their belongings in a truck and left for Wyoming to take up claims. They took up homesteads in the same area 55 miles north of Douglas near Verse. Verse consisted of a country store and post office, owned and operated by William Boehler.

They built sod houses, added other improvements with expectation of owning land and a home of their own.

In 1930 I made my first trip to Wyoming on a visit. As I stood at the door of Cecil's soddy, gazing across the rolling plains, covered with sagebrush, observing the antelope wandering across the open spaces, I recall asking Cecil why he homesteaded on such worthless land. He told me then there was coal and oil beneath the land and someday there would be a need for it. He never lived to witness the truth of those words. I later learned that all the good land along streams and valleys had been homesteaded long before the late 1920's.

Cecil obtained a five month leave of absence to return to Nebraska in the fall of 1930 to trap for fur bearing animals. Their hides were worth a good price at that time.

It was while Cecil was in Nebraska that he met and later married Elizabeth Cain, a school teacher from Omaha, Nebraska, on September 3, 1931. They came to Wyoming to make his homestead their permanent home, but that never materialized. Cecil became ill in December, and as they planned on going to Omaha, Nebraska, to visit her parents at Christmas time, they went early so Cecil could get medical aid. He entered the hospital soon after they arrived. He passed away January 11, 1932. His wife relinquished his homestead claim and remained in Omaha with her parents.

Several weeks after Cecil's death, Charles and I came to Douglas to settle Cecil's estate. Ed Ewel advised me to contest his land and refile. The contest papers were drawn up later in January 1932. Two years later I received notice the contest was in my favor. I then filed a homestead claim on the land in January 1934. I intended to live the required length of time on the place, receive a

patent and then sell the land. I had no intention of making that place 55 miles from a town, my permanent home.

George was now thinking of having a wife and family of his own. He chose for his bride a local girl, Lucille Gladson, daughter of Elmer and Verna Gladson. George and Lucille were married April 15, 1933, at Hot Springs, South Dakota.

Due to the depression and drought, there were not jobs in Converse County for everyone. Charles and I obtained a leave of absence to return to Nebraska, where we had jobs, Charles to his on the ranch, and I to teach school near Merriman, Nebraska.

While in Nebraska, Charles was united in marriage to Edna Hull, daughter of George and Jessie Hull, on December 21, 1935, at Hot Springs, South Dakota. They then returned to Wyoming to establish residence on his homestead.

I married Lou Steckley, a native of Geddes, South Dakota, on July 6, 1934. We did not come to Wyoming to make what once was Cecil's residence our permanent home until May 9, 1936. Soon after we arrived, my husband went to work with the Verse crew on the WPA Government Program, building reservoirs, using a four horse team on a Fresno. He borrowed one team from William Boehler and the other team from Robert Hardy. For the use of the horses he gave Mr. Boehler and Mr. Hardy half of the money the government allowed for each team.

Cecil had 60 acres of the land fenced. It enclosed the buildings and had been used for a horse pasture. The land to the north and east was open range. Mortons Incorporated ran sheep and cattle on the land. The rest of my land was not fenced so we leased to Mortons Incorporated for several years, until we had a need for it. Very few of the homesteaders living in that vicinity had all their land fenced. A few had fenced a small horse pasture. What few stock they owned ran on open range.

The vicinity was thickly settled with homesteaders when we first came to live in Wyoming. Our nearest neighbor lived a half mile to the west. The Verse store and post office was three miles away. We were not experiencing the struggle and hardships of those sturdy pioneers who earlier came west to build homes.



Ivar Rawles, George and Cecil Phillips are getting ready to leave for Wyoming to file on homestead claims. 1929

We dug a well, but the water was unfit for drinking. We hauled water for drinking and household use. We never went visiting without taking our water barrels along. We used the well water to water a small garden. We later built a large reservoir and constructed an irrigation system so we could raise vegetables and other products for use during the summer and can enough for winter use. We depended on sage chickens, antelope and deer for meat. We soon began raising chickens and turkeys for meat and to sell for the much needed money.

The roads were best described as trails. The road north of Douglas was paved the first 17 miles, then graded the other 38 miles to Verse. When it got wet, some places became impassable. If a rain cloud came up while in Douglas, people would hurry home hoping to make it before the rain. The side roads were trails. A paved highway from Douglas to Gillette was finally completed around 1945.

Neighbors exchanged help on jobs that were hard for one person to do alone. When cutting and storing ice for summer use, several neighbors lent a hand. Ice boxes were used for keeping food from spoiling. There was no electricity and no refrigerators.

People seldom locked their houses when they were gone. A cowboy or someone passing through was welcome to help himself to a cup of coffee and a snack. A thank you note left on the table told who was there. In those days seldom did anything turn up missing.

Due to the great depression and drought years of the 1920-1939, many settlers' and ranchers' crops failed. With no jobs available, they became discouraged, gave up their land and moved away, or sold it back to the government before patent, or after patent to more successful neighbors. Prices the government paid for land was based on the value of the land, improvements made, how long the owner had lived on it and if it was sold before or after patent. The average price ranged from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per acre.

Many settlers sold and moved away, including George, Charles, Warren and their two friends, Gerald and Ivar. George, his wife and two daughters moved to LaCleda, Idaho where he owned and operated a garage and filling station. He later owned and operated the North Idaho Drillers until he suffered a heart attack and died June 9, 1962.

Charles and his wife moved to Casper. He owned and operated the Phillips Tire Shop until 1951. After that, he owned and operated a lawn mower repair service up until the time of his death on September 23, 1963.

Warren sold to Mick Hardy. He enlisted in the Army in World War II in 1942 and served in Unit 1059 Combat Engineers for five years. He bought a place at Harper, Oregon, where he owned and operated the Phillips Gas Station and Mechanic Shop for years. He never married. He is now semi-retired and runs a few sheep on his place, raises a big garden and cares for his fruit orchard.

My husband and I decided to be with the thrifty ones and stay. With faith, courage and determination we looked forward to brighter days.

The government was to allot government land to the people that stayed so they could make a living. We purchased two milk cows to freshen soon, which would provide us with dairy products and milk for bum lambs.

Henry Thomas and John Wohlford gave their lambs to us rather than let them starve. The ewe lambs we kept to get a start in the sheep business, and the wether lambs we sold in the fall for extra cash.

Our son Donald Eugene arrived May 9, 1938 to brighten our home. We now had need to expand, so we added a frame kitchen, pantry and sun porch onto the south side of the house.

My husband Lou joined the Verse shearing crew and sheared sheep in the spring for a number of years. We both worked for Jesse Morsch at the Antelope Coal Mine during the winter of 1941-1942. Lou worked in the mine and I cooked for the hired help. Coal was loaded by hand on the truck.

During World War II many men were called to serve their country and there was a need for teachers. I went back to teaching school in January 1943 and completed 30½ years as a school teacher in Converse County, Wyoming.

Donald's first eight years of schooling were in the rural schools. He was a very active, six year member of 4-H.

We lived on the homestead for 15 years. When Donald was ready for high school in 1952 we purchased a home in Douglas and a few years later made Douglas our permanent residence.

I still own the land, and with the help of grandchildren, it is still in operation.

Donald graduated from the Douglas high school in May 1956. He married Janice Faye Cole, daughter of Elvin and Cora (Lees) Cole of Douglas, on November 22, 1956. They have two daughters, Janet Louise, now Mrs. Danny Martin of Guernsey and Donita Jean, now Mrs. Fred Kirchhefer of Douglas.

I'm proud to be numbered among the pioneers of Converse County and to be a part of the things they stood for: the courage, the fairness, the neighborliness, with faith and strength of spirit.

Velma Phillips Steckley

## Pickinpaugh, Ralph and Susie

John W. Pickinpaugh and Pearl May Gregg Pickinpaugh raised their family of nine children on a farm near Alton, Kansas. One of their sons, Ralph, was born in Alton, Kansas in 1894; he received his education in Kansas and Iowa. When Ralph was a teenager, his family moved to Stuart, Nebraska, where his father farmed on a rental basis. In the fall of 1915, Ralph came to Wyoming to homestead. His claim was located in the Shawnee community. He began the procedure of proving up, constructing the required dwelling, and plowing the necessary acreage. The original homestead house still stands after all these years.

In April of 1916, Ralph returned to Stuart, Nebraska, to claim his sweetheart as his bride. Susie Mildred Humphreys Pickinpaugh was the daughter of Joseph Oscar and Maryetta Hinkley Humphreys, one of several children. She was born in 1898 in Stuart, and received her education there.

Ralph and Susie traveled by train to Shawnee, arriving there on June 4, 1916, to begin their lives on the

homestead. They farmed, and, in addition, raised cattle and sheep. During the next several years, six children were born to them. They are: Mary (Bunning); Susie (Lee); Helen (Scott), deceased; Goldie (Wright); Floyd, deceased; and on March 26, 1924, the last child Johnie K. was born.

All the Pickinpaugh children were educated in Shawnee; they completed high school in Douglas.

Through the years, the Pickinpaughs acquired several adjacent homesteads increasing their acreage.

Johnie served in the armed forces in World War II, returning home in 1946 to become engaged in the ranching business with his father. In 1944, Johnie married Patricia Rodgers. The couple had three children: Pamala (Anderson) of Glenrock; Kenneth; and Vicki (Willey) of Riverton.

In 1966, Ralph and Susie celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, after which they turned most of the working operation of the ranch over to Johnie and semi-retired. They continued to live in their home on the ranch.

Patricia passed away on February 26, 1971. Ralph died October 12, 1971.

In 1972, Johnie bought the original homestead and has since added more acreage to the ranch. He and Kenneth operate the ranch together.

In 1976, Johnie married Elizabeth "Liz" Stanford. Prior to her marriage, she cooked in several Douglas restaurants including the LaBonte Hotel and Country Inn. Liz has developed her artistic talent, as well as helping on the ranch and with the grandchildren. She has completed many beautiful paintings. Her subject matter deals mainly with landscapes and old buildings which are found in the rural areas, and for which she obviously has a deep affection and understanding.

Susie remained in her home until 1982 when she entered Michael Manor due to failing health.

Johnie was an ASCS employee for a number of years; now he serves on the local Soil Conservation District board.

Johnie K. Pickinpaugh

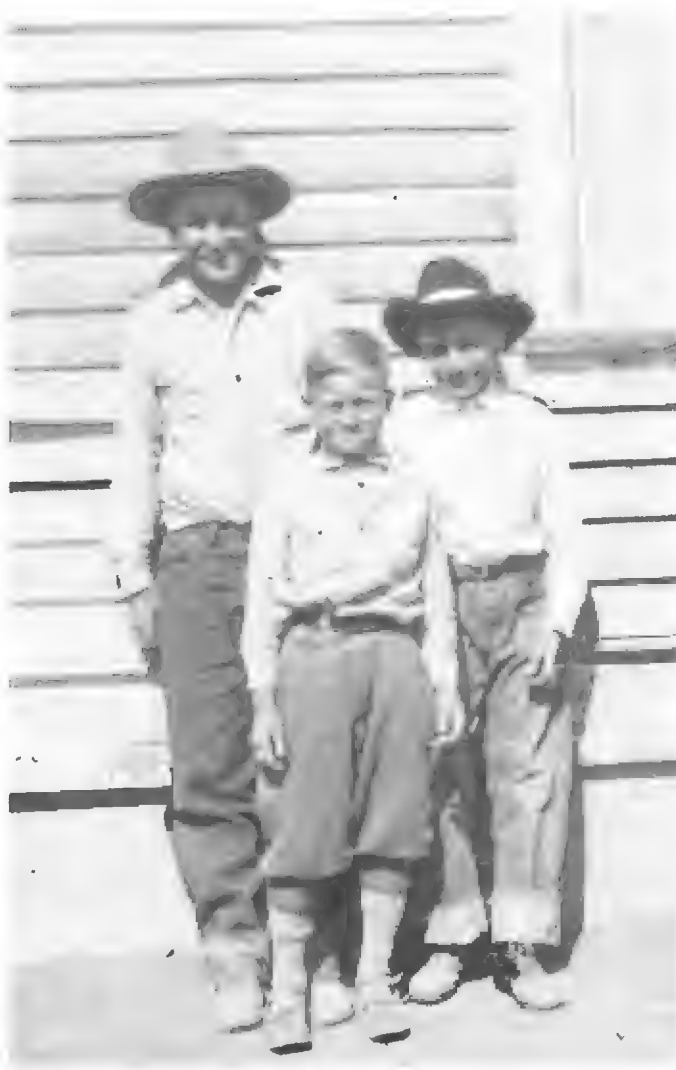
## Picklesimer Family

Archie Picklesimer was the first of the family to come to Wyoming, coming in 1900.

Archie was the son of Thomas W. and Margaret Green Picklesimer. He was born in Highlands, North Carolina in 1879. He, or his Dixie Sheep Company, owned the following lands: Cow Creek Ranch, located near the Cow Creek Buttes northeast of Douglas; Taylor Patterson Ranch on LaBonte Creek (purchased in 1915); the Guthrie or Gibson Ranch on West Fork LaBonte Creek; and Ullman Park, southwest of Esterbrook, was owned for a short time before his death.

He never married. Archie's death in 1935 was the result of an auto accident that occurred near his ranch on LaBonte. The vehicle in which he was riding met another vehicle on the top of a hill on the nearby county road and Archie was fatally injured.

Several of his nephews and one niece were also in Converse County. They were: Archie Alexander, Harry, Haywood, and Tom Picklesimer, and Greta Picklesimer Edwards.



L. to r. Fred Edwards, Marion Watson and Michael Shonsey 1935

Archie Alexander, the son of George and Zelia Picklesimer Alexander, was born in 1902 in Lake Toxaway, North Carolina. He came to Wyoming in 1919 and herded sheep in the Lysite, Wyoming area before coming to his uncle's place north of Douglas. He eventually owned the Cow Creek Ranch. He died in Douglas in 1979.

Harry Picklesimer, the son of DeWit and Shellie Miller Picklesimer, was born in 1903 in Highlands, North Carolina. Coming to Wyoming in 1920, he worked for his Uncle Archie and for his cousin, Haywood Picklesimer. Harry is living in Highlands in 1985.

Greta Picklesimer Edwards, the daughter of DeWit and Shellie Picklesimer, was born in Highlands in 1897. She came to Converse County in 1920 with her husband, Ed Edwards, and homesteaded on Lightning Creek.

Greta married Ed F. Edwards on December 25, 1919. They had one son, Fred "Brevity", and one daughter, Lucille.

The Edwards lived for a time on the "Dad" Morton place on LaBonte Creek. Fred and Lucille attended school at the White School while the family lived there.

Fred married Virginia Dawes, the daughter of Jim and Alice Snyder Dawes. They moved to Jordon,



Montana where they lived on a ranch. Fred died in October 1970.

Lucille married Dennis Irwin, son of Charles and Ruth Irwin. Lucille died on March 13, 1979.

Ed died in December 1964; Greta on September 8, 1983.

Haywood Picklesimer, son of Henry and Effie Alley Picklesimer, was born in Highlands, North Carolina on July 3, 1902. Converse County became his permanent home in 1923 when he homesteaded at the foot of Eagle Peak in the Laramie Mountains. He married Ruby Gunn Paige on October 24, 1949. Ruby had one daughter, Elnora (Payne Brow), by a previous marriage. Haywood died on June 8, 1970; Ruby on March 10, 1970.

Tom Picklesimer, son of Henry and Effie Alley Picklesimer, was born in 1907 in Highlands. Tom came west to join his cousins and uncle in 1927. He came by freight train and was arrested for not having a train ticket; whereupon the court sentenced him to 60 days of hard labor on a rock crew. After arriving in Wyoming he went to work for his Uncle Archie herding sheep. It was to be his life for twelve years before he returned to North Carolina.

John R. Pexton

## Piraino, Guy and Rose Family

The Pirainos homesteaded in Lost Springs, Wyoming the month of October 1916. Guy built the two room log cabin. The school we attended was five miles from our home. Our transportation to school was on horseback and sometimes we had to use the horse and buggy. My parents were both born in Italy, a town called Palermo. They were married in Peru, Illinois at St. Valentines Church in 1906.

On or about 1916, Dad (Guy) and his brother, Guiseppe, went to Wyoming to homestead, which is Section 17 & 19 in Converse County. Dad farmed the land for seven years. The living conditions that my parents and family went through were a nightmare. Mom (Rose) had two miscarriages and almost died. She had to melt snow to wash our clothes. Dad dug a well; but he always hit hard rock, and it would always come up dry. So we had to haul our water on sled from a spring nearby. Because of the poor farming land and severe weather, my father decided that his family suffered enough so that was when he decided to move back east to LaSalle, Illinois and start his life over again. However, he left the homestead in care of his brother, Guiseppe. Several years later his brother had an accident with run away horses and died.

When Dad moved to LaSalle, Illinois he went to work in the coal mines. My parents had eleven children. One girl, Mamie died at the age of seven from scarlet fever. A boy, Frankie, died at the age of six months. Two boys, Tony and Joe, died in the service. Seven are still living. Dad, Guy Piraino, Sr., was born October 17, 1880. He died March 17, 1951. Mom, Rose Piraino, was born December 22, 1889. She died July 10, 1980. Joe and Tony were born in the log cabin in Lost Springs, Wyoming.

Names of Children

Guy Jr. born December 21, 1909

Vince born February 2, 1912



L. to R.: Mike Canale, Mrs. Canale, Guy Piraino. Middle Row: Guy Jr., Vince and Rose Piraino. Bottom Row: Geraldine, Josephine and Joe Piraino.

Josephine born March 25, 1914  
Geraldine born October 17, 1916  
Joe born December 15, 1918  
Tony born January 15, 1920  
Rose born November 27, 1924  
Marion born January 12, 1926  
Minnie born April 1, 1928

In conclusion: Through the years the land had been leased to several ranchers; but as of today it is leased to Mr. Ted Pennington of Lost Springs, Wyoming in Converse County.

Guy Piriano

## Poirot, Emile and Nevada

This is the story of Emile Joseph Poirot and his wife, Nevada Byxby. Their daughter, Mildred, was my mother. I am Patricia Spracklen Magee.

Emile came to America from Lorraine, France, where he was born July 7, 1866. During his young manhood he served in the French army and saw two years in Tripoli. He came to America in 1891 and came directly to Converse County; this became his home. He was an active member of Company F of the Wyoming National Guard. He was with the American Expeditionary Forces during the trouble in Mexico. He would have enlisted for services in World War I but his age was against him and he was sent home by the war department.





Emile and Nevada Poirot 1917

Nevada Byxby was born in Promise City, Iowa August 21, 1874. She came to Douglas and married Emile July 9, 1898. After her children were grown up and some of them married, she took out a homestead south of Douglas on the Esterbrook Road east of the old Charlie Reid place in 1930. She leased the grass out for summer pasturage. She eventually sold the place and moved back to Douglas where she lived until her death August 18, 1955. She was one of eleven children born to Sarah Elizabeth Cresey and William Richard Byxby. They were married in 1873 and lived in Wayne County, Iowa.

Emile and Nevada had five children, Leon, Mildred, Marie, Lorraine and Wilber. He took out a homestead north of Douglas near the railroad bridge on the Platte River. He had been suffering from heart trouble for a few months and died a few months before his 55th birthday on June 17, 1921. Emile and Nevada are both buried in the Douglas Cemetery.

Emile had a brother, Eugene, living in Douglas. He was born September 19, 1874 in Epinal, France. He ranched in central Wyoming and on October 12, 1897 married Edith Brockway at Casper, Wyoming. They had two sons; Charles of Salem, Oregon and George of Douglas, Wyoming. One daughter, Beatrice, was born September 17, 1898. She married Fred George on January 1, 1918. She died May 11, 1935.

Patrica Spracklen Magee

## Pollard, Charles and Sophia

Charles A. Pollard was born in Boston, Massachusetts on April 18, 1848. Coming to the west as a young man, he resided in Alton, Illinois for a time and later in Council Bluffs, Iowa before coming to Cheyenne. In June 1878 he settled on the Laramie River some 15 miles west

of Fort Laramie. The Post Sutler at Fort Laramie, John S. Collins, was associated as a partner with Charles in the Laramie River ranch operation and also on the LaBonte ranch.

On September 12, 1868 Charles married Sophia Elizabeth Jones in Omaha, Nebraska. Sophia was born in Elizabethtown, Ontario, Canada in 1843. Their children were: May Belle (died in infancy); Harry P. (born December 28, 1870, died January 12, 1958); Caroline J. (born January 14, 1873, died December 1944); and Percy Edwin (born September 25, 1874).

Coming to Albany County and what is now Converse County in 1884, the Pollard family settled on LaBonte Creek at the site of the old stage station.

U.S. Postal Service records show that Pollard became postmaster of the LaBonte Post Office on June 17, 1884. His predecessors were Joseph H. Flagalther on February 14, 1878, John Gordon on June 24, 1880, and A. Garth on September 24, 1880. The post office was discontinued from January 26, 1881 to May 4, 1881, when Billy Bacon took the position until the Pollards started.

George H. Cross Sr. tells in his memoirs the following about Flagalther, "A Belgian named Joe Flagathier (Cross' spelling of the name is different than the U.S. Postal Service records) lived in a two room building near this famous LaBonte Crossing, utilizing one room as a bar, which had everything but a brass rail and included a pool table and was a favorite stopping place for government freighters, bull whackers, mule skinner and cowboys. Jokingly they said, 'Joe freights up a barrel of alcohol from Cheyenne, after watering it down, adds a few rattlesnake heads, some coffee, red pepper and tobacco juice and sells it for 25¢ a drink. The cowboys called it 'rot gut'. Joe could have given valuable tips to more recent moonshiners for making a blend of fighting whiskey, it was said, 'The first drink was a shock, the second made a man forget his name and the third transported the wild man of Borneo to Wyoming Territory.'"

Mr. Pollard served as a Converse County Commissioner from 1889 to 1891.

Sophia died on September 30, 1893: Charles on March 31, 1895.

Harry married Jeanniene "Jennie" Olivereau on December 16, 1897. Jennie was born in Cheyenne on March 18, 1876. She came to Douglas in 1886 when her parents the "French" Olivereaus came and started the LaFayette Restaurant. Their children were: Julia (born on September 28, 1898, died on March 1966, she became a Catholic nun); Ruth (born on December 25, 1899); Elsie (born on February 19, 1912); Caroline (born on April 27, 1914); and Harry (born on June 22, 1916).

Harry and Jennie bought the LaBonte ranch in 1910. They also owned at one time the ranch where Jim Fitzhugh lives on Wagonhound Creek and the place that Dennis Daly has also on Wagonhound. They sold out in 1917 and moved to town where they bought the Bozart Harness Shop on North Second Street (it was where the City Shoe Shop is in 1985). Harry died on January 12, 1958; Jennie in June 1968.

Caroline married C. H. McWhinnie. She wrote the following story in 1939 about one of her first Christmases on LaBonte.

"The first Christmas which I can remember of

having a part in was 45 years ago. At that time I was unmarried. My mother had been dead two years and my father had passed away earlier of that same year. We prepared a Christmas tree and some gifts for the children of our neighbors, the Kerns. Mrs. Kern, Sarah to me, had come to Wyoming from Ireland as a young girl of 18 and had lived with our family for several years. Since I had no real sister she had filled the place of one in my life as a girl. Several years before this particular Christmas she had married and she and her husband had settled on her homestead close by our home ranch.

"My brothers, the man who worked for us and myself got our presents and tree ready and took them, on Christmas eve, to the Kern home, about two and one half miles away. Sarah entertained the three children in the kitchen while the rest of us set up the tree, decorated it and placed the gifts about it. Decorations for a Christmas tree were limited, one couldn't just drop into the dime store and purchase the things needed. Some of the things used on the tree included long strings of red cranberries and popcorn. Another bright addition to the trimmings was made by cutting out two different lengths of straw and threading it on string separated by puffs of red tissue paper. The golden color of the straw showed up well on the green Christmas tree. Red apples and bright yellow oranges were tied to the branches of the tree as were walnuts covered with tinfoil. Several evenings preceding Christmas were spent in the big kitchen at home getting these decorations ready to be placed on the tree. Small tallow candles were used for lighting the tree and the fire risk was constantly on one's mind until the last candle had been blown out.

"When the children were brought in, after everything was ready, their delight and pleasure at sighting this spectacle was gratifying. I had spent some time in dressing a doll for the little Kern girl and she could see nothing but the doll. That sight of the children discovering all these things repaid for our time. I am sure that you would have felt as I did at that time, many times paid for all the trouble of getting this Christmas ready."

Percy "Ted" married Edith Anne Austin on April 22, 1896. Charlie Reid tells the following about Ted and his bride, "Ted Pollard got his marriage license in Laramie and came to Douglas where he found it impossible to get married, as he was in a different county. The wedding party drove by team, about 30 miles south of Douglas, crossed the line into Albany County and were married under a pine tree, still standing, beside the Esterbrook Road."

Ted and his family moved away in 1902.

John R. Pexton

## Pollock, George and Molly Family

Our maternal grandfather, M. George Howe, (b. 1858) came to Wyoming from Sharon, Vermont in the 1880's. He and his brother, Paul, ran a band of sheep up in the Laramie Peak area. He brought to that area his wife, Elizabeth, from Vermont. She gave birth to our mother, Molly, in 1887 between Laramie and Eagle Peak but was soon taken to Crawford, Nebraska where Paul's wife lived and she died of tuberculosis in 1888. George remarried

and operated a ranch in the Glendo area and then purchased and operated the hotel in the thriving metropolis of Orin Junction. While living there he raised and trained sheep dogs and also became actively involved in the government of the new state of Wyoming by serving in the legislature in Cheyenne two different terms of office.

Our mother was a young lady by then and met our dad, George N. Pollock, (b. 1860) in Orin Junction. Dad came to Wyoming from Mexia, Texas as a young man by joining up with a cattle drive over the Texas Trail. He did a little gold mining in Hartville, tended bar in what is now known as the oldest bar in the state. Drove stage coach between Ft. Laramie and Ft. Fetterman and was a cow-puncher for the Jim Shaw spread. He filed on a homestead between the Nylen/Gillespie and Shaw ranches.

They were married in the Howe home along the bank of the North Platte River and moved over to his homestead. Eleven children came along, seven lived to adulthood. Dad died of pneumonia in the winter of 1928 in Douglas. Dr. Shaffer came to the ranch and took him to the hospital. George Howe died in 1925.

The Pollock Ranch was located at the mouth of Indian Creek which had its origin up in the "Pine Hills" south of the ranch. Nearly every year we had to contend with flash floods which washed out fences, trees and flooded the meadows west of the ranch, even washing out the railroad tracks on occasion and the highway bridges.

The Pollock School was located north of the ranch and accommodated children for miles around. Good neighbors were the Nylen/Gillespie spread, the Shaw Ranch and the Wilsons of the Platte Valley Ranch. The Shaw/Grays ultimately purchased our ranch and still own it. Orin Junction was our closest place to buy groceries.

None of the Pollock family live in the area although John still lives in Converse County on his ranch south of Douglas. He and Maxine (Raeber) have children and grandchildren. George "Bud" died near Keeline, Wyoming where he had lived and worked on the Dan Smith Ranch. Margaret lived in Chicago most of her adult life and died there. She married Leonard Nylen of Douglas. Martha lived in California. She and Earl Silvers have children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Dorothe lives in Hartville. She and John Chiamulon have children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, most of them living in the state. Natalie lives in Oregon. She and Howard Stoll have children and grandchildren. Howard died at their son's home in Laramie in 1981. Dona has lived in Las Vegas most of her adult life. She and Cedric Olson have a child and grandchildren.

Our life as children was much the same as other ranch families. As soon as school was out in the spring we began herding our band of sheep or helping in the hay field. Our mode of travel was team and wagon, horseback or depending on good neighbors for a ride to town. Cars were not plentiful and at best recollection we owned only one or two after dad died. Calving, branding, shearing sheep, tamping wool, butchering, raising a garden, gathering wild berries, fighting snow drifts to get the quarter of a mile to the Pollock School, piling into a friend's car and repairing flat tires about every mile to get to a local dance to hear the Gillespie boys play, neighbors gathering on a Sunday to freeze ice cream

using the ice cut from the frozen Platte River in the winter and stored in the icehouse, having mother play the piano at dances in our barn before haying season, ice skating and most evenings spent at home keeping warm by wood and coal stoves, lights furnished by carbide and by kerosene and gas lamps, listening to phonograph records (no radios), doing lots of reading including the occasional pleasure of getting the "Denver Post" and reading and re-reading the "funnies"; a sometimes harsh life but typical of that era. Natalie Pollock Stoll

## Porter, James and Family

James Ross Porter, born February 13, 1850, received a final homestead certificate May 26, 1920, from Commissioner of General Land Office, Department of Interior for S. 26 T34N, R69W. During homesteading days a one room tarpaper house and small shed were built, 40 acres of land were plowed and seeded, and the section was fenced. For a short time James' tenth son, Marion Grant, and wife, Queen, lived on the section.

James Ross Porter lived in eastern Nebraska and traveled extensively as an itinerant preacher, and later, being widowed, he traveled to his daughter's home in Santa Cruz, California where he died December 18, 1929.

November 19, 1921 a warranty deed was issued to David A. and Signa M. Porter, husband and wife. David was the seventh of James Ross Porter's twelve children.

The summer of 1922, David, Signa and their six children, moved from Morrill, Nebraska to live on the section. The improvements soon consisted of a water well, two-room house, a barn, chicken coup, bunkhouse, outhouse, approximately ten head of horses, 28 cows, 200 chickens, hogs, one dog, cats, a Model T Ford and farm equipment.

David had a health problem, but was able to be bus driver for the children who attended the rural Walker Creek School. The family farmed the land and became respected members in the Twenty Mile community, attending the Twenty Mile Community Church. On July 17, 1926 a baby daughter, Ruth, was born in Douglas, Wyoming. During the next 13 years the children grew toward adulthood. Daughter Marian became a teacher at the Pleasant Point Rural School, the three older sons, James, David and Donald, graduated from the eighth grade in the Walker Creek School, and son Paul from Douglas High School, the University of Wyoming and Leland Stanford University in California. Son Howard graduated from high school in Morrill, Nebraska and daughter Ruth from North High, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

David's health worsened and he died at his home May 6, 1932, leaving five minor children. Signa struggled on through the drought years of 1933-34. During these two years severe adversity had to be overcome. Drought took the crops, son Howard had surgery for ruptured appendix, daughter-in-law Audrey had surgery for gall stones and James and Audrey's 18-month-old daughter died. The government bought and shot the cattle, and one hot August morning the house burned to the ground. All of the family escaped the fire. The neighbors rallied around the family and soon a three-room house and furnish-

ings were donated. The family continued to live there until Signa remarried in August 1935.

June 1935, Donald married Martha Hageman and they leased the section from Signa, who moved to Morrill, Nebraska, taking Howard and Ruth with her. Paul remained with Don and finished high school in Douglas, Wyoming.

The last ones to live on the section were Donald and Martha. Severe drought and grasshopper infestation convinced them to move on. After the war years they owned and operated the Porter's Blacksmith Shop in Douglas, Wyoming for 15 years.

Signa leased the grass to Paul and George LeBar who still hold the lease. Signa's second husband, George Porter, died in Morrill, Nebraska, March 20, 1937. She then moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota to care for her ailing father. She died September 30, 1972.

Donald tells three true stories about rattlesnakes during the 1920s. James Ross, the homesteader, was chopping wood, bent down to pick up a piece and a rattler bit his finger. He promptly laid the finger on the chopping block and with the ax, chopped off the finger. He rode to town on horseback and had the hand cared for and dressed.

The three young boys were in the yard, when they killed a rattler near the door. They later saw the mate in the yard. One boy took the shotgun and shot the head off the snake. The head shot through the air and the fangs lodged in the other boy's knee. Excitedly they took him in the kitchen, used a paring knife, cut open the knee, sprinkled on "Pinagnate of Potash," then took him to town in the car. The doctor said all poison was gone and the knee healed completely.

The two older boys were repairing the combine, one underneath on his back, when they saw a rattler beside him. He laid very still while the other boy tried to scare it away. Instead, the snake crawled across the boy's chest and neck, then crawled away. This was a rather exciting incident in his life.

Now in 1984, nearly 50 years later, the seven children have scattered to many states. All have married, and there are 17 living grandchildren, 50 great-grandchildren, and 14 great-great-grandchildren. The oldest and youngest, the two girls, have died, but the five sons are still living.

The section of land still belongs to the Porter family and is held in a living trust, with Donald A. Porter named as trustee. The farmed land has mostly returned to native grass, the earthen dam still holds water and many antelope roam on the land. There are no buildings or improvements left, only a few rocks that were used as a foundation for the house. There is a large sand rock near the place where the house stood. Through the years many members of the family have gone there and carved their initials in the rock. This has become a tradition as members of the family come back to Wyoming to visit the section.

Martha F. Porter

## Porter, Leo and Ruth

Leo Porter was born on May 28, 1896 in Indianola, Iowa and I, Ruth Wood, was born in Fort Dodge, Iowa on February 25, 1906. Our family moved to Broken Bow, Nebraska; and it was there I met Leo when he was working on a road crew. When I was 14 we were married at O'Neill, Nebraska. We then came to the homestead northeast of Douglas in 1921 that he had acquired from his sister and brother-in-law. We had a one room house with bare wooden floors. We made cupboards of wooden boxes and folding beds to conserve space. The annual wall-papering was done with clean newsprint. Until we were able to drill water wells we carried what we needed in pails or hauled it in barrels from the neighbors. The wells were not much of an improvement as the water was so bad it was only fit for the garden. The stock refused to drink it until a thick scum had risen to the top and could be blown aside. As poor as it was, it raised a good garden and we were able to can and dry many vegetables for the winter.

Leo worked at every job he could find to supplement the family income. At first he plowed fields for Tom McCarty and received a team of horses and a good milk cow for it. For a time we moved to Glenrock where he worked in the refinery cleaning stills. I drove a team of horses and sprinkled the Glenrock streets to keep the dust down. I was paid by the merchants for this work and carried my baby son with me as I worked. The water tank was a hardwood tank that was taken back to the homestead and in later years owned by my son-in-law, Dale Munkres, who donated it to the Pioneer Museum. It is on display there today, but it looks much smaller to me than when I was the 17 year old street sprinkler. When we came back to the homestead to live, Leo helped dig the basement under the old C.H. Hofmann mortuary, became a field assessor for a time, also the mail carrier for the Douglas to Bill, Wyoming route.

Times were hard and the work was hard, but we filled our lives with music. Leo was a fine singer and could play classical music beautifully on the violin as well as fiddling for the country dances. I played the guitar, organ and mandolin and the Lundberg brothers, Fred, Felix and Carl, also played for these dances. The Walker Creek School House was the scene of many happy times, as the community had "literary" meetings there where they would entertain each other with debates, readings, skits, singing and playing. Our children could be coaxed to sing and the audience was delighted when our little three year old daughter, Audrey, would sing alto to harmonize with me. One particular debate at literary was between Leo, who did not drink, and a neighbor who did. Leo held a whiskey bottle filled with tea and debated the merits of being a drunkard, while the neighbor spoke against it. We played baseball and annie-over and the children made stilts and other homemade toys for recreation.

Sometimes when we had free time we made a lunch and had a picnic anywhere there was water and trees. We always made a picnic of the trips to the timber for wood and would take lunches to the city park when we had business in town. Walker Creek was such a pretty place to go with trees and grass and the little creek running by;

and oh, how good the food tasted even though it might be the same thing we would have had at home!

In the early days there were families on every 160 or 320 acres or so and we had many acquaintances and nice neighbors. I remember the single men, Tom Armagast, Sam Gilman, Louie Munkres (Muncas) and Dave Smith. Families were the Harry Gillespies, Rube and Guy May, Eddie and Clare Gillespie, Bill Hall and brothers, Harry and Frank, Harry Mitchells, Phil Helbigs, Henry Arjes, Ernest Hagemans, the Alfred Edisons, Harry Parkers and the Cologera DiGiovannis.

After Leo's untimely death in 1933 due to a massive heart attack, I later married Louis Holboy, an oilfield worker. We moved to Washington state where he, too, passed away.

Leo's and my children are: Darrell (b. November 3, 1921, d. 1937), Audrey (b. July 11, 1924, married Dale Munkres), Vernal (b. December 6, 1929, married Allen), Bonnie (b. October 12, 1931, married Jacobs) and Leo Arlene (b. September 29, 1933, married Clark). Louis and my children are: Cassie (b. July 10, 1936, d. 1939), Wendel (b. January 15, 1938), Shirley (b. September 16, 1940, married Linke) and Marian (b. February 16, 1946, married Burge).

I am presently married to Alger Lundberg and live in Sunnyside, Washington. The homestead days were many years ago but they remain in my memory as the happiest days of my life. My children and I feel that the hardships we endured only made us stronger people and we would go through most of it again.

Ruth Wood Porter Lundberg

## Potter, Robert F., Mary and Anna

Robert Francis Potter Jr. was born July 18, 1866 in Minersville, Pennsylvania, the oldest of four sons of Robert Francis Potter and Elizabeth Hodgson Potter. His father had been a very young soldier in the Union Army of the Civil War. After the war he went into the banking business in Minersville and was married there to Elizabeth Hodgson, whose grandparents came to New York state from England about 1820, moved to Pennsylvania and became U.S. citizens.

Robert Jr. was educated in Pennsylvania and was married there to Mary Knittle. They had two sons and two daughters born in Pennsylvania before moving to Wyoming in 1899, where Robert worked for the C.H. King Company in Douglas. His wife, Mary, died the first year they lived in Douglas, and the following year he moved his family to Casper where he worked for the Pennsylvania Refining Company.

In 1900 he married Anna Campsey Rohrbaugh, whose father, Dr. E. P. Rohrbaugh was one of the first physicians to practice in Casper, coming there in 1899 after practicing in Cheyenne, where he had moved in 1891 from Ellis, Kansas. Dr. Rohrbaugh was elected one of the mayors of Casper after it had become a thriving large town. He practiced medicine in Casper until his retirement.

After Robert Potter's marriage to Anna Rohrbaugh, he moved back to Douglas where he worked for the U.S. Land Office. He and his family lived in a ranch house just

across the Platte River from town. They had one daughter born there; and in 1905, Robert moved his family into the town of Douglas, where he lived until his death.

There was an established weekly newspaper in Douglas at that time, "Bill Barlow's Budget," which was well known and popular with some; but there were other citizens of Douglas who did not agree with the policies of the Budget, and Bob Potter was encouraged to start another weekly paper which he named the "Douglas Enterprise." The first location of the printing plant and office was on South Second Street.

After the presses had been set up and the first editions were printed, the office and plant were vandalized by someone, the type thrown around and papers destroyed, a difficult situation for Bob. No one was ever apprehended or prosecuted for the damage, but there were definite suspicions about who the culprits were. Shades of the old west!!

Bob's older son, Robert III, was the typesetter for the paper; but most of the rest of the work, editing, etc., was done by Bob. His wife, Anna, helped with the management at first. She had worked on a newspaper in Casper before her marriage. The paper prospered and while it was never a gold mine, it made enough to support Bob and his growing family for years.

Several years after the birth of the "Enterprise," a new building was erected on the corner of Third and Center Streets across from Daniels Jewelry Store, and the newspaper plant was moved into the semi-basement and first floor of the new building. In 1913, Albert A. "Bert" Clough, who had been the foreman for the "Budget" for 13 years, came to work for the "Enterprise" and soon became Bob's partner. After Bob's death in 1915, Bert bought Bob's widow's share of the paper and became the sole owner. He published the "Enterprise" until his death. Later the Clough heirs sold the "Enterprise" to the "Budget," the two papers were merged and are published today under the "Budget" name.

Bob Potter was very active in all community affairs and did as much as he and his paper could to further the interests of the town. The state fair was held the first week in September in Douglas and was one of his particular interests. As the years passed, the fair prospered, more buildings were built in the fairgrounds and more exhibits and people came to the fair each year. The rodeo was a great attraction for all of the ranchers and cowboys who competed in it, and the sulky horse races were also very popular. The center street of town was lined with booths and stands the week of the fair and were run by the women of the various churches selling food and handmade articles. Every night there was a dance in Temple Hall.

Except for the time he lived on the ranch across the river, he did not own a horse, but he did have a Jersey cow for several years in Douglas. Two of the houses rented by the family had barns and fenced-in stable yards for the cow, "Beauty," who gave her owners many gallons of delicious milk. Bob and his two older sons milked the cow, and Anna and the two older girls made butter and cottage cheese from part of the milk. On special occasions, delicious ice cream would be made in the wooden freezer, the whole family taking turns

turning the crank. When the mixture was "set" the ice cream was frozen, the dasher was pulled out, and the young children got to lick it!

There was one black family in Douglas then, living down the street from the Potters, and when Beauty was giving her all, one of the younger children was sent down, each evening with a bucket of milk for the family. In the summertime, there was a town herd, shepherded by one of the town boys, who took the cows out to graze on the empty land outside of town early each morning and brought them back at night. In the winter, Beauty stayed in the barn and ate hay.

When the founding fathers of Douglas laid out the town, they very wisely planned wide streets, with trees on either side. The trees were mostly cottonwoods that grew fast and gave the streets welcome shade in the summertime, when it could be very hot.

The winters were very cold and the ice that was made then for use in the summertime was one of the valuable assets of Douglas. The Platte River would freeze over to a great depth, six feet or more. The Slonaker Ice Company took their huge ice saws to a good part of the river and cut large blocks of ice that would keep the residents of Douglas supplied with ice all summer. The blocks of ice were stored in the company warehouse in sawdust until summer when they were carried in horse-drawn wagons up and down the streets of town, taking ice to each house. The ice man had a saw to cut off the right size block for the ice box of each house, which he carried in with tongs slung over his shoulder. There were always a group of children following the wagon, waiting to pick up the chips of ice after the cuts. How good and cold they tasted, no pollution in the water then!

The frozen river also gave the people of Douglas a wonderful place to ice skate and there were many who took advantage of it, skating for miles up and down the river without danger, on the thick ice. Bonfires would be built on the banks for the skaters to warm up when tired; and it was always a social occasion.

Another winter pleasure, for the kids mostly, were the sleds and sleighs that many people had. The horse-drawn sleighs took parties of people for rides on special occasions but the sleds were used every day. A kid that was lucky enough to have a rope could hitch onto the back of one of the wagons and ride as far as the horse went. And then there was David Hill! The Davids lived on a slight hill at the end of Center Street and as there were no autos going up and down the street then, it was a perfect place to slide down "belly buster" on a sled, climb back up and go down again. How fortunate the children in those days were to live in Douglas. The adults had to work hard, especially the women, but it was still a good life.

Bob Potter never owned a house in Douglas, but rented whatever was suitable for his family. As it grew, they moved into larger ones. His parents came out from Pennsylvania every few years and spent a year with the family, and that required a larger house each time. The last house he rented was on the north end of Sixth Street near the elementary school. It was a very nice, two story house, on a large lot with no other house near it so there was a large space for the children and their friends to play. Beauty was gone by then and there was no need for a barn or stable yard.



Before 1910, Bob's youngest brother, Louis B. Potter, came out to live in Douglas too and he lived there the rest of his life. He opened an insurance office which was one of the first in town and was successful.

Robert Francis Potter was a devoted son, husband and father as well as a good citizen of Douglas. When he died at the age of 49 in 1915, after abdominal surgery, many people were saddened and the town suffered a great loss. He was survived by his parents, three brothers, his widow, Anna and eight children, five of them very young. He had always been a devout Episcopalian, a member of Christ Church in Douglas and was buried from there.

The "Douglas Enterprise" was a monument to his work in Douglas and was published for many years under that name after his death.

Margaret Potter Bowman

## Powell, Clifford and Mabel

Mabel Johnson came to Douglas, Converse County, Wyoming, in 1920 to visit friends, the Wilbert Oak family, and to look into the prospect of locating a homestead.

She found two relinquishments about 37 miles northwest of Douglas but wasn't able to file on them until 1921. She worked that summer for the John LeBar family and returned to Nebraska, near Potter, to teach school for two terms.

In March of 1921 she filed on said homestead because she liked the looks of the soil there. Also the natural water conditions were better than any others she looked at. She contracted Lee Fowler, a homesteader to her west, to build a homesteader's castle, and Raymond Baker, who joined her on the north, to fence and plow her acreage for her. She was to plow eleven acres, but plowed 12 acres in which she had planted corn, oats and potatoes.

Later in the year, she married Clifford R. Powell. When he came out he drilled a well by hand and found water at a depth of about 18 or 20 feet, but the water was full of minerals, highly colored, and was not good to drink or even cook with, so she hauled all her water from Lee Fowler's. Cliff also dug a good root cellar which worked well for her food storage.

Mabel's house was much more than a homesteader's shack, although it measured only 12' x 8' it was the bedroom, dining hall, and kitchen. She had the knack of making it delightfully homey. Cliff, being a carpenter, put up shelves, built a table and other accessories, thus transforming a crude building into a very comfortable place to live. She, like many others, had the heating unit and cooking facilities furnished by the practical "Topsy" stove, a small cast iron animal with a flat top ideal for pots and pans.

Sometimes in the summer months Mabel rode her faithful saddle horse, Ted, from Potter, Nebraska to Douglas. It took her three days for the trip. On her return trip, Cliff met her at the Six Mile Hill east of Douglas in a Model T Ford, where she dismounted and led the horse on into town behind the car. The horse was so delighted to be rid of his passenger he wanted to lead the car!

In 1922, Mabel's father, Malcom Johnson, filed on the

relinquishment to her west and built his house just over the hill from her. After he proved up he made his home with his daughter until he passed away in the late 20s, leaving his homestead with her.

Mabel enjoyed her homestead days and could tell of the many fun times when she rode in the round up and brandings with Mrs. Joe Reynolds (Mary). She, like others, could tell of "fence trimmings" done by previously established "neighbors" if said fence closed a trail they were used to traveling.

After Mabel proved up she moved to Douglas where Cliff worked as a mechanic at the LeBar Garage for several years. They made any number of trips back to the homestead for the sheer pleasure of it before they moved the furnishings into town.

The Powells left Douglas in the 40's and lived in various places while doing carpenter work with the Spear Lumber Co. building different projects for the government during the war. They located in Provo, Utah and lived there until Cliff passed away in 1961 and was brought back to Douglas for his burial.

Mabel and Cliff had one son, Roger, now living in Bettendorf, Iowa and a niece, Patty Johnson, who made her home with them from early childhood until she married. Patty Johnson Gilmer now lives in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mabel sold her home in Provo and moved back to Douglas where she still resides in 1984.

Lucille Baker

## Powell, George and Margaret

George W. Powell was born on a farm near Fairfield, Jefferson County, Iowa on February 22, 1847, the son of Enos and Catherine Harper Powell. His father was a native of Kentucky and his mother a native of Indiana.

The call to go west was strong and in 1864 he went to Colorado where he was a freighter for nearly two years. In 1886 he came to Wyoming Territory, first working for a freighting outfit out of Fort Laramie; later acquiring an outfit of his own, four oxen and a wagon. He soon added two outfits. These were used to haul freight and supplies to outposts or forts, such as Fort Laramie, Fort Fetterman and Fort Caspar. During this time he contracted wood, hay and beef to the forts. In some of these enterprises he was associated with John Hunton, who was also an early day pioneer who had ranches on Chugwater, LaPrele and Box Elder Creeks.

One winter when George was on his way to Fort Fetterman from Fort Laramie his outfit was attacked by Indians near the Old Horseshoe Creek Crossing. They ran off his oxen and burned the wagons. The men had to flee and hide, escaping only with the clothes on their backs. The snow was deep and the weather very cold. They nearly froze but found a cave to hide in. The only food they had for some time was rabbits and frozen bullberries. George finally made his way to Fort Fetterman and in the spring took employment as a freighter for the Post. In August of 1876 Powell started out from Fort Fetterman with hay for Fort Laramie when he met two riders who told him that the Heck Reel Wagon Train had



George W. Powell 1906



Margaret Skogland Powell 1906

been burned and men killed by the Indians. Powell turned back to inform the Post of the Indian attack and of the death of the wagon master, George Throstle, and Irish Pete. Powell then set out with a couple of men to get the bodies of Throstle and Irish Pete and bring them back to Fort Fetterman for burial. Throstle had been scalped by the Indians.

On March 27, 1878 George married Margaret Skogland, daughter of Peter Skogland, at Fort Fetterman, Wyoming Territory.

Margaret Skogland Powell was born in Sweden November 29, 1850. She came to the United States at the age of three months. Her family settled in Iowa not far from Dayton, Iowa where they farmed. At the age of 16 Margaret came to Wyoming to assist the family of an army captain's wife whose husband was stationed at Fort Steele.

During the years at Fort Steele, Margaret, or Maggie as everyone called her, attended many of the frontier dances and other affairs at the fort. She always told of the switching of the babies at a dance and what an uproar it made. At Fort Fetterman she met George Powell and they were married at Fort Fetterman, Albany County, Wyoming Territory, March 27, 1878.

The Powells' first home was on Box Elder where they stayed for a few months, then moved to LaPrele Creek where they established permanent residence in 1878.

Mrs. Powell was a true pioneer. She and George built an adobe house on the creek. On September 6, 1879 their first child, Georgie Maud, was born. Twelve years later their second daughter, Gertrude A., was born on November 24, 1891. Gertrude died in 1915.

Mrs. Powell was on the ranch alone with Maud while George freighted from Medicine Bow and Laramie City to Fort Fetterman. Once a year they would go to Laramie City for supplies. They went in the freight wagon. Mrs. Powell always had a canary and took the bird and baby Maud with them in the wagon.

Many travelers stopped at the Powell Ranch on their way through the country. Mrs. Powell always had a meal ready for them, and many lasting friendships were made. The men on the freight wagons who worked with George always started cleaning up the day before they reached the Powell ranch so they could see the baby. They brought gifts to baby Maud. A pin and locket are still worn by great granddaughters.

Mrs. Powell had many visits from Indians so she learned to shoot to protect herself. Usually the Indians just wanted something to eat. She told of one Indian who came after she had baked pumpkin pies in anticipation of the return of the freight wagons. She had just put the pies on the window sill to cool when an Indian came to the door. The Indian rubbed his stomach and made known he wanted something to eat. He was offered bread and meat,

but he gestured toward the pies. Mrs. Powell didn't want to anger him so she let him have some, but he wasn't satisfied until he had eaten all of the big pie. He then went to the haystack to sleep and was gone when George and the freighters came in.

Powell took out the first water right on LaPrele Creek. His Powell Ditch #1 was a Territorial Right with priority to 1878. In 1884 he took out another water right and the ditch was named the Powell-Ayres Ditch. He brought the first alfalfa seed into this part of the country. The neighbors were afraid it was something bad, but after seeing the first crop of hay they too wanted alfalfa.

Mr. and Mrs. Powell made their home on the LaPrele Ranch for many years and in 1903 built a home in Douglas on North 5th Street. Mr. Powell served a term as a member of the city council. During that time our beautiful cemetery was plotted and lots sold to many of the prominent people. George had the bodies of his two brothers, Wm. H. and James M., moved from the old cemetery north of town to the new cemetery.

Mr. Powell started and operated one of the first saw mills in this section of the state. It was located in the Esterbrook Country, and many of the first ranch homes were constructed of or used some of this lumber. He sawed, hauled, and donated the lumber to build the Pleasant Valley School House in School District No. 6 which now stands on the state fairgrounds as a pioneer relic. He was a horse fancier and raised many fine Morgan horses in addition to sheep and cattle.

In 1905 Mr. Powell and Mart Madsen went to Cheyenne to be taken into the Masonic Order. He was a 32 Degree Mason. He enjoyed trips to Cheyenne to attend the Consistory until his health began to fail.

Mr. Powell disliked any kind of publicity and avoided having his name or picture in the papers.

George W. Powell passed away December 12, 1924 at his home in Douglas and is buried in the Douglas cemetery. Margaret died on January 4, 1941.

Georgie M. married Thomas Hutchison in 1897.

Agnes Hutchison Wiker



Homer and Beulah Powell

hills they had a fight with the Indians and four were killed. He cut their heads, hands and feet off and scalped them. He had removed the flesh from the bones by scraping.

"One of the scalps was a woman's. These relics, along with others, were later displayed at his drug store in Douglas. When he put his collection on exhibit at the first state fair at Douglas was when I discovered that he was the same fellow that I had met at the Hat Creek Stage Station in the fall of 1876."

Billy found work "whacking bulls" in Wyoming. Another incident he relates is as follows, "In 1879 when I worked for Williams, he had 14 strings of yoke bulls, with three wagons to a string. We loaded 1000 pounds to a steer. Our first load was for Ft. McKinney. One team we called the 'Tenderfoot' team and their names were 'Mike' and 'Paddy.' This name was always given to a new beginner, or the last man on the job. They were wise. When they came to a hill they would almost always stop and turn the yoke and face the rest of the team. Then the wagon boss would come along and holler 'A-Ha, Mike and Paddy' and the leaders would turn the yoke back and away they would go."

In 1884 Billy met and married Miss Alice M. Sherwin, a school teacher from Kansas. They settled in Tie Siding, Wyoming where he found work on nearby ranches and sawmills.

Grandpa and Grandma had six children. They were: Laura, born March 27, 1885, died on April 15, 1955; Jessie, born November 3, 1886; Homer, born January 8, 1888, married Beulah A. Hart (she died in 1981), died December 16, 1965, children are Dallas, Lorraine, Irma, Morris, Fred, Billy, Bobby and George; Warren, born June 11, 1889, married Elsie O'Brien, Warren died

## Powell, William "Billy" and Alice

Grandpa was born April 15, 1856 in Moundville, Narquette County, Wisconsin on the old Winnebago Indian Reservation.

On March 18, 1876 he left home with a young neighbor boy and headed for the Black Hills where they had heard about the discovery of gold there.

Discovering that gold mining wasn't for them, the young men went to Cheyenne. Billy relates in an article published in the "Douglas Budget" the following incident that happened at the Hat Creek Station while on his way to Cheyenne, "When we got to Hat Creek we stopped for the night and John Steffen, who later ran a drug store at Douglas, was cooking for the road ranch. Steffen asked me to come up after supper and spend the evening with him.

"After his work was done for the evening, he hauled out from under his bed a gunnysack and poured out the contents on the floor. As his outfit had come out of the

January 1, 1928, children are Margaret (married Ralph "Red" Morris) and Blanche (married Donald Brannan), Elsie married Ray Bruce Goldsby on April 13, 1929; Clarence, born January 11, 1893; and Bertha who drowned with Grandma on June 4, 1895.

It was on June 4, 1895 while Grandma and her six children were visiting her sister, Mrs. Bert Elder at the Elder Ranch on LaPrele, that she and her daughter were drowned in a tragic accident. (See the Elder story for details.)

After the accident, Grandpa stayed in Douglas. Laura and Jessie were adopted out with the three boys staying with Grandpa. He went to work for John Amspoker at his livery barn. The family who took the oldest girl, Laura, soon moved to Missouri.

The two older boys went out each morning and brought the horses in, and then herded milk cows for the different people during the day. In those days everyone had a milk cow. Therefore, each morning the boys would go around to each one of the places and get the cow until they had all of them gathered up and take them out in the country to feed and then bring them all back in at night and deliver them to each owner.

My dad had a friend who liked to get up early and go with him to bring the horses in, but this boys parents did not like him to do this. They lived in a two story house and he slept upstairs. At night he would tie a string around his big toe and hang it out the window. My dad would ride up and pull the string to wake his friend up. He could climb down the trellis and go with my dad to get the horses and then be back in bed when his mother awakened him.

I don't know just how long Grandpa worked at the livery stable. He then took a mail route up Cold Springs to the Dawes Mine. I know by then the boys were pretty well grown, and in the deep of winter when the snow was very deep, he took it part way by buggy or wagon and then had to finish with a sled. As he had a bad leg for many years, one of the boys would take it for him when the snow was very deep.

Somewhere around 1922 he got smallpox very bad, and was put in the Isolation Hospital which was up against "D" Hill. Aunt Laura came from Missouri and took care of him. Then they hired him as caretaker there where he stayed until he passed away February 6, 1942. About the last year he lived he was bedfast and the other daughter, Jessie came from Missouri and took care of him.

In the fall before he passed away, by trial and error, we had found his two younger brothers and they came to see him. Grandpa was 86, Tom, 84, and Alex, 82. All were very hard of hearing. What a joy it was to listen to those three old fellows tell about those 60 years of their lives since they had seen each other.

Margaret Powell Morris

## Presba, Edna

Mother came to Douglas from Waterloo, Iowa about 1912 hoping that the dry climate would benefit the asthmatic condition with which she was plagued and to accumulate some land via the homestead route.

The homestead was two miles north of Douglas, on Antelope, a distance we drove in our horse and buggy

every morning and evening so that Mother could keep her job as manager of a variety store (the first one in Douglas.) This we continued to do during the months we were required to live on the homestead each year. Every night Mother would hobble the horse and every night it would hobble away over the hill. That meant that Mother had to chase after it in the morning. This was the beginning of a long day.

One night, soon after we had moved into the homestead house, we awakened with something crawling on us in the bed. Mother jumped up, lit the lamp and ran for the kerosene can. To our consternation, the bed was full of bedbugs. We didn't sleep any more that night, but kept wondering where they had come from. Someone told us that many times bedbugs are found in new lumber and since our house was newly built, we settled for that explanation.

The owner of the variety store was Mr. W. E. Unland. The store was located next to the Kimball Hotel on North Second Street. Mr. Unland was a business man from Lincoln, Nebraska who came to Converse County to buy a ranch. He bought a place west of Douglas, (it was located immediately west of where the KOA campground is located in 1985), since he was not a rancher at heart, he opened a large variety store.

A few years later, using the homestead as collateral, Mother bought the book and stationery store owned by Minnie Barrow, situated next to the Budget office. Finally Mother was in business for herself.

Since she was always eager to branch out in uncharted areas, like the time she decided to raise Airedale dogs in the lot back of the store. This was an unpopular venture because the dogs howled mightily every time the town whistle blew. So that project was soon abandoned.

She always had great faith in the future of Douglas because of the natural potential in minerals and oil. She never bought a piece of property without first securing her share of mineral rights. She would not be surprised to see a gas well on her original homestead at this time.

Mother was a staunch supporter of the Democratic Party, when Democrats were few in the state, but this never daunted her enthusiasm. She was also a member of the Mayflower Society, having had an English ancestor who came over on the Mayflower, a fact she was very proud of.

Through her association with the public for so many years and her kindness and consideration for everyone, she made many lasting friendships.

In spite of ill health and other hardships, she never faltered in her quest for a better life for herself and her child. Here was a brave woman who dared to do. Mother died in 1945.

I, Merle Presba Hancock, was about twelve years old when I first came to Douglas with my mother. I received my schooling in Waterloo, Iowa where I lived with my grandparents. I married Coleman Hancock in 1922. Coleman was a telegraph operator at Orin, Wyoming. He was a joint operator for the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad and the Burlington Railroad. We lived in Orin for eleven years. Coleman was elected to the State Legislature as representative in 1935. Later we moved to California to be with Mother. Coleman died in 1959.

Merle Presba Hancock

## Preuit, William and Ida Family

William Humphrey Preuit, commonly known as "Stub", homesteaded in the Shawnee area late in the summer of 1913. He came from a grain and livestock farm near Waco, a small town in York County, Nebraska.

At this time the trend was for young farmers to find land of their own. Many of the younger families became interested in moving west. In other words, they took the advice of Horace Greeley who said, "Go West, young man, go West."

That fall, Stub and two other men from about the same territory built on their separate places. The buildings were only finished on the outside. The interior was just studded where the rooms would eventually be. Due to harvest time at home, they returned to York County for the winter.

In early spring an emigrant car was loaded with items for the homestead. Machinery, plows, planters, horses, cows and even a crate of chickens, along with the household goods were placed on the train. The emigrant car on the Burlington Railroad left Waco for the adventure in Wyoming.

Arrangements were made for the family to follow and a few weeks later Stub's wife, Ida, and four children were put on a passenger train in York. It was a very dark and rainy night. The children at that time were myself, William Richard, age seven; Archie Orland, age five; Ethel Katherine, age four and one half; and Charles Albert, age six months. Archie's sixth birthday occurred the next day, March 31st, on the train. As I, William R., was very young at the time, I don't remember the particulars of the trip very well but I do remember we had a time changing trains at Chadron when we switched to the Chicago and Northwestern. The two depots were some distance apart and it was a struggle for us with our boxes and small children. I remember the train was very short and how the track ran up and downhill on its way to Shawnee.

I do remember arriving at our destination. It was afternoon and the sun was shining very warm with a good stiff breeze. Shawnee then was only a cinder platform. A post with a sign read "Shawnee." A little cabin, which was the home of Dan Woodward, sat about one half mile away and it appeared to be deserted. Dad was to bring a surrey to meet us but due to some time changes, no one was there. As we strained to look, the heat waves in the clean air played tricks on us. Shortly the conductor said, "Lady, we don't like to leave anyone out here with children all alone." Quickly my mother replied with tears in her eyes, "You don't need to. Just turn this train around and let's all go back to Nebraska."

After a few minutes we could see a team of horses turning up some dust as they came over a divide a few miles away. It was then the parting came. The conductor motioned for the train to go. My mother, then seeing nothing but large hills and rolling prairie with plenty of cactus, sagebrush, and what we called soapweed, thought about the level land in York County, about all the tall corn, the lush grass, all the fruit trees and the giant cottonwoods. Then the tears really gave way and to the best of my knowledge the five of us all felt sorry for each other.

The nearer the surrey came, the faster it got until we were all united. After all the happy greetings and questions, we were loaded up with our boxes and trunks and started for the new home seven miles southwest of Shawnee. One thing I can remember so vividly was the fence on the railroad right-of-way. There was no gate. We just parted the wires to get in and out.

The road to our new home was across the prairie. There were no fences in sight. Sometimes the road was just a faint trail and sometimes just a cow path.

Arriving at the homestead was another thrill. Our new home was a small frame house set on native rock, 18-24 inches above the ground. There was no foundation, just the rocks to hold up the sills. It was also on a rocky knoll with one of the packing boxes serving as a front step. It was probably located on one of the best rattlesnake dens in that part of the state. All of us kids were warned about the snakes every day. A long-handled hoe was kept at the door. The rattles were always cut off the snakes that we killed and after a year, a quart jar was filled with them.

Although the house had lap siding on the outside, there was nothing inside but the rafters and studs where in the future, there would be two rooms.

Tar paper shacks were put up for the chicken house and other small buildings as the summer progressed. Logs were hauled from a stand of timber several miles to the north for a windbreak for the cattle and horses. Fuel for cooking and heat for the cookstove was also hauled from that same timber to the north. The dead jack pine made a very hot fire even though it was common to have a chimney burn out.

It also was common for a few neighbors to go to the hills north and dam up a small creek. Then they would dig out coal for fuel. It was of a very poor quality and in a few days after getting it home, it turned to slack.

To sharpen the plow lays, the plow was brought up to the front door where the lays were removed from the plow and heated in the cookstove. They were then pounded out on the plow beam.

After the first few summers on the prairie, there was a great change in our mother's attitude about Wyoming. She called our attention to the cactus blooming after a shower in the spring. She was so proud of a patch of native Bluebells which covered nearly an acre that shared the hilltop with our few buildings. We hunted berries of various kinds to make jelly, driving in a wagon many miles to the south to find them along a little creek bank. It would take us a full day to make the trip. I recall how she dressed jack rabbits and in the winter fried down jack rabbit hamburger. I remember how adept she became with a rifle when coyotes came for another chicken. I especially remember how strong she was when our father went back to Nebraska to husk corn in the fall to make money for our food and clothes.

Transportation was very poor. The only doctor was in Douglas, 25 miles west. The railroad was very cooperative in travel. If you were sick you could always catch a ride on the caboose by flagging down the train. Ethel was operated on for appendicitis in Douglas and the folks made several trips by caboose.

In the first two years there was no store of any kind in Shawnee. The mail and all the groceries were brought



from Lost Spring several miles east. I remember getting crackers in large boxes, dried apples, dried prunes and many other groceries from the Sears Roebuck catalog. It was the practice for neighbors to take turns going for mail and groceries in the lumber wagon.

By the second and third year, many homesteaders moved in and the community really began to grow. A school was built so after a year or two at home we were back in school. A Literary Society was formed and many pleasant evenings were spent at the school. During these times Shawnee was growing. A grocery store was started by a man named Haas; a lumber yard opened and an elevator was built.

Years later after proving up on the homestead, the family purchased land at Shawnee. Some neighbors came and jacked up the shack, laid timber under it and laid it on a wagon to be transported over the prairie to the new site. Archie and I drove a buggy carrying water and dinner. Archie, always the driver, crossed a washout and was thrown out and a wheel ran over him. It gave everyone a big scare but Archie was unhurt and there was no damage.

At the edge of Shawnee, we set up business again. More was built onto the original building. The town continued to grow. We had a bank, a hotel and even a newspaper, the "Shawnee Record," printed in the town. I set type by hand after school and on Saturdays.

The town had a movie picture on Saturday evenings and two or three days a week a barber came from another town and cut hair. At one time there was a doctor who lived and practiced there. He ran a nice drugstore at the same time. An addition was built onto the school which sat on the hill east of town. A cemetery was laid out one mile north of town and I remember the first burial there.

Kenneth Woodrow was born July 20, 1918, making the fifth child in the Preuit family.

After we moved we had more cattle and more farming. Archie, by now, liking the farming end of the operation, helped Dad with that and I helped him with the cattle business. The cattle were on open range to the north, to the east and to the west of town.

Dad dug a silo at Shawnee and it was filled with all kinds of chopped forage for cattle, including tame sunflowers and even Russian thistles. There wasn't much corn because of the drought. He did, however, grow some fine potatoes but because of freight problems, it was a poor business. A good business that kept the family going was hauling oil rig timbers from the railroad to the north for oil drilling. Dad and a neighbor also loaded many a carload of sand on railcars to be shipped to other towns.

During this time many relatives left Nebraska and moved to Wyoming, settling in various places. Most settled around Wheatland and after a few visits, it was decided we too should move to Wheatland. In the early spring of 1921, teams and wagons left Shawnee for Wheatland. A covered wagon was used and the cattle were driven behind. Our mother and smaller children were taken by relatives in a Model T touring car.

After arriving in Platte County, we settled seven miles southwest of Wheatland near Rock Lake. The family continued irrigated farming, growing beets and raising many mules. In December of 1922, another boy,

Chester was born and in August, 1924, another girl, Betty, was added to the family, making five boys and two girls. It was a typical farm family growing up, going to school in country schools. After eighth grade we went to high school in Wheatland. We grew beets, using lots of horses and mules. We continued to raise lots of cattle.

When the depression of 1929-30 was taking its toll on agriculture, Dad became interested in farm programs. He made several trips to Washington to formulate programs and was instrumental in putting them to work in Wyoming.

W. H. was a member of the State Board of Agriculture for some time. He was state chairman of the Democratic party for a few years. He was elected to the Platte County Board of Commissioners for several terms. He was a member of the board of the Wheatland Irrigation District at the time of his death. He and my mother were both members of the Christian Church of Wheatland.

March 21, 1937, Ida, Mrs. W. H. Preuit, still a Wyoming booster, passed away and was buried in the Wheatland Cemetery. In 1940, Kenneth and Chester were inducted into the army and spent four and one half years in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

Still farming and in failing health, Stub passed away on November 7, 1949 and was buried beside his wife in the Wheatland Cemetery.

In the many years following, the family turned in different directions. The oldest, the writer of this story, lives near Waco, Nebraska. Archie passed away in 1971. Ethel, the oldest girl, lives in Wheatland near the family home. Charlie passed away in 1979. Ken, who is retired, now lives in Fort Collins, Colorado, after living at Wheatland for many years. Chester, now retired from the postal department, lives in Rupert, Idaho. Betty, the youngest girl, passed away in 1979 and is buried in Guernsey, Wyoming.

The entire family, in their different homes and locations still have a very fond memory of living on the homestead in that little shack all by itself, alone on the windswept prairie.

William R. Preuit

## Pringle, Theodore "Lee"

Although Theodore Pringle was buried at Custer, South Dakota in 1931, he was a pioneer resident of Douglas for nearly half a century. The exact date of Pringle's birth is not known, but it is believed to have been about 1864 in Center Point, Iowa. Lee was never married but he was survived by a nephew and two nieces. Mr. Pringle grew to manhood in Iowa and spent his early adulthood in South Dakota. He came to Douglas from Deadwood.

By October 3, 1886, the tent town on Poverty Flats had melted away, and the new town of Douglas counted 1600 souls. There were 3 newspapers, 3 banks, 12 large general stores and 12 smaller concerns, hotels, restaurants, lumber yards, livery stables, drug stores, two dance halls and 21 saloons.

In association with Bob White, Lee Pringle opened a saloon on North Second Street in 1887. An advertisement in a 98 year-old Douglas newspaper reads as follows:

WHITE AND PRINGLE  
Dealers in Pure Whiskey and  
Fine Cigars

Sometime later, Mr. White evidently withdrew from the business since it became simply "Lee Pringle's".

In 1906, Pringle completed a new building to house his business. It was an elegant and pretentious establishment. In keeping with its ambiance it was named The College Inn and has recently been listed on the National Registrar of Historic places.

Entering through the outside door, one finds himself in a small foyer. An ornate carved archway fitted with a pair of stained glass swinging doors opens into the barroom which is about 30' in length. At the far end, a similar archway with swinging doors divides the barroom from the lounge which is located in the rear of the building. The floors were tiled with marble which was ground to a powder and re-cast into squares. Each is decorated with a four-color scroll pattern. In the entry way, as well as in the back hallway is one tile bearing the initials TP, and the date 1906.

The wall behind the back bar is graced by three massive mirrors extending from the marble-slab counter top to the elaborate frieze, a distance of about six feet. The fixtures, made by Brunswick, Balk, Calendar Co., were imported from Chicago. The company coded each piece, large or minute, so that the local carpenter could fit it all together when it was delivered in Douglas.

The bar, back bar, the paneling and the carved archways were all made of mahogany. A stuffed golden eagle perched atop a pillar on either side of the archway which marked the entrance to the barroom. Music for both the original bar and the elaborate new College Inn was provided by a Violano nickelodeon, which was also imported from Chicago. It was made by the Virtuso company, and operated on batteries until electricity became available. The hours were measured for Lee Pringle and the patrons of his establishment by a Seth Thomas clock with a 30 day movement. Advertising posters proclaimed that "We handle nothing but the best goods in Wine, Liquors and Cigars".

The lounge in the rear was fitted with 10 private booths built along the one wall. Each was divided from its neighbor by a mahogany panel about six feet in height, and the entrance to each was closed by drawing a heavy green drapery suspended by rings from a shining brass rod. The walls of these cubicles were covered with embossed leather. An ornate cast iron table flanked by a built-in bench on either side furnished the booths. A "call button" in each activated a call box in the barroom, so that services could be rendered the occupants. The rear hall led to a door through which persons could enter or leave without being seen by those engaged in gambling and drinking in the barroom. This door opened on the alley behind the Inn.

Females engaged by the saloon as barmaids, or the "fallen lilies" plying their trade were commonly seen in the barroom, but it was considered very unseemly and unladylike for a female member of a respectable family to enter a saloon. Therefore, if the prim and proper ladies of the town felt inclined to imbibe a bit, the College Inn offered them a darkened entrance to a secluded booth where they could enjoy the privacy they desired.

One can imagine the ladies garbed in floor length gowns of lawn or taffeta, or in walking suits of moire or serge, in a variety of muted colors; the wide-brimmed hats were adorned with willow plumes of ostrich feather or genuine birds, stuffed with wings outspread, and yards of wispy veiling.

Their dapper escorts, in suits of dark colors, boiled shirts with celluloid collars, bowler hats atop their slicked-down hair entered the dimly lit lounge with their ladies on their arms.

On the second floor of the College Inn, accessible by a door on the street level were nine lavishly furnished sleeping rooms. They were ranked as "the best in town". A tenth room had bar service, equipped with a dumb waiter to the bar below, and was designed for gambling.

Theodore Pringle drove a beautiful team of horses hitched to his fringe-topped surrey about the town and countryside. Though he disposed of his saloon business in 1918, he retained considerable property interests in the community. He was a well-known colorful character in the history of Douglas.

Ruth Grant

## Puckett, Hardin Family

Though the information about the Puckett family is very limited, the history of the early inhabitants of the Orin community would be incomplete if they were not mentioned. Mr. and Mrs. Hardin Puckett came to Wyoming from the vicinity of Fort Collins, Colorado some time between 1900 and 1910. They homesteaded just west of Orin, south of Highway #20.

They had four children, Vina, Jimmy, Ernie and Fanny. Mr. Puckett and his two eldest children all homesteaded near one another.

The Pucketts were industrious, hard-working people, spending their daylight hours laboring in their fields. Their evening meal, usually served about 9 p.m. marked the end of their day. Mr. Puckett, worn out by the day's work, always fell asleep before the meal was over.

A small patch of land which Mr. Puckett owned was sub-irrigated. Here he raised watermelons. Frequently the children from the town would go there to steal the melons, all the sweeter for having been stolen.

I, Earl Gaylord, remember an incident that happened with the Pucketts very distinctly. The Pucketts was one of our favorite places to go. One time, Fanny Puckett was visiting at our house. We got the Ford started to take Fanny home. We got close to the Puckett place, where there was a gate that had to be opened. Fanny got out of the car to open the gate, and about the time she was opening the gate, Mom, Grace Gaylord, who was rather new at driving, lost control of the car and ran through the gate that wasn't open. The wire entangled Fanny and tore all her clothes off but didn't harm her. This was really embarrassing for a young lady of her age standing out there without any clothes on.

Mr. and Mrs. Puckett eventually returned to Fort Collins to live where Mr. Puckett died in 1935. Jim Puckett stayed on, living on the original place after his parents left. He married Violet Phinney. They were the parents of one son, Dick. Violet died in 1962.

Earl Gaylord

## Putnam, John J. and Myrtle

My father, John J. Putnam, came to Lost Springs, Wyoming in 1906, as master mechanic for the coal mines. The main office was in Lost Springs with other mines at Inez, Glenrock and Gebo. In 1908 he homesteaded just south of town, on the hill, about a mile from the railroad tracks. The town grew fast, as all boom towns do, but when he first came to Lost Springs, there was a depot, consisting of two boxcars. It was the only shelter for miles around.

My mother Myrtle D. (Paxton) came in 1911. She loved Wyoming and the wide open spaces. She was an artist and always marveled at the changing colors in the skies and the landscape. She used Laramie Peak as a weather vane, and said she could always tell when weather would be changing. In 1912, they built their new house on the hill. It is still there. The Wrights were very close friends and built on a hill just northeast of town. Mother and Margaret would wave each morning to greet one another.

Transportation consisted mostly of the railroad and horse and buggy. Mr. O. L. Walker had one of the first automobiles. In reading my mom's diaries, one of the highlights of the day was his taking the folks for an auto ride. The diaries are written mainly in little books given by the Walker Lumber Co. each year. The only other car I can find mentioned is the mortician's, and it was referred to as the limousine.

The weather wasn't always very pleasant. Winters seemed more severe and longer than now. Dad used to tie a rope around his waist and attach it to the clothes line to go from the house to the barn. Blowing snow could change all sense of directions.

My sister, Ruth, was born in 1914. The mines were closing down and the town disappearing, so Dad bought the John Arnold Ranch in 1915. It was located south of Glenrock on Deer Creek.

There were many beautiful friendships made, and many events told about Lost Springs and how they hated to leave, but a new home, new friends and a very full life awaited them in the Glenrock area.

I, Joan, was born on November 7, 1918. Ruth and I were raised on the Deer Creek Ranch, and graduated from the Glenrock High School. Dad was County Commissioner for one term from 1921-1925. Both Mom and Dad were active in lodge work, Masons and Star. They lived the rest of their lives in the Glenrock area.

John J. Putnam was born in Monroe County, Iowa in 1872 and died in Glenrock in 1944. Myrtle D. Putnam was born in Monroe County, Iowa in 1880 and died in Glenrock in 1967. Ruth Putnam Philbrick died December 8, 1960.

Joan Putnam Petersen

## Ramirez, Luis and Asuncion

Maria Asuncion Guerra de Rodriguez was born in La Calera, Yrapuato, Guanajuato, Mexico, August 15, 1888.

Her parents were Pedro Pacheco Rodriguez and Maria Micaela Guerra Rodriguez.

She had one brother, Fidencio Rodriguez and one sister, Felipa Rodriguez Cortez of Buffalo, Wyoming.

On June 9, 1909, she was married in the Catholic Church in Santa Rosalia, Guanajuato, to Jose Francisco Luis Aguirre Ramirez.

While in Mexico, Asuncion and Luis worked in the Hacienda Santa Rosalia. Asuncion earned five cents a day as a maid, and Luis earned eight cents a day as a peon.

Asuncion was very much aware of the time when Pancho Villa raided the town where she lived. She remembered Pancho Villa so vividly. He was not a very tall person. She remembered his black horse, a beautiful animal. His halter was studded with silver concho beads and his saddle was covered with silver.

Pancho Villa, as she recalled, was dressed in a black caballero suit trimmed in white, and his hat was also black and white with a silver concho hat band.

He would raid the towns for food, money, liquor and young ladies. His favorite hangout was any family home where he would be treated like a king. When he had his fill of everything, he would leave a few pesos on the table and disappear into nowhere until the next raid. This was quite an experience for Asuncion. She was one of the few that saw the famous Pancho Villa.

Asuncion's favorite memory was when her husband Luis first came to the United States, he would send her little gifts like ribbons of all colors and embroidering and crocheting thread.

In the summer of 1916, Asuncion, Luis and Sofio, their first child, came to the United States on a freight train as immigrants to the "land of opportunity."

They arrived in Galveston, Texas where Luis went to work in the cotton fields. From Texas, Asuncion and family travelled to Topeka, Kansas. They then travelled through Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming.

In 1917, Asuncion and family moved to Casper, Wyoming with Apolonia and Joaquin Martinez (Maria Ramirez Maes' Godparents).

Luis worked in the Casper refinery and later on for Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad. Meantime, four more children were born: Leonar, Maria, Gerardo, and Apolonia.

In 1927 Asuncion and family moved to Careyhurst, Wyoming. Her husband worked on the railroad with Mr. Nelms. Asuncion sent her family to school at Careyhurst, Wyoming. We had to carry our lunches, which were refried bean burritos. We walked about a mile to school among weird creatures, especially snakes.

In the early winter of 1930, Asuncion and family travelled to Los Nietos, California in a 1927 convertible. Luis found a job in a textile factory.

Six months later, Asuncion and family returned to Casper, Wyoming, because Luis did not like California.

Asuncion and family lived in Casper, Wyoming for awhile, and then Luis decided he wanted to try the beet fields. Luis got 50 acres of sugar beets at Mortons Ranch. Asuncion and family worked for a Japanese farmer. Luis figured that an acre a day was enough for a day's job. They worked from 3 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day, including Sunday. Asuncion and youngest daughter Polly would take breakfast, lunch, and water to the beet fields daily. Mid-day she would send Polly with a water bag of lemonade as a treat.

Asuncion cooked on a coal and wood stove. She washed clothes in a wash tub with a scrub board. She would iron clothes with two hand irons (made of solid iron) on a table. She also baked homemade bread. She just put everything together, and it came out perfect and delicious. She didn't need to follow a recipe.

Asuncion would chop wood, carry coal, carry water and take care of her family.

On April 3, 1933, Asuncion and family moved to Douglas, Wyoming, where Luis tried his hand at ranching, which turned out to be a very sad experience.

Luis was employed by the city to help build the American Legion Building for a dollar a day and relief assistance, which was bacon, flour, grapefruit, cabbage and kerosene.

In order to get extra money for Asuncion's extra household needs, Luis would collect copper, milk bottles and egg cartons to sell to meet the demands of the family.

Asuncion was such a good cook, she made everything look like a banquet. She was also very good at mending, making patches look professional.

In 1930, Asuncion and family moved to Wheatland, Wyoming and worked in beet fields under a Russian farmer. He wouldn't let them have food or money until a full day's work was completed. The family lived on oatmeal for a week, no sugar or milk.

Asuncion's favorite holiday was Christmas. Early in the summer she would buy a pig and fatten it for Christmas. A week before Christmas, Oracio (son-in-law) would butcher the pig.

Asuncion would start by setting up the Nacimiento (the Nativity). She would put a wooden frame on the wall and decorate it with pine and glass ornaments and lights. She then would fix the altar for the baby Jesus.

She made the baby Jesus' dress all by hand because it was so small. Sometimes she would crochet the bonnet.

On Christmas Eve, she dressed the baby and sat Him on a platter full of candy. At midnight she would pick one or two persons as sponsors to lay the baby on the candy platter and pass Him around.

Everyone would kiss the baby and take a piece of candy. Then He would be put to rest on the altar until January 6, when the same sponsors would sit Him up until next Christmas.

Asuncion would prepare a big dinner earlier in the day. The menu was tamales, bunuelos, hot chocolate, etc.

Asuncion was not a fashion doll. I do remember a picture of her. She was sitting on a chair wearing a black skirt, white blouse with ruffles, black high button shoes, and a black straw hat with a rose on the side. She wore her black hair in a chignon. She made her own dresses and her trademark was her very highly starched aprons. She never went anywhere without her apron.

After Luis died on December 2, 1966 she lived in the Brownfield Addition by herself for many years and raised chickens, sheep, ducks, turkeys and dogs as pets.

Asuncion moved to Casper, Wyoming in May 1983 to live with her son, Jerry Ramirez.

November 1983 (Thanksgiving) her family from Douglas went to spend the holidays with her. She wasn't feeling very well then and she became very ill in the days that followed. Maria Asuncion Guerra Rodriguez Ramirez died December 16, 1983 at the age of 95 years

young.

One son and three daughters survive her. She will always be remembered as a member of the Guadalupe Society and for her highly starched aprons and for raising her family.

Maria E. Ramirez Maes

## Rasmussen, Niels and Marie

Niels Christian Rasmussen was born August 26, 1889 in Davinde on the Isle of Fyn, Denmark. He had five brothers and four sisters. At the age of 18 he had enough money for passage to the United States. He sailed on the ship named the United States and arrived at Ellis Island in 1909.

His Uncle Hans Peterson lived in Lexington, Nebraska and he went there to work for him. Wanting to speak and write better English, he got a job with a family named Jensen, they spoke only English and he learned faster. At the age of 21 he leased a farm and worked it for three years. He heard of some land in Maryland so he found a farm there and bought it. He only kept it a few months and sold it.

Niels got a job for a while selling aluminum cookware. He hired a man named Linn Craig to drive him



Niels and Marie Rasmussen 1923

around, since he didn't drive. When Craig decided to go to Colorado, Niels went with him and helped him build a home for his family.

In Colorado he hired out to a lumber company in Terryall and hewed railroad ties. While in the mountains he went to work for the Strickners, and they told him he could get a place of his own by squatting on land that someone had not proven up on. That he did and stayed there until the start of World War I, when he sold out and went to work for a contractor in New Raymer, Colorado until he was drafted in the army. He went to France but before he had to serve at the front, the war was over.

He arrived in Wyoming in 1919. In Cheyenne he met Billy Irvine. When Niels told him he was coming to Douglas to see about the homestead he had filed on before the war, Mr. Irvine said his son needed help on his ranch in Chugwater, so he went there and worked for Pax Irvine for several months.

When he arrived in Douglas he went out to see about



L. to r. Ed Gibb, Waggoner, Tony Logan and Forest Turner on the B. J. Erwin place. 1924 Niels Rasmussen sheep

his homestead. It was a very dry year and no grass on Antelope Creek. He could see that it was not what he had in mind so he returned to Douglas to see what he could find to do. George Powell was looking for someone to break horses, so Niels hired out to him for the winter. He stayed to put up hay for Mr. Powell. While he was doing that Mr. B. J. Erwin came over and asked if he would like to lease his place, so Niels went over there.

In 1923 Niels married Marie Olivette Poirot. She was teaching school and boarding with the Holse family. They were married on a Wednesday and on Saturday they were putting up hay. Marie was the daughter of Emile and Nevada Poirot, a family who had been in Douglas a long time. They worked on the Erwin place several years, then he had the chance to lease the Powell place so they moved there. In 1927, Marie's nephew, Thomas Charles, came to live with them, and in later years they adopted him.

In 1935 they bought the Hamilton place and leased several others all around them. The years were pretty lean but they came through them still believing that farming and ranching was the best way. In 1943 he bought the land in Downey Park that Dr. Harp had owned and sold the Hamilton farm to the Chamberlain twins.

They moved into Douglas and while Niels was working on the mountain place, Marie worked for the library and later for the gas company. In 1947 they bought a home and moved to Douglas. Tom came and worked with Niels and in 1952 Tom married Jo Ann Lee. In 1953 Niels bought the Urie Slonaker place on LaPrele and Niels' dream finally materialized of owning land in the mountains and a place on the creek below. Tom and his wife lived on the place and Niels and Marie came in from Douglas every day. Niels has a saying, "That you weren't married to anything but your wife" and when the price was right, sell. In 1958 he sold the LaPrele ranch to Elmer Cowell and a couple of years later the mountain place to Arthur Horr. Tom and Jo Ann moved to Glenrock and Niels and Marie retired to their home in Douglas. They have three grandchildren, Niels, Tommy and Karyl.

Niels and Marie celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary June 13, 1983. On February 11, 1984, Marie died. Niels still lives in the home on Fifth Street and was 96 on August 26, 1985.

To his grandchildren there is no one like him anywhere. He has been a storyteller, teacher, friend and most of all "Gramps." If ever there was a self-made man it is Niels C. Rasmussen.

Tom Rasmussen

## Read, Frederick and Mary Family

Frederick E. Read was born Nov. 26, 1867 in Surprise, Nebraska. Mary Margaret was born June 1, 1871 in Easton, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Charles and Mary Brunner.

Mary was a former teacher, having received her education in eastern Nebraska, where she moved when she was a girl of nine.

On November 26, 1893 Fred and Mary were married in Surprise, Nebraska. Five children were born to them: Charles Davis, born October 6, 1897 in Surprise, Nebraska and married Iole Cambell December 5, 1923; Alice Elizabeth, born May 30, 1895 in Surprise, Nebraska and married Louis Newell November 6, 1918, died May 16, 1982; Willa Harriet, born November 26, 1900 in Surprise, Nebraska and married Howard Plummer; Edna, born in Morrill, Nebraska on September 24, 1907 and married John Johnson; Frederic "Fritz" S., born in Morrill, Nebraska on April 8, 1912, died on December 24, 1961.

In 1902 the Read family moved to Scottsbluff County, Nebraska, and a few years later homesteaded in the Dutch Flats community north of Mitchell where they made their home until coming to Wyoming in 1916. They made their home on the Gore Place on Upper LaPrele Creek before moving to a ranch two miles southeast of Douglas where they lived until moving to town in their latter years.

Mary died on May 31, 1951, Fred on Mar. 1, 1952.

Fritz died Dec. 24, 1961 at his ranch home two miles out of Douglas. His death was due to furnace fumes. Evidently a malfunctioning damper was the cause of the fumes. Fritz was known throughout the community as an outstanding musician, having played in several bands.

John R. Pexton

## Redenbaugh, Clarence and Clemmy

I, Claude Redenbaugh, was born at Blue Jacket, Oklahoma, July 1, 1905, the son of Clarence E. Redenbaugh and Clemmy Harris. Dad was born in Coffeeville, Kansas. My mother was born at Creighton, Missouri.

My grandfather's name was Milton Redenbaugh. He and his brother, John, came from Holland and settled in Kansas. Then he went to Oklahoma and from there to Fresno, California. To my knowledge they were the only two Redenbaughs that ever came to this country.

My grandmother's name was Rebekah Studabaker. She and her two brothers also came from Holland.

John Studabaker went to California during the Gold Rush in 1849. He did not mine much gold, but he did see a need for the miners to transport their ore. So he invented the wheelbarrow. There have been many inventions, but the wheelbarrow will be here forever.

Returning from California, he and his brother moved to South Bend, Indiana and started a wagon factory. They built the Studebaker Wagon. In later years it was turned into the Studebaker car.

Dad moved to Douglas in 1909 from Oklahoma,



known at that time as the Cherokee Nation. He homesteaded 30 miles southwest of Douglas, east of Downey Park, known as Hay Press Meadow. The reason it is called Hay Press Meadow is because the soldiers from Fort Fetterman built a road there and cut and hauled hay to the fort for their horses. The old hay press was still there when we moved there.

Many ranchers cut and hauled hay and sold it to the fort. There is a tale about some of the ranchers who would put rocks in the bottom of their wagons and then cover them with hay, then weigh and sell the hay to the fort. Then they unloaded the hay and drove up to a pile of rocks and unloaded them. The pile of rocks was as high as a small house.

In early days there was a surveyor who came here; his name was Kraft. He was always starting some project that was never finished. One was a ditch on Muddy Wagonhound flats on the Ben Middleton ranch. It was quite a large ditch - a small canal. John Amspoker did the work. As far as I know, he was never paid. In many of his ditches he made, water would not run in them.

George Carothers' dad tells a story on Kraft when he worked for Guthrie brothers as a cowboy. After Kraft surveyed the ditch, and the cowboys made it, they found out the water would not run in it. The cowboys decided to play a trick on Kraft. After dinner the cowhands went out in the yard and started putting up a scaffold with ropes and pulleys. Kraft wanted to know what they were doing. The cook told Kraft they were putting up a scaffold to hang him. Kraft left quickly and headed for Douglas. The cowboys never intended to hang Kraft. They only wanted to put a scare in him, which they did.

In 1918 Dad bought the John Marsden ranch on Wagonhound Creek. Part of it was on Sheep Mountain. The reason it was named Sheep Mountain is that in early days there were lots of mountain sheep there. Mr. Marsden said, to his knowledge, he killed the last sheep there. Mr. Marsden settled there in 1884 before the town of Douglas was built.

In 1941 Dad bought the old Frank Rogers' place on Latham Creek which is now owned by Dr. Kingrey.

Mother died in 1950, Dad died on July 9, 1966.

You have all heard the story of Al Packer, the man eater. Packer prospected and lived in a canyon on the ranch, on a creek called Spring Creek, now called Packer Creek. Packer was captured by Malcolm Campbell, a law officer that lived in Douglas for many years. The canyon Packer lived in is now called Man Eater Canyon.

I never had much schooling. Most times I attended country schools, having to ride horseback from three to five miles each day to attend school. One of the old log school houses is still standing, located on the Oregon Trail on Wagonhound Creek. No one knows how many years it has been standing there.

Many changes have been made since I came to the town of Douglas. One building that I first saw when I came here was the old Northwestern Depot, 67 years ago.

In 1944 I married Mary Grace Garrett, nee Polette, of St. Louis, Missouri. Having sold my ranches and property, I am now retired.

Claude Redenbaugh



Front row, left to right: Mrs. Jacob Reed, Dorothy Reed and Jacob Reed.

Top row: Ralph Reed and Etta Reed.

## Reed, Jacob and Nancy

The desire to acquire land for their son, Ralph, brought the Jacob Reeds to Wyoming. Land was located north of Flatop in eastern Converse County, and the family moved from Atkinson, Nebraska in 1916 to homestead on it. Ralph, the only son, was born on February 8, 1894, an older sister, Bessie, in 1892, Etta in 1900 and the youngest daughter, Dorothy in 1907, all being born in Nebraska.

"It was a very forlorn and lonesome country with lots of open space," Etta Reed Hoffman remembers her first year in Wyoming. "I didn't like it at all." Soon after, things changed as more people homesteaded around them.

The Reeds built a barn and dances were held regularly with Etta and her father playing the violin. Later when the Jim Herricks built a larger barn, the dances were held there with the music furnished by Carlos Miller playing guitar and Etta playing violin. Mr. Reed told Ralph and Etta that the first one to learn to play the violin could have his instrument. Etta was the winner. She remembers the many happy hours that were spent while the family sang and played musical numbers, "We were a very musical family."

Church was held every Sunday in a building on the Reed homestead, with traveling ministers conducting the services.

Etta relates that she was the horse wrangler for the family, having to wrangle their horses from among the Longhorn cattle that roamed the open range at that time. Most of the cattle belonged to the Waneks who lived to the east.

At first the shopping was done in Lost Springs, with fourteen gates to open and shut to get there. Later the family shopped in Douglas.

School was established close by with Ralph Baker as one of the first teachers. The school was known as the Reed School.

Mrs. Reed (Nancy Elizabeth) became ill with cancer

shortly after the family's arrival in Wyoming and passed away despite trips to Texas for treatments. Mr. Reed was heartbroken and never completely recovered from the shock of her death.

Selling the homestead to Ralph, Jacob moved, with his daughter, Dorothy, to a place close to Shawnee. He died on January 20, 1926 at his home after efforts failed to get him to a doctor during a severe snow storm which raged at the time.

Ralph married Sylvia Young, daughter of Andrew and Hattie Young in the 1920's. His death from a tragic accident on December 23, 1932 was a terrible blow to his young wife and children. While getting coal from a local mine north of the Raymond Beaver homestead on Walker Creek, Ralph was struck by a falling chunk of coal, killing him instantly. Needless to say, it was a sad Christmas for his family. Sylvia later married Marion Whiting, Jr. She died in 1941.

Dorothy married Nile Pickinpaugh. They moved to Riverton using a covered wagon and taking a milk goat along to have milk for their young children.

John R. Pexton  
as told by Etta Hoffman

## Reed, William and Frances Family

William "Will" I. Reed, son of George and Mary Frances Farrell Reed, was born in Oakland, Iowa on December 20, 1890. The family moved to a farm in Artesian, South Dakota where they were engaged in farming and raising livestock. Will served in the Balloon Observation Corps in WWI. However, the war ended before he was sent overseas. George Reed and his sons were involved in many sports, especially baseball, boxing and wrestling.

Frances was born on April 3, 1889 at Osborne, Kansas the oldest daughter of William Henry and Georgia E. Schofield Walrath. The family traveled by wagon teams and train in 1890 to Denver, Colorado where her father owned and operated a meat market. Always seeking newer and bigger horizons, her father moved the family to Mitchell, South Dakota in 1916 where he was the manager of the Kings Ranch.

As a small child, Frances loved to visit at her Grandfather Walrath's farm at Edgerton, Wisconsin. Her love for insects, frogs, fish, animals, and especially poultry, would play an important part in her married life. She stayed with her grandparents while finishing high school, where she graduated at the age of 16. She taught in rural schools in South Dakota where she had as many as 38 students in grades one through eight. Frances disliked teaching and after four years enrolled in nursing school at the Florence Crittenton Home in Sioux City, Iowa. She graduated as an obstetrical nurse and returned to the family home in South Dakota where she nursed for Dr. McComb. Frances would sometimes accompany the doctor in his horse and buggy on house calls and stay with the family until her services were no longer needed. If she arrived on a maternity case before the doctor, who was sometimes delayed, Frances would often deliver the

baby. She and Dr. McComb did not lose any patients during the flu epidemic of 1918. Frances was presented an honorary service award from the Douglas American Legion in 1983.

William I. Reed married Frances E. Walrath on November 3, 1919 at Woonsocket, South Dakota. They lived on a farm at Artesian, South Dakota where they farmed and raised livestock. Frances supplemented the family income with chickens, ducks, geese and selling eggs. Five children were born to this union; twins, Ellis and Earl, born September 19, 1920, Wesley, June 20, 1922, Murray, December 11, 1923 and Richard, April 4, 1925.

These were the years leading into the great depression. As the prices for livestock and grain were so meager, they began looking for greener pastures. They moved by train to Cumberland, Wisconsin where they raised dairy cattle, and Frances was in the poultry business again. Will earned extra income by going to Iowa in the fall and winter to pick corn. News of land to be homesteaded in Wyoming prompted Will and a neighbor to spend the summer of 1928 working in the Douglas area and visiting his brother, "Babe," who had already filed on a section of land the previous year. Liking what he saw he returned home, sold their livestock, farm equipment and some household goods and moved to Wyoming in 1929.

They came to Wyoming in a Model T Ford by way of South Dakota. They left the four oldest boys with their aunt while they came to Wyoming to file on a homestead and find a house to live in. Much of the land was already claimed in 1929 and their section was in more than one parcel. They found a 12 x 24 building four miles west of the homestead which they bought for \$100.00.

They returned to South Dakota to bring the boys to Wyoming. Their Airedale dog "Peggy" rode all the way to Wyoming on the running board of the Model T. Ford. They arrived in Wyoming October 9, 1929 with \$35, five boys and a box of shells. Will was a good shot and the neighbors would buy shells for him to shoot antelope for them. They stayed with Will's brother Babe until the men and neighbors could move their house to the homestead site. Wood was hauled by team and wagon from the Cheyenne River and some coal from the mouth of Duck Creek. Attempts to dig a well were unsuccessful and water was also hauled by team and wagon in the summer. Snow was melted in the winter all the years they lived on the homestead.

The boys attended the Tony Funk School which was five miles from the homestead in 1929. Will took the boys and their cousin, Violet Reed, to school in the Model T Ford until Will went to work in the spring. The children then walked to and from school every day. Anna Lynch, a Dry Creek native, taught their school her first year of teaching. They attended the Meadowlark School which was located a mile and one half from the homestead in the fall of 1930. Their teacher was Mrs. Lewis Funk and students attending were the five Reed boys, Jack Funk, Helen, Kelly, Leonard and Viola Shelden.

The spring of 1930 found Frances hatching chickens for neighbors. She had three incubators and traded baby chickens for many things including a team of horses. They planted part of the ten acres to navy beans and, needless to say, they traded beans, sold beans and ate beans. The land was not suitable for farming and Will

worked away from home most of the seven years they lived on the homestead. He herded sheep, farmed for neighbors and whatever other jobs he could find.

They bought sheep in 1936 and moved to the Dry Creek Community. They moved back to the homestead for a short while, then sold it to Rhea Tillard. They then moved to the Walker Creek Community where they continued in the sheep business. In 1938 they moved two miles east of Douglas and the boys attended Douglas High School. Will operated the Ross mail routes to the Ogalalla Ranch from 1938 through 1942. He carried mail, passengers and freight three times a week. The family moved to Douglas in 1942.

Murray and Wesley served in the navy during WWII and Richard was in the army during the Korean War. Will and Frances were divorced in 1946, and Will moved to Walla Walla, Washington where he died in 1957. He is buried in the Douglas Cemetery. Frances lived in her own home until 1975 when she fell and hurt her hip. She has been a resident at the Michael Manor Nursing Home in Douglas since that time. Frances is 95 at this writing and spends many hours reading books. Ellis retired from the Wyoming Highway Department in 1984 and resides in Casper. Murray and Richard also live in Casper and are retired. Wesley still lives in Douglas and keeps busy with his various enterprises.

Earl graduated from Douglas High School with the class of 1940. From the time he was 15 he worked summers, doing farm work, lambing, and herding bucks. After he was out of high school, he worked at various jobs. When he had saved enough money to buy a bunch of old ewes he went into ranching, first with Lee Fowler and then on his own. He leased and later bought the Jim Blackman place in the Dry Creek Community.

He married Jewell Pellatz in 1949. Earl learned to shear sheep with machines and sheared his own and neighbors for several years. Their boys sheared too as they got old enough. Earl always liked to hunt and spent lots of hours denning coyotes and night calling predators. For a few years he had trail dogs and hunted bobcats and coon. The last few years he has gunned from a "chopper."

Earl and Jewell are both active in community and county affairs with 4-H and Hunter Safety being their favorites. They have four children: Larry Wayne married Billie Ann Boulden, children are Kristen Marie and Brendon Wayne; Thomas Lee married Beverly Ann Shelden, children are Monte James, Coralee Beth and Elizabeth Ann; Bruce Francis; and Mary Katherine.

Jewell Reed

## Reeder, Dan and Eva Family

The sun slid down the western sky until only a ray of half light was left. Up north an old coyote sent up his mournful cry. A petite young woman with two young children was sitting on the bank of little Cottonwood Creek, a tributary of North Box Creek. She squared her shoulders, took a deep breath and did her best to prepare herself and her children to be torn to bits by a pack of wolves or at least be scalped by savage Indians. That morning she and



Left to right: Richard Reeder, Dan Reeder, Eva Reeder, Hank Lander and Roy Shelden, 1932

her husband had awakened and seen what they thought were small deer but which were actually antelope. In like manner, they saw what they took to be wild turkeys but which were actually sage chickens. She knew she was in very wild country from the strange new things she was seeing. Darkness came abruptly as it does in Wyoming but still the woman tried to be brave.

The smallest child, a little girl, by this time was asleep but the boy was still awake. "When is Daddy coming back?" he asked. "I don't know, soon I hope" the woman answered with a sigh. At that time, as if on cue, from the east came the sound of a hard working motor and headlights cast a ray over the top of the hill. Of course there were no roads at that time and the car was bumping along over sagebrush and cactus. All three started toward the headlights crying. The little girl wailing the loudest of all because she had been sleeping with her head in her mothers lap and had been unceremoniously dumped on the ground when the woman jumped up. In addition, she had stepped on a cactus which was enough to make anyone cry.

The reason I happen to know all this is because I,



Ruth and Richard Reeder 1933



Front row, left to right: Loren, Marjory and Evelyn McKinney. Second Row, left to right: Maude McKinney, Ruth and Eva Reeder. Upper row, left to right: Harry McKinney, Richard Reeder, Hank Lander and Dan Reeder.

Richard Reeder, was the boy and the woman was my mother and the little girl, my sister. The reason we were in this predicament was because Dad had gone into town to get lumber to build our homestead shack. They had filed on the land the day before in Douglas and since we all couldn't ride in one Model T Ford with a load of lumber, we were left behind for the day. It had been a mighty long day for Mom who had never been more than three miles from a town before in her life and certainly not on a lonely prairie with two small children. However, when Dad got to the place they had chosen for a camp he put everyone at ease with his sympathetic and soothing words. In short he said, "What in hell could hurt you out here?" He could have been wrong because later after our small house was completed, Texas Longhorns had a trail in back of our house that they followed to go for water in Box Creek.

Mother, Eva Farris, was born July 1, 1891 and raised in the small town of Shelby, Nebraska, 70 miles from Lincoln. She had gone to Lincoln to help Aunt Nett and Dr. Methany, who were friends in Shelby and that is where she met Dad.

Dad, Dan Reeder, was born in Trenton, Missouri May 31, 1890 and was a motorcycle racer and mechanic. At one time he held the world champion speed record for motorcycles. This was when the mechanical age was in its infancy. I don't know the details of their romance, suffice it to say they were married at ages 18 and 19 on May 25, 1909 in Lincoln, Nebraska. I came along three years later and my sister, Ruth, four years after that. Whatever decided them to homestead in Wyoming we will never know, but I'm sure they were young, full of adventure and thought that it was there they would make their fortune. Neither of them knew anything about farming or farm animals but by necessity they found out. As a matter of fact, I remember mother telling Dr. Methany just before we left for Wyoming, "That when we make our fortune I'll buy you a Stradivarius." The doctor was a violin enthusiast and played beautifully.

We came to Wyoming in our Model T from Nebraska. Filing on the homestead on June 27, 1917 had been delayed a few days because when they located where

they wanted to file and had been looking over the area the old Ford went klunk, bong and stopped. Dad, being an auto mechanic and a very good one, crawled under the thing and took off the pan and found that the poor old Ford had a broken crankshaft. Mom, Ruth and I sat while Dad walked about three miles and found a couple of homesteaders who had a team of horses and a wagon. Their names were Roy Hart and Bud Olson and their homestead was north of where we were planning to locate.

They came and got us and took us up to another homesteaders place, a Mrs. Parrish. She was a widow woman with two boys named Orvel and Duke. She let us stay with her and the next morning Dad started to walk to town, which was 30 miles, more or less, and since walking was not the least bit crowded and no one came along he walked all the way.

Dad was pretty tough in those days but he stayed in town that night before starting back because he figured he would probably have to walk all the way back and sure enough he did. He stayed with the rest of us that night with Mrs. Parrish and right after breakfast he walked down to where the old Ford was resting. He took out the motor and replaced the crankshaft, it took all day. By the time he had finished it was dark so he crawled up in the seat and went to sleep. The Ford didn't have a starter on it so he cranked and cranked and along about noon it finally started. It just had to because by that time he had not had any food since breakfast the day before and he didn't have enough energy to walk the three or four miles back to Mrs. Parrish.

Now, having secured the lumber and with everything as close to normal as it ever got, Dad and Mom started to figure where to build their house. Dad wanted to put it down near the creek where there was lots of water and Mom wanted it up on the hill where she could see. So we put it up on the hill where she wanted it.

How in the world Dad managed to haul enough lumber to build that homestead shack on a Model T touring car I'll never know. But in those days he did a lot of things that amazed us.

The building started as soon as we had breakfast cooked over a campfire and went amazingly fast. Of course, it was small and had tar paper on the outside but it was home to us. We drank water out of the creek and boiled it until Dad could dig a well.

We had no more settled in our new home than Dad looked up toward the north and informed us "Well, I guess we are going to be held up, here comes a masked rider". Sure enough, there was a masked rider bearing down on us at a slow walk on an old bay horse that couldn't manage much more than that. The masked rider rode up to us and said in a high voice, "My stars, I didn't know anyone was down here." The masked rider then introduced herself, "I'm Maude Goldsby, and I have a homestead about three miles north of here." With that she removed her mask and explained that she had to wear a mask while she was out in the sun because she freckled so badly. She was a lovely young woman with beautiful red hair. She said she had a kid brother named Bruce and he was going to homestead when he was old enough.

I well remember our first Fourth of July in Wyoming.



We had just gotten the shack finished so that we could live in it and Mom wanted to go someplace on the Fourth of July. Dad explained very patiently that there was no place to go but Mom was so upset that she spent most of that day crying. In Nebraska, where she had spent her youth, there was always something special on the Fourth of July; baseball games, the town band and fireworks. It was a big celebration. However, Dad wasn't used to all that type of celebration so he went on with his work and let poor Mom cry.

Shortly after that Dad decided that we needed a team of horses complete with a wagon and harness. Of course, he couldn't work horses without harness so he cranked up the Model T and headed for town. There was a livery stable in town run by Ardie Slaters and that was the first place Dad stopped. Mr. Slater told him that he would need to go talk to a man named Anderson who had horses for sale. Dad hunted Anderson up and sure enough he had horses. He ran about 100 head and Dad looked them over and said "I'll take that one and that one." They were a couple of little brown mares three and four years old. Frank Batton and some other cowboys roped them out of the bunch and got them tied up to the corral. Dad still didn't have a wagon or harness so the men took him and found an old wagon and some harness. For good measure he bought a saddle too.

It took quite a while to get the horses harnessed since neither one had ever had a rope on them before and weren't even branded. But due to the "know how" of the cowboys they managed to get them hooked to the wagon and their boss told a couple of cowboys to help Dad through town and over the river bridge which they did.

After they had gotten across the bridge one of the men started feeling sorry for the "green horn" that didn't have any better sense than to hook two unbroken broncos together. He said "Look, when we turn these horses loose they're going to run". Dad said "Hell, I've ridden a motorcycle a hundred miles and hour. I know they can't run that fast". So the cowboys turned the horses loose and then ran and Dad just sat on the wagon and let them run. He got them turned into Mortons Lane by using all the strength in him and pulling them to the right; they finally slowed down to a trot and then a walk.

Everything was going along fine when a man came along in a Model T and yelled "Hi." The Model T was bad enough but with the man yelling "Hi", no bronc would stand still for that and away they went right through the fence and over the railroad track, made a left turn for the other fence and back out the same hole they had torn in the fence in the first place. However, they did stop for the fence on the other side of the road and Dad got off the wagon and tied them up solid to the fence and went back and tried to patch the place where they had torn the fence down.

He had a bad time getting the mares pointed in the right direction again and he never got the wagon home that night. The two little mares just gave up about four or five miles from home. So he took the harness off of them and put it in the wagon, put the saddle on one mare and tried to lead the other. She wasn't halter broken and the one he was trying to ride wasn't saddle broken either. But he tied the lead rope to the saddle horn and started out. The one he was trying to lead pulled back so hard she

almost pulled the saddle horn out of the saddle, which frightened the one he was trying to ride. However, she finally buckled down and dragged the other mare until she got the idea that she was supposed to come along.

They got home about dark and Ruth and I, like kids will, rushed out to pet them. Fortunately, they were so tired they didn't even try to raise a fuss. Dad put hobbles on them and turned them loose. They weren't used to hobbles, so next morning they didn't look too good, but one thing about it, they had to get gentle because we never stopped petting and using them. We named them Nell and Doll.

The only time we ever got milk other than condensed milk was in town or from the neighbors. The neighbors always gave us milk when we visited but that wasn't too frequently. However, since cattle were all over the range, Dad decided there had to be a cow that was part Jersey or something in the bunch. So he went out looking for a milk cow. He found one in a group that acted gentle but she wouldn't let him get close enough to milk her, so Dad decided to rope her. Not having a throw rope was no particular barrier to him, he simply tied a couple of halter ropes together and went forth on old Doll. The old cow in question wouldn't move away from him too far but she wouldn't stand still and let him put a rope over her head either. He had to swing it and every time he did that, it would scare the mare and she would jump and he would drop the rope. He was afraid to tie it to the saddle horn because old Nell had almost torn it out by its roots when he was trying to lead her. So he did the next best thing. He tied it to his wrist and that changed his luck. The first time he threw it he made a catch. It wasn't the cow but a nice big sagebrush that wouldn't budge an inch.

Doll didn't know she was supposed to stop when he said "Whoa" and kept going. Dad did a sort of flip flop and before he hit the ground was cussing all the cows and horses black and blue in the state of Wyoming.

This was only part of our first summer in Wyoming. After Dad sent Mom, Ruth and myself back on the train to Lincoln he took the two horses up to the Goldbys for the winter and walked back to the house with halter in his hands. He was nearly home when he came across a herd of Longhorns. He thought he would scare them like you normally do range cattle and made a run at them, flopping the halters, but one of the Longhorn steers didn't scare. As a matter of fact he took umbrage and started chasing Dad. Fortunately, Mother and Dad had put up a small amount of fencing that summer and Dad could run fast. He just barely made it under the one wire fence and that did stop the steer but the steer kept running up and down the fence bawling and wanting to get at Dad. I wish there was room for more because the Reeder's had many interesting times, good and bad.

Ruth went to high school in Douglas, graduating in 1934. She left Douglas in 1937 and went to Denver where she found work with the U.S. Government.

Mom and Dad sold their place in 1939 to the Lee Fowlers. Mom, Eva Farris Reeder, was born on July 1, 1891 and died on January 2, 1975. Dad, Dan Middaugh Reeder, was born on May 31, 1890 and died on February 24, 1983.

Richard Reeder  
Ruth Reeder Livingston



## Reese, George Sr. and Grace Family

William L. Reese was born in Wales, England in 1831. He was a carpenter and built ships. When steam was invented and with the coming of steam ships he became unemployed. They decided to come to America after making inventory of the family financial status. It was thought best that William come first with the family to follow later. He, being a carpenter, found immediate employment in Boston. In 1872 his wife and six children, including my father-in-law, George Reese, Sr., joined him in Lynn, Massachusetts. Crossing the ocean, the family traveled at steerage rate which was the lowest rate.

Imagine the joyful meeting when his wife and six children joined him then after a 23 day journey across the Atlantic on Princess Elizabeth, a coal and wind driven ship. They rushed into the inspection process accorded all immigrants. They were anxious to see the new home that he had for them.

The family took up a 160 acre homestead south of Logan, Kansas, a town without a railroad. They built a half dugout home and at first they didn't have a horse, or couldn't afford one. They obtained a couple of steers or oxen to put in their first crops.

The Reeses were often asked why they left such a beautiful country on the British Isles and a home by the sea for one in a rugged pioneer country. They would always repeat an old English axiom, "The more ancient the belief, the more fabulous it becomes."

George L. Reese Sr. and family were living near Logan, Kansas in 1913 when they read in the Logan Republic that Bill Dieleman, a former resident of Kansas was settling homesteaders in Wyoming. They wrote to Bill and made arrangements. George Sr. came to Wyoming in the fall of 1913. Bill met George at Lost Springs, they went to look over the place, then to Douglas to complete the papers to file on the 360 acre homestead. He spent the night with them.

On April 4, 1914, Mrs. George Reese Sr. (Grace) and her children: George Jr., Charlie, Leola, Raymond and Leonard came to Wyoming on the train. Cousin Bert Pilcher and John Sweeting, Bert's step-father, came with the emigrant car half full of cattle and eight or ten horses, wagon and tent. They unloaded the stock in the Lost Springs stock yard, hitched up the horses to the wagon and journeyed to the homestead south of Shawnee. Shawnee was nonexistent at that time.

John and Bert looked at the homestead joining the Reeses but didn't file on it. They stayed a few days and returned to Kansas, later Bert came back to Wyoming where he and his family made their home in Wheatland, he worked at road construction for many years.

There weren't any fences until one came to Milford McKibben's homestead.

In 1919 Reeses left Wyoming and went back to Kansas where the children attended high school and later Charlie attended Grand Island Business School. Then the Reeses heard how it rained in Missouri and they moved to Mountain Grove, Missouri where I met them.

On March 5, 1931 Charlie and I were married and journeyed to Wyoming in a Model T Ford. Arriving at

Glendo we cut up through where Glendo Lake is now to the south end of the homestead. George and Leonard were plowing with two teams with one bottom plows.

George Sr. and Raymond had come from Missouri earlier in a covered wagon trailing the eight horses; a few weeks later in another Model T were Grace, George, Jr., Leola and Leonard.

When the family arrived every building on the homestead was gone with only the windmill remaining. They repaired the mill and built a house. George Sr's job was to haul a barrel of water from the mill to the house.

We bought two milk cows; and when Leola and I went out to milk, the cow kicked my bucket of milk over, after that Charlie helped milk.

Homesteaders and renters left little by little in the 30's. We rented and bought more land. We went to sales and bought bucket fed calves and increased our herd.

George Sr. died on June 17, 1949, Raymond on December 27, 1979, Leola on December 28, 1982 and Charlie in 1984.

Charlie and I have two children; Charles V. was born on August 14, 1938, he married Cheri Fredric on June 14, 1964, they have four children. Rita Ann was born on September 14, 1942, she is married to Gerald Koeplin and has two children.

Roberta K. Reese

## Reese, Henry and Alice Family

Henry Reese was born in Hamburg, Germany in 1872. In 1888, at the age of 16, he came to the United States traveling alone. His first stop was at an uncle's place near McCook, Nebraska. He worked there and other nearby places for \$20.00 a month until 1896. At this time he headed west into Wyoming ending up in Converse County.

He first worked for the CY Ranch as a ranch hand. This was the Carey Ranch between Douglas and Glenrock and was generally known as Careyhurst. He lived the typical life of a cowboy, working hard for \$25.00 a month and riding into Glenrock horseback for a Saturday night of fun, drinking, dancing and playing penny-ante poker. Henry learned to play poker and developed a natural card sense which became one of his recreational outlets in later years. Being unable to save money at this kind of life Henry went to work in a coal mine near Glenrock. He worked four days and made a grand total of \$8.20. Not liking this type of work he soon got a job herding sheep for the John Higgins sheep outfit near Glenrock. For the first time he was able to save some money. He decided to save \$500.00 and invest in a poolhall. After reaching the \$500.00 goal he changed his mind and went for the thousand dollars with the intention of buying some sheep.

He reached his \$1,000.00 goal and then had an opportunity to buy a thousand head of sheep from Ed Smith for \$2.50 a head. Not having enough money he tried to borrow the balance from the local banks but was unsuccessful. However his disappointment soon vanished when it developed that Ed Smith owed a bill to George Bolln's store. So they worked out a deal whereby Henry paid Ed a thousand dollars and assumed his bill at George Bolln's store, gave George a mortgage on the sheep and

then went to work herding his own sheep. At first he ran his sheep on open range and government land and soon was able to hire a herder.

Later he bought a 240 acre homestead from Ed Datesman on the head of Shawnee Creek, which included a log cabin with a sod roof. Using that as a base of operations he was able to gradually acquire additional acreage and established a going sheep ranch east of Douglas on Shawnee Creek.

About this time he met Elise Schmidt who had just come over from Austria the year before. Elise was working with her mother Julia Schmidt helping in the operation of a cafe in Douglas. In July of 1906 they were married in the Jacob Jenne residence in Douglas. To this union were born four sons. The first two babies died in infancy, Henry Jr. was born on June 29, 1909 and Arthur was born on January 17, 1912.

Henry was an active sheepman for many years. He also established residence in Douglas buying a home at 6th and Center. Henry was active in community affairs, serving as city councilman during which time many city improvements were accomplished.

Elise or Alice as she was generally known was active in the Douglas Women's Club and a choir member of St. James Catholic Church.

The ranch survived the depression, although it was difficult and times were hard. During this period Henry and the two boys attended the ranch with occasional help during lambing and shearing. Times gradually improved and in 1935 Henry Jr. married Luella O'Connell. They had two daughters, Norma and Julia. Luella was a Chadron, Nebraska native and was teaching school at Shawnee.

In 1940 Arthur joined the Wyoming Highway Patrol which had been in existence only a few years. Henry managed the ranch with guidance from Henry Sr. who lived in Douglas, but was still very active.

In 1943 Arthur enlisted in the Marine Corps and served in the South Pacific for almost two years. Returning home and completing his enlistment, he rejoined the highway patrol.

Arthur married Grace Haggerty of Rock Springs while stationed there. They had two boys, Michael, Arthur and a daughter Pamela.

Alice Reese passed away on May 19, 1959, Henry Sr. followed two years later on Sept. 29, 1961.

Henry Jr. continued operating the ranch until his death on August 18, 1967. Subsequently, the ranch was sold. Arthur remained with the highway patrol retiring in 1977 as assistant director.

Arthur Reese

## Reeves, Clyde, Blanche, and Hazel

Clyde Franklin Reeves was born January 15, 1884 at Garrett, Illinois, the eldest of four sons to Harry and Isabelle Reeves. He moved with his parents to Murray, Iowa in 1893 where he grew to manhood and was married to Blanche Luce on September 20, 1909. They had four children; Gerald, Bernice (Mrs. Paul Scott), Arlene (Mrs. Ted Waters) and Pauline.

He came to Wyoming in 1916 and homesteaded three miles south of the Dry Creek Store. He later managed the

Fiddleback Ranch on Box Creek. Blanche cooked for hired hands.

Blanche passed away October 24, 1953 and the daughter, Pauline, passed away in 1934.

He moved to Douglas and kept his homestead. Clyde and Blanche were good neighbors, always ready to help when their friends had a new baby, sickness or death in a family.

Clyde had a good memory. He could remember when all the children were born in the community, also when different events happened.

On November 19, 1957 he married Hazel Scott Johnson. He died October 17, 1963 at the age of 79 and is buried in the Douglas Park Cemetery.

Ruth Pellatz

## Reichelt, Fred and Angie

The AR Ranch, originally 320 acres, was homesteaded in 1919 by Angie Sprague. Angie's mother, Mary Jane Sprague, homesteaded on another acreage nearby. Angie had been born in Salem, Missouri on September 8, 1890, and had come with her mother to Wyoming.

The Spragues engaged the services of Fred Reichelt to assist with the management of the ranch. He came to Wyoming in 1928 to serve in that capacity and remained in Wyoming to make it his permanent home. Angie Sprague and Fred Reichelt were married later. Angie had a daughter, Virginia, by a previous marriage.

Before he settled in Wyoming, Mr. Reichelt was connected with the Missouri Pacific Railroad for 18 years working as a switchman and Assistant Yard Master. During WWI, he was a member of the Railroad Battalion in charge of troop trains at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, Missouri.

As the years passed the Spragues and then the Reichelts increased their original holdings to include eight sections of deeded land capable of supporting 250 head of cattle.

Virginia Reeder married Clarence Beeler April 12, 1924. The couple were the parents of three children, Gloria, Eva and Donald. Clarence died in 1973 and is buried in the Douglas cemetery.

The Reichelts moved to Douglas to make their home in 1953. Angie passed away on February 14, 1960. Fred died 13 years later on September 4, 1973. Both are buried in the Douglas Park Cemetery.

Ruth Grant



Angie had a daughter Virginia by a previous marriage.

## Reid, Charles Sr. and Eliza Family

Eliza Ann Collings was born December 25, 1853 to Peter and Nancy Collings. The fifth child in a family of ten, in Terre Haute, Indiana. All ten were born in Jackson and Vigo Counties, Indiana.

Charles Reid was born July 5, 1851 in Montgomery, Alabama.

Eliza Ann Collings and Charles Reid were married in Colorado Springs, Colorado, October 7, 1880. Their first child, Charles Henry, was born in Alamosa, Colorado, May 25, 1882. They ran the Halfway Station on the Ft. Fetterman Road at 22-Mile on the Laramie Plains. I, Margaret Bolln Curry, can remember Grandma telling about going to Ft. Fetterman for supplies, down a long bumpy hill in a spring wagon. Uncle Charlie bounced out the back and some Indians picked him up, riding away. They brought him back in a few days and traded him for a few pieces of silver. Grandma was busy in the way station; and lacking toys, she would put molasses on Uncle Charlie's thumbs and forefingers and give him a feather to play with from one hand to the other, keeping him amused for quite some time.

In the early spring of 1884, there were heavy snows up to the roof of the station. Steps were dug out from the front door to the top of the snow. Grandma had gone out for some exercise and when returning, slipped and fell all the way down, landing on a rock slab in front of the door. The next morning, March 21, 1884, George Cornelius was born with the assistance of a snow-stranded couple. Grandpa Reid was snowbound at a neighboring ranch.

They moved to Fort Fetterman from 22-Mile and then to a ranch about 30 miles south, on the LaBonte, which he called the Lazy SJ in 1886. While living there, Margaret Nancy was born on August 8, 1887 and Florence on October 25, 1890. Mrs. Messenger took care of Grandma both times. Florence weighed between 2½ and 3 pounds and was wrapped in cotton batting, placed in a cigar box and put on top of the warming oven. She was always a small child and could usually be found by looking for the big dog, her constant companion.

In 1892 Grandpa Reid sold the Lazy SJ to Archie Rutherford and moved to Douglas. They bought a



L. to r. Charlie Reid, Laura Reid, Ester Norcross and Ross Norcross.

rooming house on Second Street and called it the Reid House. It is known now as the Converse Hotel. They also bought a restaurant from an elderly couple, by the name of Warner and grandma ran both while grandpa spent most of his time with sheep business. (from the Pioneer People, published in 1962; by Laura Reid).

Tents and tepees were used as living quarters on the range for sheepherders. In 1893 Charlie Reid designed a canvas covered wagon with built-in equipment such as stove, cupboards, bed, table and seats. Frank George and Tom Cook, local blacksmiths with Harry Ruhl and Gus Peterson as helpers, had a board shack for a blacksmith shop, which had to be torn down to make way for the Burlington Railroad some years later. These "smithies" constructed a new kind of home, on the running gears of a wagon provided them by Mr. Reid. This was the first sheep wagon in Douglas. In the spring the completed wagon was pulled in front of the Reid House to be loaded with supplies. Many people inspected it, among them, John Morton, who had the second wagon made with several improvements, the major one probably was replacing the canvas flap style door with a tight fitting canvas covered frame on hinges. In April Mr. Reid pulled his new "Home on the Range" to Rawhide as headquarters for lambing camp. To the joy of the trusty sheepherder, wherever the sheep went, this convenient wagon went for him to live in.

Grandpa Reid wintered his sheep at Scottsbluff, Nebraska. He contracted pneumonia while there and died March 15, 1899. He was buried in the Poverty Flats Cemetery and later moved to the Reid-Ullman-Bolln family plot in the Douglas Cemetery.

After Grandpa Reid's death, Grandma sold the Reid house and bought a ranch on Mill Creek, approximately 25 miles from town towards Laramie Peak, from Joseph and Flora Callais, June 11, 1902. She later added more adjoining land from Thomas G. and Martha A. Bruner. These two parcels of land were original land grants to Callais and Bruner. Grandma moved the sheep to this ranch. One of the men working for her was George Ullman, born September 25, 1868 in Germany, who she married at the rectory of the Catholic Church, Douglas, September 15, 1902. They acquired



Reid House 1890 L. to r. Margaret Reid, Eliza Reid, unknown, unknown

additional land and lived there until 1919 or 1920, when they moved to Douglas. The ranch was later operated by Charles and Laura Reid. The Ullmans built a house in the 400 block of South Fifth which they later rented, moving to a smaller house at 226 South Fifth. Grandma Ullman passed away July 26, 1939 and Grandpa George Ullman passed away December 4, 1946. The ranch was sold to Cliff Peterson, who owned the adjoining ranch originally owned by the Foxtons.

#### Marriages:

Charles Reid - Laura Johnson, daughter Elizabeth Ann  
George Reid - Pearl Evans, daughters Helen and Ann,  
divorced and married Carrie Johnson  
Margaret Reid - Waldo H. Bolln, daughter Margaret  
Pauline, son Otto Reid  
Florence Reid - Wm. M. Stansbury, daughter Janet,  
son William M. Jr., divorced and married J. Newton  
Scott, son James Jefferson

#### Deceased:

Charles Reid, March 1963  
Laura Reid, May 10, 1976  
Elizabeth Ann Reid Wills, March 16, 1975  
George Reid, March 18, 1971  
Margaret Bolln, November 14, 1975  
Waldo Bolln, March 8, 1938  
Florence Scott, April 11, 1977  
J. Newton Scott, February 13, 1963

Margaret Bolln Curry

## Reynolds, Joe and Mary Family

Joe Reynolds was born in 1885 in South Dakota where his parents had homesteaded in Charles Mix County. Joe was the sixth of nine children raised on the farm located in the "breaks" on the west side of the Missouri River of southern South Dakota. His early life was spent in the immediate area of the family home where he did odd jobs and herded cattle on the unfenced range land. In 1909 Joe and three friends headed for Wyoming where they hoped to get work on the Pathfinder Dam construction project. The four had pooled their money for tickets on the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. Those tickets got them as far west as Orin Junction. Out of money and still a long distance from their destination, they hired on as cowboys with the Keeline roundup crew who were shipping cattle from Orin Junction at the time. The four men, Joe, Dick Emery, George Marty and Jack Sulley, never made it to the Pathfinder Dam site but remained in the cattle business the rest of their lives. Joe soon went to work as a cowboy for J.M. Carey and Sons at their Careyhurst Ranch west of Douglas where he was employed until 1917 when he homesteaded on the Cheyenne River in Converse County. World War I caused a shortage of cowboys so Joe worked part time for Careys until 1920. During Joe's cowboy years he rode in the vicinity of Casper, Midwest, Gillette, Newcastle, Lusk and Douglas and for several years "run the wagon" for Careys.

Mary Lane Slichter Reynolds was born on a homestead west of Fort Fetterman, Converse County in 1895. Her mother, Mary Cass Lane, died shortly after Mary

was born and John and Sarah Slichter, nearby neighbors, raised her and adopted her three years later when her father, John Lane, died. John Lane had come from Virginia to work as a crew boss for the Black Diamond Coal Mine owned by the C & NW Railroad near Inez just west of Douglas. Joe Reynolds and Mary Slichter were married in 1915 and lived in Douglas until suitable housing could be built on the homestead in 1917. Mary Reynolds had grown up a dedicated horsewoman and helped with the riding and other ranch work until she was 80 years old.

Joe Reynolds bought his first cattle and brand from Bert McReynolds who had his camp near Joe's homestead. Since the open range was rapidly becoming private property Joe began buying homesteads near his own and leased pasture for his growing herd of cattle. In 1928 he bought a 400 cow herd from the Higgins estate of Glenrock and leased their former summer mountain range south of Glenrock. He then summered all his cattle in the mountains south of Glenrock and wintered them on the Cheyenne River north, about 60 miles separated the two ranges.

In 1930 he bought the Duck Creek Ranch division of the John T. Williams Sheep Co. which was eight miles from his home ranch. The mountain lease was abandoned and all efforts were directed toward adding to the two ranches he and the banks owned. After the purchase of the Shorthorn cattle from Higgins, Joe bought only registered Hereford bulls. In 1942 he put together a small herd of registered Herefords to supply bulls for his commercial cattle. Joe's lifelong interest was cattle and the ranching activities associated with them. For many years during the '20s and early '30s Joe was a rodeo arena judge at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas, Cheyenne Frontier Days as well as other locations. Joe was a Mason, Shriner and for many years a member of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association executive committee. Joe remained active in the ranching business until he was 84 years old and spent the remaining years in Michael Manor in Douglas where he passed away at the age of 87 in 1972.

I, Walter J. Reynolds, was born in 1916, the only child of Joe and Mary Reynolds. I was a little over a year old when my parents moved to the ranch location on the Cheyenne River. I attended rural and Douglas grade schools and high school at the Prep. School on the University of Wyoming campus in Laramie. My recollection of those years is of cowboys and horses, trailing cattle and building fence and homesteaders selling out. I graduated from the Engineering School of the University of Colorado in 1938. Those were not the best of times so there were few jobs for college graduates, or anyone else for that matter. For about a year after I got out of school I surveyed for the Federal Soil Conservation program in much the same area my father had cowboied in 30 years earlier. He enjoyed reminiscing about events near or at the sites where I staked reservoirs. In 1939 I joined my father in the ranching business. The same year Evelyn Ireland, daughter of Harve and Mary Ireland of Douglas, and I were married and started living on the Duck Creek Ranch.

World War II caused drastic changes in our ranching. Engine driven equipment replaced teams and trucks



replaced trailing. We sold our work horse mares and saddle horse mares, about 40 head, and eliminated most of the chores normally associated with ranches and farms.

For many years I was president of both the Douglas High School Board and District 17 School Board. I have been chairman of the Converse County Republican Central Committee and member and president of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. I have been a member of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association executive committee since 1955, served as chairman on many subcommittees and also as the 32nd president of that organization. I have been a member of the board of directors of the American National Cattlemen's Association. For seven years I have been a member of the State Water Quality Advisory Board.

Evelyn and I have three children who are all engaged in cattle ranching. Karen, Mrs Lowell Goemmer of LaVeta, Colorado, has two sons. Sherry, Mrs. Don Dukat, of Gordon, Nebraska, has two daughters and one son. Jeff is part owner of and lives on our ranch northwest of Douglas. Jeff's wife, Cindy Burks Reynolds, is a great granddaughter of John and Sarah Slichter who adopted my orphaned mother.

Walter Reynolds

## Rice, Charles and Almina Family

Charles Rice would have been able to trace his family back to Simsbury, Connecticut during the time of the Revolutionary War. From there, his grandfather, Joseph Rice moved his family to the frontier of the time, Trumbull County, Ohio in the heart of what was known as the Western Reserve. Again, the family looked to the West when his father, Lorenzo Dow Rice left Ohio and moved the family to Osage, Mitchell County, Iowa. Charles grew up on a farm there and later studied to be a carpenter. Charles was probably introduced to Almina Howard by his brother, Ammon Rice. Ammon had married Almina's sister, Amanda in 1866.

On Feb. 27, 1879, Charles and Almina were married at LeMars, Iowa. Shortly after, Charles obtained the position of Post Carpenter for Fort Fetterman, Wyoming Territory, and the necessary packing and purchasing was made for the long journey by ox-team. The journey was undoubtedly crowded as Almina's mother, Anna (Young) Howard and two children came with them.

The children of James and Anna (Young) Howard played an important part in the beginnings of our young country around Converse County, Wyoming. Not only did Ammon and Amanda (Howard) Rice settle here, but another brother-sister match, William Howard and Georgia (Rice) decided to make Converse County their home, and established ties here. Many will also recall Almina's sisters, Almeda, who married Frank "Sodcorn" Gore, and Ellen, first wife of Sam Slaymaker, Converse County's first assessor. (Note: Ellen married #2 J. R. Slaughter, and when she died in 1899 was buried in the old Douglas Cemetery north of Douglas. There is no marker for her grave). The father, James Howard, who had remained in Iowa followed the family to Wyoming. Evidently James became ill shortly after arriving here in Wyoming and he became one of the pioneers buried at Old Fort Fetterman, Wyoming.

Charles soon found the atmosphere around the old Fort unsuitable for raising a family and moved his family to a log cabin in Spring Canyon, about 15 miles from Fort Fetterman. Indians lived close by and Charles, coming home on the weekends from the Fort made it a point to remain friendly with the tribe. One boy always waited for Charles under a tree, and was always rewarded with a bit of candy. When he failed to appear one day, Charles rode over to the camp to learn the boy had died.

When Fort Fetterman was abandoned in 1882, Charles was offered a post at Fort McKinley near Buffalo. He chose instead to homestead on Beaver Creek in the LaPrele Community of Converse County. This place became a stage-stop, and often a "resting place" for travelers using the Laramie City to Fort Fetterman Road. Charles continued to work as a carpenter and his skill as a blacksmith came in handy for both his own and



Lamb brothers threshing at Charles Rice place, 1911. L. to R.: Charles Rice, Mabel Rice Lass with Stanley Lass in front.



travelers' repair work with wagons and animals. Many of the coffins at the old Fort were built by Charles, and all of them in the little community cemetery at Beaver, Wyoming were made by Charles and lined by Almina Rice.

The Beaver Post Office was granted May 15, 1887, and Charles became the first Postmaster with the family kitchen serving as the post office. Later, Mrs. George Cross would take over this duty. The family moved from their log home to the new two-story home built by Charles about 1890.

Charles and Almina had three daughters; Anna (born 1879), Myrtle (born 1884), and Mable (born 1888). All the girls attended the old Beaver School, made of logs, near the ranch. Anna married Ethbert "Bert" Stanford in 1902, Myrtle married Leon Sutphin in 1903, and Mable married Al Lass in 1909.

The younger daughter, Mable became seriously ill, and the Rices took the oldest grandchild, Stanley Lass, to raise. After Stanley married Mary (George), they lived for a time with the elder Rices. Mary can recall driving to the mail box each day to check for mail and on the way back would offer Grandpa Rice a ride to cool off from the hot summer sun. He never took her up on the offer as "Grandpa Rice did not believe in Women Drivers!"

Charles and Almina decided to sell the ranch in 1938, and from there moved to Glenrock, Wyoming. They enjoyed trips to property in Oregon and to relatives around the state of Wyoming. In 1940 they celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary with family and friends wishing them the very best. Charles died in Dec. 1940, just a few months before a 62nd wedding anniversary, and Almina died in 1944. Both are buried among friends and family in the Glenrock, Wyoming cemetery.

Sharon Lass Field

## Richards, Clare and Agnes Family

Clare Allen Richards "Slim," was born October 21, 1889 while his parents were moving from Rockport, Missouri to Colorado. His parents had stopped the mule team pulling the covered wagon for a rest and so that he could be born.

He lost his father at a very early age, and was raised by his stepfather and mother along with three half brothers and three half sisters. He did a lot of mischievous pranks as he was growing up, being remembered for teasing the girls with snakes and pulling their hair.

He attended a country school in Colorado and completed fourth grade. At the age of eleven he had to quit school and make his own way. From 1900 until 1909 he did anything and everything, from thinning and harvesting sugar beets to working with a number two shovel on the railroad.

In 1909 Slim came to Wyoming on the Colorado-Southern Railroad which at that time extended to Orin Junction. He was hired by then Governor Carey to work on the CY Ranch.

In 1913 he was hired by Gilbert Brothers to help build the Burlington Railroad overpass at Orin Junction. He then went on to help them extend the railroad to Casper. His job during this time was to drive a six horse to 20 horse team, pulling an excavator as all dirt work was

done by team. The wages, considered good, were \$2 a day.

In 1915 Slim, Wheeler Eskew and John Flynn drove string teams of 14 horses from Douglas north along the Ogalalla (Ross Road) hauling freight for such ranchers as Metcalf and Nellie. The round trip took seven days and Slim recalled hauling lumber for some of the buildings still standing in that country. The roads were often muddy, and to get across some of the worst spots, the horses had to be unhitched from two wagons and hooked to one. This process was repeated until all three wagons were across, and on their way.

September 1918 saw Slim leave Wyoming to join the army and serve in World War I. He attained the rank of PFC in the medical corp and served at Fort Leavenworth and Fort Riley, Kansas and Fitzsimons Army Hospital in Denver, Colorado. By November 1919 the war was over and he received an honorable discharge.

On returning to Wyoming, he discovered the Gilbert Brothers were erecting the huge oil tanks in Casper. Again working for the construction company, and using the teams of horses, he helped level the ground where the tanks were to be set, and was in on the construction of the huge earthen dikes which surrounded the tanks. From Casper, the construction company and Slim moved to Tank Farm between Glenrock and Orpha, doing the same type of work. The dikes are still there, along with the water tower.

In June of 1924 Slim married his long time sweetheart, Agnes Pearl Brewer. Following his marriage, he worked for many of the area ranchers, among them Bill Smith Sr., Frank Amspoker and Mortons, Inc. He spent many months herding sheep and telling tales to his children when they came to visit him.

Slim and Agnes had ten children, eight of whom are lives in Douglas. Roy lives in Glenrock and has three children. Clarence lives in Idaho and has three children. John made his home in South Dakota with his wife and four children. Mary is currently in Mississippi and is the mother of four children. Alice is in Lamont, Wyoming. She is the mother of six children. Harry lives in Orpha and has two children.

Slim retired to Orpha where he worked in his garden. He passed away February 23, 1973.

Virginia Bonar Richards

## Richards, DeForest

In 1886 DeForest Richards moved to Douglas from Chadron, Nebraska and began a life that would lead him down the roads of business, banking and politics, and finally end in the governor's chair in Cheyenne.

Born in the East (Charleston, NH) in 1846, the second son of Reverend and Mrs. J. DeForest Richards spent his early adult years in Wilcox County, Alabama. There he was elected sheriff at the age of 22 and served two terms as county treasurer. He retired from politics and bought a tannery, which would prove to be a disastrous venture, ending in bankruptcy. After two years of work as a shoemaker (making use of the skins left from his tannery business) he had repaid all his debts and began a mercantile business which finally brought him financial



DeForest Richards

security.

In 1871 he married Elise Jane Ingersol of Camden, Alabama. They had two children, a son, J. DeForest II, the third Richards to carry the name DeForest, and a daughter, Inez Elise, born in 1873.

During a visit with his family in South Dakota in 1885, DeForest decided to enter the banking business in the boom town of Chadron, Nebraska with his brother Bartlett, a well-known Nebraska cattleman. The bank was a success and the Richards' name was to be important in banking circles in Nebraska and Wyoming for years to come.

By 1886 the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad had reached Douglas, Wyoming and the Richards brothers decided to open the First National Bank here. The bank was erected in three months on property purchased for \$1,250.00. (In 1887 Richards built a family home at Fourth and Cedar in Douglas and today this stately house is home to Mrs. Charles Saul.)

The untimely arrival of the disastrous 1886-87 winter brought stock losses so heavy that Richards realized something must be done by the new bank to rebuild the local economy. Not only were the ranches suffering, but their plight had left many area merchants with little income. DeForest and his associates began trailing sheep from Oregon, to be sold to local stockmen, and financed by the First National Bank. This chain of events helped to build prosperity unknown before in this area of Wyoming but this was not accomplished without problems. "The Cleveland depression of the 1890's occurred. One evening the bank directors met and urged Mr. Richards to bring

foreclosures against all the indebted sheepmen. Finally, Mr. Richards definitely refused to follow the advice of the directors. He maintained that to foreclose on the sheepmen would not only ruin them, but would break the town's businessmen and the community. Thereupon, the directors placed their resignations on the table and left the room. As the last director reached the door, he turned around and said, 'Richards, if you don't foreclose the antelope will scratch their backs on the corner of your bank.' But Mr. Richards did not institute any foreclosures. He worked hard, weathered the storm, brought the bank through without asking government help, saved the sheepmen and the businessmen. The community flourished and no antelope appeared."<sup>1</sup> One cannot help but feel that DeForest's failure in business at the beginning of his career gave him the empathy and courage to make this stand.

At this time, politics seemed to again become the focal point of his life. Richards served as Mayor of Douglas and was elected to the State Senate. By 1892 he was described as a dominant political figure in Converse County. In 1892 his political aspirations led to a race for the governorship. At that time the nomination was decided at the Republican State Convention and Richards lost out on the tenth ballot. By 1898 he was ready to enter the race again and began his campaign by traveling the entire state by buckboard. It was a rather ambitious task in that day, but one which he seemed to enjoy.

Richards won the governorship by 1,394 votes and was re-elected in 1902 by a very large majority. At the beginning of his second term, during April of 1903, he died suddenly in Cheyenne of a heart attack. Perhaps the most fitting tribute was offered by Fennimore Chatterton, who had accompanied Governor Richards on that long buckboard ride during his first campaign. "He had the staunch, moral and courageous character of a long line of New England ancestry. He was always kind, generous, an unswerving and loyal friend; the real test of true manhood. He was an able, successful business manager and state administrator. He was ever ready to extend a helping hand to the unfortunate."<sup>2</sup>

During his term in Cheyenne, Governor Richards helped to make the production of oil, natural gas, coal, uranium and other natural resources subject to taxation in the State of Wyoming. He also initiated a reclamation project on the Platte River which irrigated several hundred acres of land in Converse County. According to historian Clyde M. Brundy, "No Wyoming administrator ever did more for tillers and grazers of the land."<sup>3</sup>

J. DeForest Richards II was destined to become head of the Richards enterprises after his father's death in 1903. He became president of the First National Bank in Douglas and in 1910 we know he was cashier at the Omaha National Bank. Unexplainably, there doesn't appear to be any family record of him after 1911.

In contrast, daughter Inez Richards' life has been well documented, and even today, she has a memorial in Converse County. The Inez Road, to the west of Douglas, was named for her. The road intersects Interstate 25, which carries thousands of travelers past it daily, most of whom have no knowledge of the life that inspired its name.

In the fall of 1895 a romance began between 22 year

old Inez and Bartlett Richards, her father's brother. Her parents approved the match, and they were married in Berlin, Germany on February 8, 1897 in the presence of the DeForest Richards family. The couple returned to Nebraska, but the newspapers made no mention of the family's trip or the marriage — only that Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett Richards had returned.

Inez and Bartlett raised four children; Longley (1898-1974), Kathleen (1902-1904), Bartlett, Jr. (1901-1978), and Elise (1904). Bartlett was already one of the major cattlemen in America, but their life was soon to be shaken to its roots.

In 1906, Bartlett and his partners were indicted and brought to trial on charges of conspiracy to defraud the government and perjury. In a very controversial move, the government had decided to begin prosecuting those who fenced government leased lands, in an effort to "cut the cattle barons down to size."<sup>4</sup> Richards was convinced of his innocence. His land dealings were done on advice of counsel, and everything he had done had been common cattle industry practice for years. There was considerable shock when he was convicted and jailed. Inez Richards, in an attempt to protect her children, never told them where their father was.

Bartlett died in prison at the age of 49 in 1911. Inez received the news by telegram as she traveled on a train to visit him. In 1923, Inez Richards left this part of the country for the last time. All she had been able to salvage from their once considerable fortune were proceeds from the sale of a house, one insurance policy, and a small amount of oil stock from wells located on the 77 Ranch near Manville, Wyoming. During her remaining 53 years, Inez Richards never really accepted what fate had dealt to her family. Her life, once so full and secure, had ended a bitter experience.

<sup>1</sup>Bartlett Richards, *Nebraska Sandhills Cattleman*, by Bartlett Richards Jr. with Ruth VanAckeren, published by the Nebraska State Historical Society, 1980, page 66 & 67.

<sup>2</sup>IBID, page 66.

<sup>3</sup>IBID, page 67.

<sup>4</sup>IBID, page 122.

Sana Conley

## Richardson, Robert and Sada Family

Robert Douglas Richardson was born October 18, 1869 at Rolla, Missouri, the son of Jasper A. and Altamor Huffman Richardson. On December 14, 1894 in St. Louis, Missouri, Robert married Sada Del Carolyn Dawson, born May 15, 1872 in Gentry County, Missouri, the daughter of James Gilruth and Rachel Wagner Dawson.

Robert came to Wyoming from Fremont, Nebraska in March 1908 to file on a homestead. Billy Spaugh took him around to show him the land in a horse and buggy. My father located some land one and one quarter miles west of Keeline on the north side of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. After filing he went back to Fremont and engaged what was called an emigrant car bringing a team of horses, cows, chickens, and household furniture. He and two sons, Paul and Howard rode in the car to take care of the stock on the way. Mother and the rest of the family consisting of me (Grace), Opal and Beauty came



L. to r. Robert Richardson and son, Howard, butchering a hog. 1920

on a passenger train. We arrived at Keeline and stayed in a house called Grout until our house was built. It was built one quarter mile east of where it should have been located because the survey was moved one quarter mile west.

Our first well had a windlass and long bucket about five feet long by five or four inches in diameter with a rope attached. It was let down to fill with water, then we turned the windlass and up came a bucket of pure cold water. Later came a Samson windmill and pump and the wind pumped the water. What a luxury! But water was still carried in a bucket and after using the water, it had to be carried out. Father fenced his land and farmed, putting in tomatoes, small corn, wheat and oats, barley, rye, squash, pumpkin and turnips.

Sister Ruby was born on Feb. 2, 1909. Also the same year a school house was built at Keeline where all of us older children got our education. Mrs. Ellie S. Watson was the first teacher. She taught all eight grades, ninth and tenth all in one room. She was a widow with three sons, Joseph, Judson and Ernest. Joseph became a school teacher, Judson a lawyer and Ernest a doctor.

M. E. Church filed one half mile west of us. They stayed with us while their house was being finished. Years later Minerva Church married Judson Watson.

For fuel Father hauled large logs out of a canyon at the Chalk Buttes, north of us about seven or eight miles and coal from the Onyon Coal Mine at Shawnee, Wyoming by team and wagon.

All our machinery was horse drawn: walking plow, harrow, disk, riding plow, potato digger. The potatoes were picked by hand. We raised all our vegetables to have during the winter. They were put in pits. After the vegetables were put in pits it was covered by boards, straw and soil.

Mother raised a large garden and in this was several long rows of horseradish. My brother, Howard, and I decided we wanted to make some up. So we dug and dug while every once in a while saying we sure liked horseradish, well, we ended up with almost a number three wash tub of roots which had to be washed, scraped and ground. But it never all got made up as it stings your eyes and nose till you can't see but it was good on our fresh pork.

On December 21, 1910 Pearl was added to our family.

Our father put in oats this year on good virgin soil. They made 65 bushel to acre. That was a good growing year with plenty of rain. But most years were dry and made times hard. In 1912 the blizzard came, killing thousands of cattle, freezing them. After the storm the ranchers hired men to skin them. My father and brothers worked at it. This being the year after Converse County was divided. Niobrara being a county in 1911.

There were many disappointments. Like the year Father had a nice field of grain which lacked about three days of being ripe enough to cut, we had a hail storm that pounded it into the ground in 20 minutes. Next morning father plowed it under and put in oats that would make hay. What faith!

We had a carriage, two seats, two lamps and a fringed top drawn by two horses. It was called a surrey.

Father went to Shawnee and cut nice long logs to make a corral and enough to make a log building, putting in cement tanks. He put in three first, one deep enough to hold five gallons of milk to cool; the other two were more shallow for putting butter and other things that had to be kept cold. The water in the tanks was out of the well. This building was where a beef or pork was hung to keep it cool or in the winter froze.

One time Father and Mother went to Lusk on business and left us children at home. Well we had a young horse that wasn't broke and we wanted to ride. My brother, my sister, Opal, and I got busy and made up gunny sacks into a form of small girl. We stuffed it with straw, saddled up the horse and tied the dummy on the saddle. When our parents were about one quarter mile from home, we turned the horse loose. He went up the lane bucking and running. Of course Mother was so frightened as she thought it was my sister on the horse. That is an example of some of our entertainment that we made.

Many winters there were revival church meetings at Keeline. If the weather was bad and there was a lot of snow, Father would hook up a team of horses to a big sled with a wagon box filled with straw covered with a tanned cowhide and lap robes of the same to cover us.

There would be hot bricks or stones put in to keep us warm if it got extra cold. There were also dances held on Saturday nights quite often. Keeline grew to be quite a little town of a drug store, grocery, garage, filling station, elevator, hardware, lumber yard, bank, church, school and hotel. The hotel had a large dining room, kitchen and room on the first floor where there was a player piano. On the second floor were bedrooms. In those days traveling salesmen traveled by train and would stay overnight. I worked there but couldn't be persuaded to work in the dining room because I was too shy. We had two passenger trains from the east and two from the west every day.

Della the last child was born August 20, 1915. About this time Father bought a Studebaker.

In 1916, a company began drilling for oil. Paul and Howard had two good teams of horses; they hauled pipe out to the site. Shortly afterward they joined the marines but didn't see action as the war was declared over.

In 1918 during the flu epidemic, Mother and five of us girls were all very sick. Father and Opal never got it, so they took care of us and did all the other chores.

That fall Father had many acres of potatoes to pick. Because of the war, his pickers were all young women.

Howard married Louise Martinez in 1918 while still in the service in California. He died in March 1982 in Grass Valley, California. Paul married Vilda Detter (one of the potato pickers) in Douglas in August 1919. He died November 21, 1974 in Bullhead City, Arizona. On February 14, 1922, I married D. F. "Dave" Wilson in my parents' home in Keeline. Opal married Robert A. Lincoln on November 26, 1922 also in Keeline. She now lives in Fallbrook, California.

Father had 75 acres of potatoes to pick that year. Dave and his friend Charles Huntzinger went from Douglas to help. The potatoes were picked, hauled into a large drive through cellar, and unloaded. The disappointment was that Father could only sell a few of them.

In 1923, Mother went to town driving the horse and buggy. The horse was frightened by a motorcycle and ran off. She suffered a broken ankle in the accident; it healed correctly.

After a crooked deal, Father lost his place and the family moved to Douglas where Father died August 1, 1938. Mother died June 13, 1962 in Scottsbluff. Both are buried in Douglas.

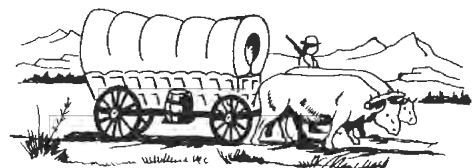
Ruby married Allen Jackson in Douglas; in 1936, she married M. Luckenbill. She died in 1941 in Rock River, Wyoming. Pearl married Curtis Cady on July 7, 1927 in Douglas. She lives in Casper. In 1931, Della married Curley Jordan; in 1950, she married Ward Nance and lives in Douglas. Beauty married Frank Martinez in California. She died May 8, 1982 in Oceanside, California.

After living in Douglas until 1937, we moved to Lusk where Dave bought out Sam Langford and built up a plumbing and heating business.

Dave lost his first wife in the 1918 flu epidemic. His children by her are Louise Ollie (Mrs. Eldon L. Hasson of Hillsboro, Oregon) and Earl Wesley (died August 7, 1972). Our four daughters are: Ruth Merle (Mrs. Hubert Snow of Evanston, Wyoming); Grace Ellen (Mrs. Gene Powers of Yankton, South Dakota); Lorraine (Mrs. Henry L. Wasserburger of Lusk); and Davenne Myrtle (Mrs. Dean Glandt of Cheyenne).

Dave passed away February 6, 1972; and I have carried on the business since then.

Grace Richardson Wilson



## Rickabaugh, Lewis and Mary

Lewis Irwin Rickabaugh, the third son of the family of ten children of Jeramiah and Amelia Anna Estep Rickabaugh, was born in Centre County, Pennsylvania, on August 5, 1858. His father was born April 3, 1829 in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania; and his mother was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, September 27, 1835.

While Lewis was a small boy, his father went to serve the Union, Company F, PA Inf, during the Civil War. The father returned from the war safely.

On December 26 and 27 of the year 1879, two boys and two girls of this family died with diphtheria.

In 1883 most of the Rickabaugh family moved to Pueblo, Colorado. Father Jeramiah and sons worked in the steel mill.

On August 9, 1890 Lewis was married to Mary Emma Snook in Pueblo, Colorado. She was the daughter of Levi W. and Clarissa Lehr Snook. Her birthplace was Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, January 12, 1855. Her father died when she was a very small child. Her brother, Henry Charles Snook, had married Lewis' sister, Mary Etta Rickabaugh, in 1881, and they had moved to Pueblo also in 1883.

Because of poor health, Lewis moved with his family to Douglas, Wyoming in 1907. By this time, Lewis and Emma had two sons, Charles (14 years old) and Clarence (12 years old). His mother, Anna, and the Henry Cyrus Miller family moved from Pueblo, Colorado to Douglas around this time, too. Mrs. Miller (Rhoda Alice) was a younger sister to Lewis.

From the DOUGLAS BUDGET, 'When Douglas Was Young' column it states: . . . During the year 1907 over 400 homestead entries were made in the Platte land district, 240 of which were located in Converse County . . . Mr. L. I. Rickabaugh announced that he will run the town herd this summer. Everybody will be glad to see the herd in competent and careful hands . . .

Lewis I. Rickabaugh and Henry C. Miller had homesteads just a few miles south of Douglas.

Amelia Anna Rickabaugh died on Dec. 18, 1914 at Douglas.

During World War I, Charles served his country overseas. Soon after his return home, he was married to Beulah Hazel May on June 4, 1920 at Torrington, Wyoming.

Clarence was married to Leora Mildred Towne, Dec. 3, 1922, in Douglas, Wyoming.

Charles and Clarence earned their living as automobile mechanics, and for a time in the early 1930's were partners in a garage. Clarence later owned and operated a garage located on North Second St. (the Moose Lodge is there now).

Lewis I. Rickabaugh passed away on Sept. 16, 1926 at Douglas of natural causes. His wife, Emma, then lived mostly with son, Charles, until her death in Douglas on Oct. 28, 1934. The homestead was sold to Herman Wulff.

The Charles Rickabaugh family moved to Los Angeles, California in 1936.

Clarence died on December 16, 1964. Leora died on October 27, 1959.

<sup>1</sup>Thurs., Feb. 22, 1968, 60 years ago - Mar. 4, 1908, Vol. 23, No. 39.

## Riehle, Jacob and Lena Family

Jacob "Jake" Riehle was born in 1878 in Immenhausen, Germany, a small farming village, and grew up with a dream of a land of opportunity.

In 1901 after serving two years in "Kaiser Bill's" army, he headed for America. Missouri was his first stop. After two years of "batching", Lena Junger, also of Germany, came to be his bride.

By 1916 the lure of "free land" to be homesteaded in the west called him. In the spring of 1917, after selling his farm and gathering together an emigrant car of machinery and livestock, along with Lena and seven children, Mary, August, Pauline, Anna, Herbert, and the twins Raymond and Rowland, (Dora and George to be added later), he moved to the homestead north of Douglas. The only transportation was horses and a "lumber wagon." They very hurriedly built two small buildings for shelter, to live in temporarily, the house to be built later. These were eventually to be used for a chicken house and tool shed.

The land was kind to him and grew a good garden, lots of potatoes, vegetables, and some crops, which continued for several years, but his desire was always to run more livestock.

Fencing the open range, by the homesteaders, left the large outfits with more stock than range. The Fiddleback Ranch, under Vic DeMott, chose to put some of their sheep out on shares of which Jake took two hundred head. To him this was his "dream come true", and his roots were firmly planted.

One of Jake and Lena's main concerns when they moved was church and schools for the family. They were instrumental in establishing the O'Leary School three miles southwest of their home. Here the older children attended school under the able teaching of Angeline (O'Leary) Tillard. This was to be followed a few years later by the Coolidge School two miles northeast, all to be brought together in the fall of 1929, along with several more small schools, to create the Dry Creek School at its present location, three miles northwest.

They helped start a Sunday School at the Fairview School, four miles north, which they attended.

During the flu epidemic of 1923 their five year old daughter Dora died. Due to the fact of not having a car and other very sick members of the family, Jake was the only one that was able to attend the funeral in Douglas.

In 1924 (a momentous occasion) they purchased their first car from John LeBar, a Model T Ford, a touring car with side curtains, much improving their mobility.

In 1927 the people of the community built the Dry Creek Hall on land donated by Dr. H. G. Lynch. Dr. and his wife, Rhue, were very active in the Fairview Sunday School. With the establishing of a community center, the Sunday School was moved there, and named Dry Creek Sunday School. Through the years Jake and Lena and family attended regularly and were very active in the Sunday School, and at the present time their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren have followed the example set for them.

In May 1928 Mary and Ernest Steinle were married and she moved to his homestead on the Cheyenne River where she still lives. They raised three children, Bill,



Carl, and Betty Steinle Slagle, as well as cattle and sheep. Bill and family and Carl and family still ranch on their home place. Betty and her husband Earl and family ranch twenty-five miles east.

Just before the "Great Depression of 1929" Jake bought a herd of lambs, to grow into ewes, for nine dollars each. Then the lambs he produced, he sold in 1931 for \$1.90 and in 1932 for \$2.20 per head — tough times. In 1934 again came bad droughts and grasshoppers. Mature ewes sold for \$2.00 each, but they just hung on and hoped for better times ahead which were to come.

In February 1934 Anna married Gerald Ford and moved to Montana but returned to this area later. In 1943 Gerald died. Later she married Roy Jarmon.

In May 1935 again the rains came and with it grass stirrup deep. Also August married June Good and with their two children, Wayne and Donna, they ranch on the home ranch. Wayne and family, with his parents, along with his uncle George still ranch the old homestead. Donna and husband Clayton Dixon and their two boys operate a ranch north of Lance Creek, Wyoming.

In 1936 and again in 1940 sadness came with first the loss of Herbert and then Rowland.

In 1940 Pauline married Bill Roesch and moved to a ranch in the sandhills near Whitman, Nebraska. Along with the normal problems of raising cattle and two boys, she enjoyed writing poetry and painting, one of which hangs in the Pioneer Museum in Douglas. Herbert and family live in Mullen, Nebraska and B. G. and family in Montrose, Colorado. After a long bout with cancer in 1964 Pauline passed away.

World War II eventually moved Raymond to the east coast where he followed the sheet metal work. There he married Katherine Shaffner. Their daughter Judy and her husband Jim Arva live near them in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

In 1944 Jake and Lena quit active ranching and in 1947 moved two miles north of Douglas, where they lived out their time. Anna still lives on this place.

Jake and Lena felt they had seen the area come a long way and felt very richly blessed with family, friends and neighbors and were happy and satisfied in their move to Wyoming. The land they had is still operated by their children. It's a long way from Germany to present day Wyoming, but they never had a regret with their moves, only satisfaction and love for America, Wyoming, and their community.

Jake died on Dec. 12, 1967, Lena died on May 18, 1959.

George Riehle

## Robertson, Wm. H. and Julia

Wm. Robertson's father, Andrew immigrated from Scotland in the eighteen seventies and was an early day sheriff in Rifle or Meeker, Colorado. Julia's parents immigrated from Germany and established a farm north of Sidney, Nebraska, which is still being farmed by family members today.

Wm. H. married Julia Ernest, daughter of Joseph and Julia Ernest on May 5, 1908.

Mr. Robertson and wife homesteaded in 1927 about three miles south of the old Verse Post Office, fifty miles

north of Douglas. Moving from Nebraska, they were one of many families moving west, victims of the "Great Depression" and the wave of bank failures nationwide. He built a fourteen by fourteen rough board building known in those days as a "tar paper shack." The family of five lived in this for several years. Water was hauled in barrels from the nearest waterhole and strained through a flour sack. From this beginning a fair sized ranch was built. The property is now owned by the Peabody Coal Company.

Of the four children, Doris, the oldest was born at Omaha, Nebraska in 1909. She taught school for the homestead children in a one room building some distance from the ranch. She rode horseback to the school. She is now a widow and lives in California.

Durward was born in 1911 at Omaha, graduated from high school in Broadwater, Nebraska and homesteaded near the ranch. He organized his own drilling business after WW II and was one of several drilling contractors who founded the Wyoming Drilling Contractors Association in 1965 in an effort to upgrade drilling practices in Wyoming. He married Clara M. Owen, February 12, 1941. They are members of the Congregational Church and have two children living, Evelyn A. Earlachner of Findlay, Ohio and Sandra J. Poirot of Buffalo, Wyoming.

Wm. H. Robertson, Jr. was born in 1913 at Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada. He served in the Navy in WW II and homesteaded near the ranch. He taught school for several years in Converse County. He was employed by the Wyoming Highway Dept. until retirement. He married Grace S. Spracklen in 1940. They have two daughters, Betty and Rose Lee (twins).

Kenneth J. Robertson was born April 29, 1922 at Dalton, Nebraska and served in the navy in WW II. He was a member of Oakland, California Police Department until retirement. He now lives at Bridgeport, California. He has four children, Larry of Sidney, Australia, Chrissy, Joan and Jimmy of California.

Wm. H. Sr. died in Sept, 1960. Julia married Pat Oliver in 1962.

The homestead days were hard on children; and two of the homesteader's children are buried on the ranch. Not long ago I stood on a spot in a remote part of the ranch where I had knelt 50 years before as a couple buried one of their children. They were too dazed by poverty and the terrible drought of 1934 to provide for their children; and they were burying the youngest in a rough wooden box lined with a piece of old quilt. As I stood in silent reverie I wondered if the one who lay here might, if given a decent chance at life, have today become a great man or even president. It was a sad realization that wind and sage and sand were all these little souls would ever know.

Durward Robertson

## Robins, John and Ella

One of the first pieces of information on John Robins is the remembrance that Charles Reid had printed in "Pioneer People of Douglas and Converse County, Wyoming 1886." "John Robins and Gordon Fitzhugh Sr., proved upon homesteads on Wagonhound Creek about ten miles south of Douglas. One homestead shack served

them both. The partition was over the boundary line of the homesteads, Mr. Robins occupying one end, Mr. Fitzhugh the other." Courthouse records show that Mr. Robins received his patent on October 2, 1890. Dennis Daly lives on the land in 1985.

The "Douglas Budget" of December 18, 1895 printed the wedding plans of John H. Robins and Ella Mills. "Cards are out announcing the marriage, Christmas Day at the ranch of Fred George of LaBonte, of Mr. John Robins and Miss Ella Mills. The groom is one of our leading business men whose friends are legion and the bride is a handsome and accomplished school teacher."

Ella came west from Wisconsin to be with her relative, Mrs. Fred George.

After selling his ranching interest to John C. Gamel on December 31, 1895, he went into the livery barn business in Douglas.

An article in the June 15, 1898 edition of the "Douglas Budget" relates of Robins' sale of his interest in the livery stable. "Mr. Frank Tinkham, late of Harrison, has purchased John Robins' interest in the Elkhorn stables and the firm name will hereafter be Hazen and Tinkham."

The Robins family moved to Nebraska in the spring of 1899 and located about 15 miles north of Rushville. Later they moved to Rushville.

John died in Rushville in August 1934. Ella married Tom Sutherland and moved to Hoquiam, Washington. She passed away on January 3, 1944 and is buried in Rushville.

Their children were: Hilbert (b. September 12, 1896, Douglas); Ethel (b. 1897, d. 1897); Lila (b. 1899); Mae (b. 1907); Lorraine (b. 1908); and Avalina (b. 1910).

John R. Pexton



Tom Sr. and Nettie Robinson with Tom Jr. and Helen Robinson.

## Robinson, Thomas and Nettie Family

Thomas P. Robinson, son of William and Johanna Robinson, was born December 23, 1881, in Rockford, Illinois. At age sixteen he moved with his parents, two brothers, and two sisters to Belgrade, Nebraska. He helped his father farm here for several years.

On February 28, 1906, Tom married Nettie McCormick, daughter of Frank and Mary McCormick of Belgrade, Nebraska. She was the oldest of eleven children. There is still one brother and two sisters alive, the oldest being Francis McCormick in a nursing home in Fullerton, Nebraska. He was one hundred years old July 14, 1984.

After they were married, Tom and Nettie bought a farm at Greeley, Nebraska. They had three children — Helen, born February 19, 1907, Tom Jr. born March 19, 1913, and Merle, March 1916.

In April of 1916 Tom Sr. and his father Bill left Nebraska in a covered wagon with seven head of horses to go west. A saloon was for sale in Fort Morgan, Colorado, and Tom was going there to try to buy it. In a month they reached Cheyenne, Wyoming. Nettie and the three children came by train and met them there. At this time father Bill Robinson returned to Nebraska by train. Tom, Nettie, and the three kids (Merle being six weeks old) continued on in the covered wagon. Upon reaching Fort

Morgan they found the saloon they had hoped to buy was already sold. Being a happy-go-lucky man, this did not discourage Tom. He had a farm in Nebraska paid for and \$3,000.00 in his pocket. So they just decided to travel around for awhile, stopping wherever there was a creek with a fish that might bite. Tom and Nettie both loved to fish. They circled around by Denver, then up through Baggs, Wyoming, and in August ended up out of Glenrock at the Tom Martin ranch on Deer Creek. Getting tired of traveling and a little weary, they decided to stop here for awhile.

It was haying time at the Martins and they needed help. So Tom went to work for Martin helping put up the hay. For his pay he was given a white saddle horse named Bob. This horse was to become very useful to the Robinsons in the next few years.

Fall was fast approaching. Tom and Nettie decided it might be well for them to take a homestead. In order to prove up on a homestead at that time you had to break up 40 acres. The first of September Tom left his family at the Martins, and he started out to look for a suitable place to file on a homestead. He chose a place 15 miles north of Douglas, this was to be his home for the next 48 years.

Lumber was hauled with team and wagon from Douglas; and Tom and another homesteader close by, Clyde Hammond, started putting up a three room house. They barely got it finished and moved in before the winter storms came. Fuel had to be hauled from the timber which was 16 miles away.

Since there was no school anywhere close Helen did not get to school that first winter. The next fall, in 1917, Tom leased the Jamieson place about three and one half miles north of Douglas and the family moved there during the school year so Helen could get to school. She rode the white horse, Bob, back and forth to school every day. The Robinsons lived on the Jamieson place for two years.

Soon more homesteaders with children came. A small school house was built on the Robinson land about one half mile from their house. Here Helen and Tom Jr. both attended school. Later the Robinsons built a small house in the Brownfield Addition at Douglas and the family lived there during the school term. Tom went to work for a well driller and after a short time was able to buy his own rig and go into that business for himself. He drilled many, many wells for people in those early days.

Tragedy struck the Robinson family in 1922. Tom was away from home drilling a well. Nettie, being in a hurry to get lunch for the children, used kerosene to start a fire in the cook stove. There was an explosion and fire, but Nettie was able to wrap herself in a blanket and put the fire out. Helen, the oldest, was not at home at the time and Nettie walked one half mile to the nearest neighbor who took her to the hospital. But she was severely burned and lived only two days. Her body was shipped back to her home in Nebraska for burial.

In December the next year, Tom took his three children to Nebraska to spend Christmas with the relatives. While there the youngest boy, Merle, now seven years old, caught a cold that developed into pneumonia and he died. He was buried beside his mother at Cedar Rapids, Nebraska.

Tom, Helen, and Tom Jr. returned to the Wyoming homestead and Tom continued his well drilling but also got some livestock and started into the ranching business. During the early 30's there were many problems and hard times for the Robinsons. It was during this time the government paid the ranchers to kill livestock because of a grass shortage. Tom watched the slaughter of about 100 head of sheep and then stopped the officials. That winter the Robinsons wintered around 2800 head of sheep. Tom Jr. said that was when he learned you could winter sheep on sagebrush and very little corn.

"T. P." Robinson, as Tom Sr. was often called, lived his life to the fullest. He was extremely ambitious and seemed to thrive on hard work. But this did not keep him from taking time out once in awhile for a little fishing or a good game of poker. He was indeed a gambler at heart.

While many of the homesteaders proved up on their land and then decided to go back where they came from, Tom stuck it out. He gradually bought a homestead here or there that joined him — always having to borrow the money. The word retirement was not in his vocabulary and he continued working on his ranch right up to the time of his death on Christmas Eve, 1964, at age eighty-three.

Helen Robinson graduated from Converse County

High School and taught school before marrying Tom Eberspecher in February 1926. They had seven children, all living at this time—Tom, Jean, Helen Lee, Bill, Kate, Merelene, and Mike. Tom Eberspecher passed away April 7, 1976, and Helen on August 2, 1982. These seven grandchildren of Tom Robinson Sr. own the land and continue to manage that part of the ranch where the original homestead house still stands.

Tom Robinson Jr. married Ella Edwards in 1934. She was the daughter of Con and Blanch Edwards, who homesteaded four miles south of the Robinsons in 1923. Tom and Ella still own the land that was the Edwards' homestead along with other lands in the Robinson ranch. They presently live on the August Swanson place that Tom Sr. purchased in August 1947. They have one daughter, Dorothy Robinson Butler, who resides in Kentucky. By virtue of continued involvement of Tom Robinson Jr., the Robinson Ranch is the oldest established homestead in the Walker Creek area still occupied by the original non-native homesteader.

Ella Edwards Robinson

## Rogers, Clyde and Viola Family

Clyde J. Rogers and Viola G. Swank Rogers and two children, Dennis K. and Evelyn F., moved from Barnard, Kansas to Converse County in 1926 to a homestead site located north of Douglas in N½ Section 14, Township 36 North, Range 71 West that had been staked the previous year. The homestead was proven up on November 19, 1928. The mode of transportation was a Dort car that my father had built from spare parts. The cab was made of wood and canvas. The homestead house was a one room building approximately 12' by 16'. The bed Evelyn and I (Dennis) slept in was built so it slid under the folks bed when not in use. In front of the house was a cellar dug into the ground. We used this frequently during severe electrical storms. The nearest neighbors were the Glen Bakers, about three miles away.

I attended school along with four others in a small building at Box Creek School near the Baker homestead. Most of the time I rode a horse to and from school.

In December 1928, Kenneth was born on the home-



C. J. and Viola G. Rogers Homestead north of Douglas with Dort car made by Clyde Rogers about 1926. Left to right: Dennis K. Rogers, Viola G. Swank Rogers and Evelyn F. Rogers.

stead. I walked to the Baker place for help in deep snow that covered the fences while my father (Clyde) went for the doctor in Verse, Wyoming to come out.

The homestead was sold to the Fiddleback Ranch in the spring of 1929. We moved to Douglas and my father got the bid for the Orin Junction bus route for high school kids. In October 1929, we moved to Orin into the caretaker building for the hotel at Orin. In May 1930, we moved to the place on the North Platte River that was called the Howe place. It was owned by Willard A. Saul of Douglas. My father purchased this place in 1931 and was in the bee business for a few years.

In the summer months, he tried his luck at prospecting for gold in the Black Hills and the Big Horns. The largest gold nugget he found, the size of the end of my little finger, is still in the Rogers family to this date.

In 1953, after serving ten years in the armed forces, my wife, Phebe (Norton), and I and our two daughters, Carolyn and Georgia, moved to the ranch.

My father and I started clearing sagebrush from the land with a machine devised and built by my father, installed an irrigation system, and built the place up to what is known as the Rogers Ranch at Orin.

In 1971, Phebe and I bought the Ford-Lincoln-Mercury franchise from Raymond and Alice Messick, now known as Rogers Ford.

I served on the Board of County Commissioners from 1966 to 1970, served on the Douglas Housing Authority and Irwin Towers Board from 1969 to present, served on the Converse County Airport Board from 1979 to present, on the board to keep the Law Enforcement Academy in Douglas and helped secure the land for the academy, served on the planning boards for the new library and the Converse County Courthouse, was one of the original members on the board to bring the National High School Rodeo Finals to Douglas and served on the host committee from 1978 to present.

Viola died on Dec. 19, 1978, Clyde died on May 8, 1980.

My wife, Phebe, is a Past President of the American Legion Auxiliary and Converse County Cow-Belles. In 1968, she became the Wyoming State Fair Parade Marshal until a few years ago. From 1968 until present, she has been in charge of the grandstands for the Wyoming State Fair. Phebe was the Secretary of the Bicentennial Committee. In 1981 and 1982, she was in charge of the grandstands for the National High School Rodeo Finals.

In 1973, after four years in the air force, our older daughter and her husband (Carolyn and Greg Stinson), moved back onto the ranch. Since that time, more improvements have been made and the Rogers Ranch has expanded more. Carolyn taught school at Shawnee from 1974 to 1976 and is presently teaching 6th grade at the Douglas Middle School.

Our younger daughter and her husband (Georgia and Gary Rightmire), and their son Ernest Rightmire, moved to Orin in 1976. Gary is presently working for Rogers Ford.

Dennis K. Rogers

## Rothleutner, Albert and Karolina

The Rothleutner heritage started with Albert Rothleutner coming from Austria in 1882 to escape the religious persecutions in Germany. He first settled in Ewing, Nebraska before coming to Douglas. He owned and operated the flour milling factory.

In 1884 he took Karolina Thramer for his wife in the small mission chapel in Ewing, Nebraska. As most young couples, the family started right off with the birth of their first daughter, Lena born in 1885. In 1887, another daughter was born, Maria. The third addition brought their first son, Joseph in 1889. Hatti was the fourth child born in 1891 and Jennie in 1893. Anna came in 1895, Frank in 1896, and Rose was the last of the 19th century, being born in 1899. The 20th century brought a girl, Lany in 1902, a boy, Albert in 1905, another girl, Agnes in 1908, and the last boy, Max in 1911. This completed the prolific family of 12 children.

Frank, after graduating from the sixth grade, took various jobs to help in the supporting of their growing family. Frank, being a very strong and masculine man for his 17 years of age, carried paddies of cement on his shoulders up the ladders to the brick layers who were finalizing the construction of the tall steeple of St. Peters Cathedral in Ewing. This hard and strenuous labor was later to prove beneficial in the need for strong men to break horses in the new pioneering Douglas.

The oldest daughter Lena, was the first to break away from the family nest. She along with her husband, Charles Dailey moved to Douglas. Charles got work at the Land Office in 1915. Charles wrote telling the rest of the family about the free land in Converse County to be had by homesteading it for only a filing fee.

Joseph at age 27 and Frank at age 17 took a great interest in adventuring to the new territory. In 1916, they both took on the challenge of the two week trip to Douglas by team and wagon. The following spring they filed for homestead claims 65 miles north of Douglas, at the base



Left to right: Mary Jo, William and Leo Rothleutner on the Rothleutner Homestead.



of Cow Creek Buttes. Life in 1917, at Douglas was a young, rough, western, cow-punching town where the people had to be determined and tough to match its perils. Life on the new homestead would prove to be even tougher. Joe and Frank found that the first winter batching together to be the test of a lifetime.

They dug a cave in the sheltered side of the mountain to escape the vicious demands of nature's bitter cold. A tarp cut the wind out of the entrance to the cave. Many days the men spent cutting the large pine trees in preparation for the dream of building a home in the spring. This dream became a reality in 1917 when the house was finished. In the spring of the next year, the first project was to figure a way to supply and hold water for the dry summer months to follow. The men chiseled a large hole in the limestone rock and lined it with cement and rock. The cistern being about 12 foot by 12 foot. They took roofing tin and made a cover to keep the collected rain water clean and the varmints out.

In 1918 Albert Sr. traveled to Douglas with three of his daughters to file for homestead claims of their own. Albert purchased the old Braffel farm west of Douglas on the Cold Springs Road (Max and his wife, Helen, live on the farm today). This was to be a home base for his wife and younger children. Their livelihood came from operating a dairy farm. Two of his daughters, Hatti and Maria, filed claims on the land bordering their brothers, Frank and Joe, out along the Cheyenne River, Meadow Creek and Hog Back, staying close together. The family helped each other in supporting their needs to survive and develop the untilled land.

Hatti married Bert Tony, a ranch hand. Maria married Ray Dailey, Charles Dailey's younger brother.

In the fall of 1919 Albert returned to Ewing to bring his wife and the rest of the children to Douglas, for their first Thanksgiving in the untamed Wyoming territory. The German speaking family depended on the Jesuit Mission Fathers to help them in their spiritual needs in this new pioneering town.

The mode of travel for Frank and Joe in the early 1920's was made by train and horses the 65 miles to Douglas. The semi-annual trips took them over gumbo dirt trails, zig-zagging along section lines for the two day expedition. The two men looked forward to their escapades to town to pick up supplies and enjoy a few days of entertainment. The cowboys in town especially looked forward to seeing Frank. He was known as one of the top notch wild horse breakers. Before rodeos became commercialized, the main attraction was between cowboy and horse. Down at the local rodeo many a bet was placed on Frank against the wild horse.

In the middle 1920's Frank carried the mail on horse back from the post office at Bill to the fifty odd homesteaders living in the Dull Center area.

Each fall at shipping time in the early 1920's, after Frank had increased his cattle herd to about 200 cows and 1000 head of sheep, he trailed the cattle on horse back and the sheep on foot the 65 miles to Douglas. Frank carried all his food for himself and two dogs in a canvas wrap on his back.

In 1928, Frank at the age of 31, decided it was time to pursue a lonely man's dream to take a wife. Searching through the Lonely Hearts Club, he wrote to Chillicothe,

Ohio and received the sweet smelling perfumed letters from Elizabeth Clara Whithrow. In the fall of that year while Frank was shipping the stock to Sioux City, Iowa he took a side trip to Ohio to check out this lady who wrote the most enticing letters he ever read. Clara really caught Frank's eye. Her stepmother, having younger children of her own, was anxious to get the older girls out of the crowded family nest. Frank went home till January and couldn't get the young woman out of his mind. So after more letters, which later he found out the stepmother had written because Clara being only 16 at the time wasn't experienced enough to ensure a catch, he married Clara on January 18, 1929 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Chillicothe, Ohio.

The train brought the young couple to Douglas to meet Frank's parents and family. After a night's rest they began the two day trip by freight wagon and team to the desolate north country. Frank's bride, even though she came from a poor family, was not prepared for the uncivilized barren land in north Converse County. Not even a bathroom; it took some getting used to! No running water either! Frank's bride was young and had stamina to work hard and was willing to learn with Frank's help.

On December 31 of that same year the first son, James Leo, was born. Since this new little fellow called for Mom's attention at home, Frank was left to tending the herd himself. The dresser drawer with a feather pillow made a perfect bed for the little guy. He was snug as a bug that winter.

The next year Mary Jo came along and took over his dresser drawer. That summer of 1933 was a dry year and there were many varmints hanging around for water and food. Leo being about two years of age was playing outside when an eagle swooped down to attack him. Luckily Mother was hanging out the wash and rescued him. This called for the putting up of chicken wire over the chicken pen to protect their meat, eggs and children out at play.

The third year William arrived. This called for some drastic changes to be made in the little shack. The 20 x 24 shack got smaller and smaller along with the hardships of washing laundry and diapers by hand. It was an unending job heating water on the wood burning stove. Frank, with the help of his sisters and brothers, moved about six miles down the hill and built a one room log cabin.

In the next three years two more boys, Robert and Frank came along so this meant adding on a second hand chicken house to furnish bedrooms. The new bedroom addition had the luxury of having the wall paper redesigned every 3 or 4 months with the old Denver Post. This was collected from an old neighbor friend in town. The walls were then clean and the children would read the cartoon funnies at nap time.

This was the year that Clara got her first appliance. It was a hand operated wringer washer.

In Dec. 1936, Clara had ordered their usual Christmas clothes out of the Sears, Roebuck catalog. They had forgotten to order the hard sugar candies the family liked so much and dried fruit, so Frank took their 1929 Model T and went to town on one of his buying trips. In the meanwhile Clara with some of the older children took it upon themselves to get the tree for Christmas. Clara, being eight months pregnant with Dave, found a low bushy



tree with many smaller stalks. Clara and the kids were no match for the hardy sticky pine with their small hatchet. They wacked and wacked the tree until it looked like the porcupines were at it and couldn't make up their minds where they wanted to chew. I don't think Clara struck twice in the same place on her determined swings to down the tree. After hours of exhausting work and sun-down, the disappointed family went home with a few small branches. On Christmas Eve when Frank arrived home the few branches were an awful excuse for a tree so off to the mountains Frank went, he got the biggest tree they ever had.

After a line of four boys, Carolyn, a beautiful blonde haired little girl, was born. She was the apply of Daddy's eye. In 1939 Mother Nature sent twins. A girl Joanne and a boy John were welcomed into the family. As the family grew in size and age, Leo was given a .22 gun for his birthday to help provide food for the table. The summer of the 40's brought warm days and playful young boys to proudly demonstrate their accuracy in the handling of the gun. Leo had all the younger children line up with apples on their heads for the demonstration. Needless to say the watchful eye of Mother was never too far. She gave a lasting and hard learned lesson, in responsibility to the young man. In Mother's fright and panic the gun was thrown into the bottom of the 10 foot deep cistern full of water never to be retrieved even to this day. The gun still lays rusted in its place, as only a memory of yesteryear.

In 1941, a sickly and scrawny little girl was born, Theresa. This brought the family to 10. The next year a namesake, Hatti, came along named after Dad's sister, who died earlier that year and had no children of her own. The last boy, a bouncy Fred, made 1944 a good year and 1946 the last of the Mohicans, Barbara, finished the family for a total of a lucky 13 children.

As more people moved there were many a barn dance and party held in the loft of the big two-story barn, that went up with the help of all the neighbors. That old barn with its loft of hard wood floors became a great dance hall. There are few words to describe the fun, laughter, joking and even a little tipping of the jug, to raise their spirits even higher, that were had at the dance. Home made tater whiskey did its job well.

Jumping out the loft door with a sheet for a parachute was a challenge for the kids, and all the rides that old milk cow had to put up with, and bless the little calves who taught us kids how to hang on for a good ride.

Albert Sr. died on May 22, 1951, Karolina on January 18, 1940.

As the years went by it was difficult to make a living on one section of land so Frank began buying out his sisters and brothers one at a time, then the Ike Dull homestead and Esau homestead. Many loans later they ended up with 7,004 acres of deeded land and 7,000 acres of federal land.

April 29, 1972 put a close to the life of Frank and on August 15, 1972, Clara died, bringing an end to all their hard endured labors of life.

In 1972, after 45 years of hard toil and sweat of his brow, it seems ironic that the same government which gave him the opportunity to start the ranch in 1917 forced the children of Frank and Clara to sell it because of high inheritance taxes.

Theresa Rothleutner Moore

## Rupe, Thomas and Alice Family

Since there are none of the elder members of the Rupe family now living in Wyoming, establishing correct dates has been a problem. The information about the early '20s and '30s was furnished by Jesse C. Rupe of El Paso, Texas.

John Tusing Rupe (my great grandfather) lived in Bethany, Missouri. I, I. B. Rupe, can recall seeing him only one time. My father and mother (Tandy and Lucille Rupe) took my two brothers and me to Bethany for a visit. I seem to remember him as being quite gruff and had a full beard almost to his waist.

My grandfather (Thomas N. Rupe) owned a jewelry store in Franklin, Nebraska. My uncle (Everett L. Rupe)



L. to r. Maurice, I.B., Thomas, and Tandy Rupe.

was living in Franklin when he and a friend (Lem Mulhern) decided to come to Wyoming. This was in the early 1920s. Mulhern filed on a homestead on Lake Creek, north of Tin Can Lake, approximately 60 miles northeast of Douglas. Everett worked some for Mulhern on his homestead and along about this time Everett got his younger brother Otho (Toots) interested in coming to Wyoming. The year that Toots came to Wyoming is not certain. Between the two boys they talked their older brother Don into coming to Wyoming and filing on a homestead. I believe this was in the Verse community.

Things were not going very good for my grandfather in the jewelry store so the boys talked their parents into moving to the homestead on Lake Creek. The youngest son, Jesse, tells about his first visit to Wyoming. This was in 1926 while he was going to college. He rode a train to Douglas and then caught a ride with the mail carrier to Bill, Wyoming which at that time was about 15 miles northeast of present day Bill almost on the Cheyenne River. His parents then met him at Bill and took him home to Lake Creek in a team and wagon.

About this time my dad and mother and two brothers and I made our first trip to Wyoming. I remember our car was a '26 or '27 Pontiac. The roads north out of Douglas were all dirt. On the way to the homestead we

got bogged down in a big mud hole right at the entrance of the lane leading to the D. W. Ballard ranch. The weather was warm and the car windows were down and the minute the car came to a halt the mosquitos swarmed in. My mother was bitten so badly that she spent the entire vacation in bed. If I remember correctly, it was the late Emmet Ballard who pulled us out of the mud hole the next morning with a team of horses. While Emmet was working at getting us out of the mud his younger brother Otis was balancing himself on the top wire of the fence and his feet hooked on the next lower wire. All of a sudden he lost his balance and flipped over face down in the mud. This was the time that my brothers and myself became acquainted with Otis, who was my age, and with this acquaintance developed into a lifelong friendship. He is now Park County Coroner and owns the Ballard Funeral Home in Cody, Wyoming.

Shortly after this period my grandfather and grandmother moved to a location about three miles east of Bill and erected a log house, which to this day is still standing and is owned by Bill Steinle.

Late in January 1929 my grandfather was alone at the house. My grandmother was in Denver visiting Don who was working there. Everett was in Racine, Wisconsin visiting Tandy and family and trying to find work. Toots was working out some place or other. The water well was a hand dug well about one half mile from the house. My grandfather was on the way to the well after water when he met the mail carrier who carried the mail from Bill to Dull Center. The mail came on Tuesdays and Fridays and the carrier was then on the way to Bill. An hour or so later he was on the way back to Dull Center with the mail from Douglas and it was then he found my grandfather who had suffered a stroke and was down on the road. The mail carrier carried my grandfather into the house and put him to bed. Then he started looking for Toots and found him at the Ross Owen place. Any other day of the week my grandfather would have frozen to death. Shortly after this Jesse made a deal for a 40 acre place near Bloomfield, Iowa and my grandparents moved there.

My father (Tandy) was a printer by trade; and early in 1932 the depression was in full bloom, and he lost his job and there were no jobs in his trade available. Then, in March 1932, the Tandy Rupe family moved to Wyoming. I remember coming through Douglas at night and going on to my grandfather's place where Everett and Toots were then living. The next time I saw a town (Douglas) was two years later and I rode a saddle horse up Center Street as we had just finished trailing a bunch of cattle to the railroad stockyards from Bill.

The log house that my grandfather built was a one room building. The cook stove was in one end, a pot bellied heater in the middle and Dad and Mother's bedroom was in the other end of the house separated from the rest of the house by blankets strung on a wire stretched across the room. I can still see my mother standing over the cook stove in the middle of July canning a 350 pound hog that my dad and uncles decided had to be butchered then.

We used to have some real good times in this old house. The neighbors from miles around would gather there quite often. Everyone would bring different foods and there was always an ice cream maker for homemade

ice cream. During the daylight hours games were played outside and then when evening came the rugs were rolled up, the furniture moved out of the way, corn meal was spread on the floor and the dancing started. One of the neighbors, Gay Ford, played the guitar, my uncle, Toots, played the jew's-harp and the harmonica and my brother Tom played the banjo.

My dad and mother were divorced about this time (1934), and he moved to Iowa. Everett and Toots also gave up trying to make a living out of the dry land farming and also moved to Iowa in 1934. Toots died there in 1935. Don and his family moved to Idaho where he is now living. Times were pretty tough at this time and my mother worked as a cook for different outfits in the area. My brother Tom joined the CCCs, and Jacque and I were farmed out to various families who very generously shared whatever they had with us. This was real western hospitality.

My brother Jacque and I were lucky enough to be able to attend the Dry Creek School which was located where the present day Bill now is.

My mother married James A. Bowers of the Dry Creek community in June 1935 and with their help Jacque and I were able to attend high school in Douglas and graduate. Mother died in 1975.

In 1940 Jacque joined the National Guard in Douglas. This unit was called to federal service in February 1941 and then was sent to Ft. Lewis, Washington for training. Jacque died at Ft. Lewis on May 30, 1942.

Tom married Helen Pickinpaugh of Shawnee, Wyoming and they had two boys, Larry of Kansas and Maurice Jacque of Douglas. Tom and Helen were divorced and he later remarried. He now lives in Douglas with his wife DeLores.

I married Yvonne "Boots" Septer of Douglas, we had two boys, James Dean of Douglas and Oren Thomas, who lives with is wife, Sherlyn, and family, in Casper. I and Boots also had a daughter Judith Ann who died July 20, 1949 at the age of four. I retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 1982, and Boots and I make our home in Douglas.

I. B. Rupe

## Russell, Edwin E. and Velva

Reno Russell, father of Edwin, was born in Illinois, receiving his elementary schooling there. Though he never attended a school of veterinary medicine, Reno learned to practice, having a natural talent for treating sick animals. He was raised in a farming community, so there was a demand for his service. Eventually he made his living practicing veterinary medicine.

The Russell family migrated to Manville, Wyoming in 1910, making part of the trip in a covered wagon. Reno rented a house three miles west of Manville and engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine. Five years later Reno took a homestead claim near the Chalk Buttes in Niobrara County. In 1918 Reno sold his homestead and moved his family into Lost Springs where they lived for a year before moving on.

Edwin Earle Russell was born on March 28, 1902 in Chicago, Illinois. He received his common schooling in

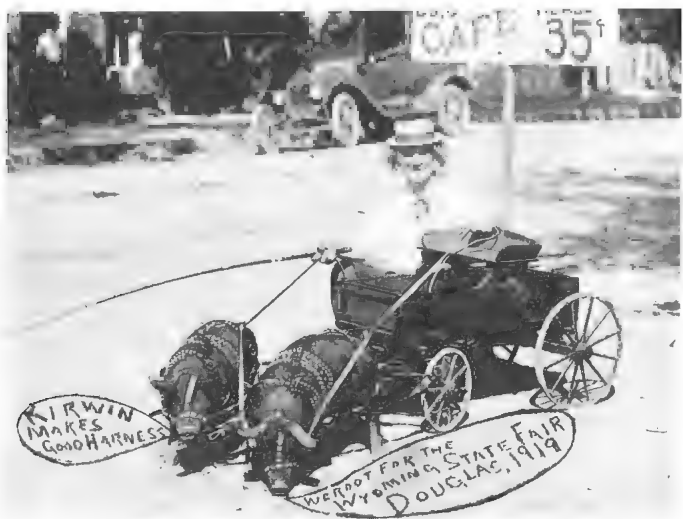


E. E. Russell Saddleshop 1952. Ed Russell on the left displaying a safety belt he made for his son, Earle, on the right.

Manville, later taking correspondence courses to complete his education. When he was old enough he found employment at various ranches, among them being the Moore Ogalalla Sheep and Cattle Company, the Josey Harris outfit north of Lusk, the Frank Brooks ranch south of Jireh and at the old "77" ranch under Tom Fackler, foreman.

At the age of 16 Ed came to Douglas to work as an apprentice to Jack Kirwin who was well known throughout the area for his leather work and who operated a shop on Center Street in the rear of the William Gerlach building. Ed's starting wage was \$3.00 per week plus his room and board, the room being the leather workshop where he made his bed on a leather cutting bench.

In 1919 Jack Kirwin had in his employ a Frenchman named Art Brozett who was skilled in leatherwork. Brozett had previously been a circus performer. Before the opening of the Wyoming State Fair that year, Brozett had fashioned a set of miniature harness for a team of



Art Brozett and team of pigs in 1919 state fair.

pigs. He kept the pigs in a small pen behind the harness shop. Before the fair opened and within two week's time, Brozett had broken the pigs to drive and to pull a small wagon. People came from miles around to see this unique team and to pose for pictures with it. Art engaged the local photographer, Marsh, to take pictures of visitors to the state fair standing beside the team and wagon. These photographs sold for two for a quarter. Business was brisk! Brozett drove the team in front of the grandstand for the entertainment of the audience.

There was a carnival on the fairgrounds. One woman who was working there became interested in the team and wagon. She approached Brozett with a business proposition. In return for the team of pigs, harness and wagon she would agree to give Brozett \$200 in cash plus the deeds to some lots which she owned in the city of Thermopolis on the condition that Brozett would go with her to that city after the fair was over and remain there for two weeks. During this time he would teach her to drive the team. Art agreed to the proposition and departed with the pigs and the lady. Two weeks later he returned to Douglas wiser and poorer. He brought no money and no deeds. He did have a suit of clothes and a case of beer.

Ed was apprenticed to Kirwin for three years during which time he began to make articles on request. He fashioned bridles and soon was filing orders for belts, bill-folds, briefcases, purses and other custom made articles, each of which bore individualized designs, beautifully shaded. Ed's raised leather stamping is well known throughout the United States and in some foreign countries.

When Ed made a trip to Illinois to visit his mother in 1925 he met Velva Bryant, daughter of Sylvester and Alma Miller Bryant. Velva was born on November 20, 1905 in Clarion, Iowa, the eldest in a family of four children; Velva, Harry, Ernest and Leslie. Velva's father was a native of Illinois, her mother a native of Iowa. They were married in 1900 in Clarion, Iowa, moving to Wisconsin to farm when Velva was three years old. Later the family moved to Iowa where Sylvester was engaged in the cement business. When Velva was in the eighth grade the family moved to Illinois where Sylvester once more operated a farm and where Velva completed her high school education. After her graduation she was employed in the telephone office in Rockford, Illinois.

In honor of her son's visit, Mrs. Russell gave a party to which she invited numerous guests, among them being Velva and her mother. Ed jokingly says that he and Velva met for the first time in the bathroom of his mother's home. The house was rectangular, with two doors in each room connecting it with its adjacent neighbor on either side. Thus when Ed, on his way to the kitchen, entered one bedroom from the living room then into the bathroom, he met Velva who had come from the kitchen into the back bedroom and on into the bathroom.

For about two years after their first meeting, Ed and Velva corresponded and then they were married in Chadron, Nebraska in January of 1927, after which they returned to Douglas to make their home.

Two children were born to this union, Earle Ray and Alvada Imo. Earle married Nona Dixon. They are the parents of two children, Scottie and Echo. Imo married David Harned and to them were born two children,

Esterbrook and David.

Shortly after his marriage Ed took a homestead on Twenty Mile Creek northeast of Douglas. The claim, located at the head of Cedar Draw, was homesteaded for Fred and Harry Manning. For a time Ed ran some cattle with the Manning outfit. After three years, in which he did not satisfy the proving up conditions, he relinquished the claim and then re-homesteaded the same land. This time he completed the requirements. His dwelling was partly dug out of a bank having a sod roof and front in which he placed one window and one door. He sold the claim to Harry and Fred Manning for \$100 some time later.

Jack Kirwin retired in 1932. At this time Eddy established his own business; and in June of 1933 he moved to a location on North Third Street. The building which he occupied had been the original Converse County Jail, built in 1888. It housed prisoners until 1919 when improved penal facilities were constructed near the Converse County Courthouse on Fifth and Center Streets.

The building was 24 x 44 feet, having a chrome steel cage which was divided into two cells with eight bunks and a corridor. The jail room was separated from the sheriff's office and the kitchen, which were located in the front part of the building, by double iron doors. The jail room was lined with native two x six inch planks, resulting in a six inch wall, ceiling and floor and having eight inches of bricks on the outside. The rear windows were equipped with steel bars, brought through the walls and bent over on the inside. It was considered practically impossible for a prisoner to escape from the jail.

On one occasion, however, there was a near escape. It concerned a prisoner from Buffalo, Wyoming, a burly man who reportedly spent several nights loosening a couple of floor planks, intending to tunnel then to freedom. Ben Campbell, an old trapper, lived in the building south of the jail. He had a pet bear which he kept chained in the alley behind his place. When the prisoner finally completed his tunneling and broke through the last of the soil the first thing he saw was the bear which, according to the story, sent the criminal scurrying back through his tunnel to the safety of his cell.

In addition to such notable prisoners as George W. Pike, Tom Horn and Ed Ellis, the jail served as a place of safety for Ben Jones and William Walker, the two witnesses of the murders of Nate Champion and Nick Ray during the Johnson County War of 1892.

At one time the jailer, Tom Cook, required the prisoners to carry water in buckets from the Platte River to water the cottonwood tree which was growing in front of the jail. This served two purposes, the tree thrived from regular watering and the prisoners got their exercise.

Ed retired from his business in 1978. He and Velva live in their home on Fifth Street. He still enjoys his hobbies, having extensive collections of antiques such as mule and ox shoes, sleigh bells, ranch dinnerbells, kerosene lamps and an excellent collection of spurs. One pair of spurs, inlaid with silver and made by Kelly Brothers and Parker of El Paso, Texas, belonged to Buck Lucas who held the title of World Champion Cowboy for three years. Buck purchased the spurs from the firm for the sum of \$65.00. Occupying a place of prominence in his home is the last



Ed E. Russell, on July 24, 1960, riding his horse carrying mail on the 100th anniversary of the pony express. The mochila, (Spanish for knapsack), which fit over the saddle, was made especially for the event by Ed at the request of Clark Bishop.

saddle which he made. Ed was a master craftsman and justly proud of his work.

Ed is a member and past president of the Lions Club. He is a Mason and a member of the Shrine at Rawlins, Wyoming, as well as a member of the Eastern Star. He was master of the Masonic Blue Lodge in 1940, 1944, and again in 1966. He served as patron of the Eastern Star. Mrs. Russell is a member of the Eastern Star, serving as matron in 1949.

Active and interested in community affairs, Ed was one of the Pony Express Centennial riders in June of 1960. His photograph appeared in the Douglas paper, "The Enterprise," taken as he passed the Dave Johnston Power Plant, riding at full gallop to complete his portion of the ride. Eddy was 58 years old at the time this photograph was taken.

Ruth Grant

## Rutherford Family

Archibald Aymer Oliver Rutherford (born in 1868 in England) came to America in 1892 to be with his brothers, William and M. B. O. They also had a sister, Meta O., who married Giles Strangways in 1899 in Douglas.

The Rutherford Brothers lived southwest of Douglas on Reid Creek or Rutherford Creek, as it is sometimes known, in the 1890s. Charles Reid Sr. sold them the place in 1892 but according to the state water right records Rutherford was granted a water right in 1885.

It is known that Archibald died on February 22, 1899 in Douglas. According to Mrs. Charles Reid Jr., Rutherford made a winter ride to town (30 miles) and took his evening meal at the Reid house. Feeling ill, he asked the Reids' 17 year old son, Charlie, to take his saddle horse to the livery barn while Rutherford went to



the Berry rooming house for the night. It was learned the following morning that the young rancher had died of pneumonia during the night.

The courthouse records show that the Rutherfurds sold their land on Reid Creek to LaBonte Livestock Company (Saul) in 1909 for \$18,500. They were involved in lands on the Morton Flats later and moved to Utah after leaving Wyoming.

John R. Pexton

## Sadler, Rollie and Gladys

Rollie Edwin Sadler was born at Litchfield, Nebraska, Sept. 10, 1891. He was educated in a sod school that he, himself, helped to built at the age of eight years. Rollie lived all his early years at Litchfield.

In 1915, Rollie went to Huntley, Montana to visit a friend. He got a job there as a ranch hand and was made foreman of the cattle ranch about a year later.

Rollie registered for the draft in 1917 during World War I. At about the same time he and his father and two of his friends filed on homesteads in northeastern Converse County.

Rollie was called into the army at this time but later was discharged on account of poor eyesight. Rollie was not discouraged by this and he very much desired to serve his country, so he memorized the eye chart and passed the physical to join the Merchant Marines. Rollie served his country well from 1917 to 1918 during World War I as a trainer of new sailors on the U.S.S. Brookdale. It was a coal-fired cargo carrier as well as a training ship for sailors. Rollie had a lot of experiences on this ship. He said "During one four day blow when the wind blew up to 85 miles an hour, the new recruits got so sea sick they

didn't even have enough steam left to boil coffee".

When the war was over Rollie was honorably discharged but he decided to rejoin when called back. He made several trips to Hawaii and around the Horn and back to New York City. Rollie was awarded a commendation for bravery for his heroic efforts in assisting with the salvage of the U.S.S. Elkhorn, a ship damaged during a violent storm when coming from Hawaii to Seattle. Rollie was really proud of this award.

Rollie then left the Merchant Marines and returned to the Converse County homestead. His first home on the homestead was a tent so the first thing he did was set about building a house.

They had to make \$800 worth of improvements on the place and live there three years to prove up on a homestead. Rollie turned in as improvements a dike, fence and other things for livestock raising purposes (under the Livestock Grazing Act). To fill out his \$800 worth of improvements, Rollie also turned in \$50 worth of dead prairie dogs as an improvement. This caused quite a laugh and some raised eyebrows at the land office as they questioned this as an improvement.

"Well, said Rollie, if you ever tried to make a farm on top of a prairie dog town, you'd understand why \$50 worth of dead prairie dogs is an improvement".

The land office allowed that if this was the case they would surely have to put it down as an improvement all right, so they did allow it.

After they had some homes built on the homestead they rigged up a Ford truck with a chain drive and returned to Nebraska. Then Rollie together with his father, Lewis E. Sadler, mother Izora B. Sadler and sister, Ferne E. Sadler loaded up what camp and household equipment they could and started back to Wyoming. The roads were all dirt roads and trails then and they were about 10 days making the trip.

About the only way to travel on the homestead in those days was to walk or ride a horse if you were lucky enough to have a horse. Even if you had a car or truck, there was no gas supply. For this reason, they always kept a five gallon can of gas buried in the ground so they'd be able to make a trip to town in case of emergencies.

The Sadlers spent most of their time on the homestead making improvements and raising potatoes, beans and other garden vegetables so as to be able to live. There were no jobs to be had at that time. Finally they were able to get a cow or two and a few hogs and chickens and that helped out.

When working horses in the early days, runaways were not uncommon. One time when Rollie was cutting logs in the buttes, the horses became frightened and ran away. Rollie was pinned between the wagon and the truck and the skin was all torn from the back of his hand. There was no time or money to go the 70 miles to Douglas to the doctor, so Rollie and his sister, Ferne sewed the skin back on with string from an old violin. It healed all right but there is still a scar there today.

Life was rugged on the homestead, but they still found time for fun. They visited one another and helped each other with work. They also had parties and dances. It was not unusual for the young folks to ride 20-25 miles on horseback to attend dances and parties.



Gladys and Rollie Sadler



In 1926 Rollie and Bill Good took an old well rig and went down around Lance Creek and over in the Buck Creek hills and drilled wells. Some people paid in money and some with cows and chickens but it all helped out.

In 1934 Rollie had to move the cattle and horses to Morrill County, Nebraska due to a drought. He trailed them back in 1935. Again in 1939, he moved the cattle to Gillette due to another severe drought. There were some very hard times then.

On August 29, 1935, in Douglas, Rollie married Gladys B. Alexander from Bayard, Nebraska. They spent the next 28 years on the ranch.

In 1963 they sold the ranch which they had built up to 6,400 acres of deeded land and 2,000 acres of leased land. They moved into Douglas where they still live.

Rollie's father and mother had moved into Douglas in 1939. His father, Lewis C. died in 1944 at the age of 82. His mother, Izora B. Sadler died in June 1967 at the age of 98.

Rollie and Gladys live in a nice home in Douglas where they have many relics and collections from the homestead days. Rollie is a great story teller and looks and acts much younger than his 94 years.

Gladys Sadler  
Faun Cole

## Salzman, Alfred and Jennie

Both William Salzman and Sophia Bay Salzman were born in Germany, later immigrating to the United States. William was a miner by trade and eventually made his way into Colorado, working in the mines, one of which was in Cripple Creek where they mined for gold. Alfred William Salzman was born to William and Sophia on May 29, 1887 in Pueblo, Colorado.

William did not earn a large salary working in the mines so at an early age Alfred was obliged to go to work. He began his years as a wage earner as a bus boy in a cafe. Later, he went into training to become a chef which was to be his lifetime profession.

Alfred, "Alf", Salzman met Jennie Daddaw in Denver, Colorado in 1914. They were married the following year.

Jennie Daddaw, born November 17, 1892, was the daughter of William Francis Daddaw and Ida May Hayes. William was a school teacher, Ida May his pupil. They were married on July 23, 1883. There were four children, in addition to Jennie, in the Daddaw family. In 1893 diphtheria claimed the lives of the father and three of the children, leaving the mother, one son, Edgar, and Jennie to survive.

The first Salzman home was in Guernsey, Wyoming in 1915 where they operated the Commercial Hotel. Jennie and Alf were a working team with Alf acting as the chef and running the kitchen and Jennie acting as waitress, desk clerk and supervising the cleaning of the hotel rooms.

Alf and Jennie were the parents of three children: Edwin, born April 11, 1916, Evelyn Dorothy, born August 22, 1917, and Shirley Irene, born February 4, 1926.

The Salzman family moved from Guernsey to Riverton to operate a cafe for a time. Then they decided to try homesteading and took a claim in the Rawhide Buttes area south of Lusk. To earn enough money to live

on, Alfred went to Lusk to find work leaving Jennie and the children at the homestead alone.

On one occasion a heavy snow storm occurred. The roof of the little house caved in, dumping snow all over the bed where the family slept. After the storm was over, Jennie climbed up and re-roofed the hole to protect her family from the elements.

The homesteading days of the Salzman family were short-lived. They moved to Lusk where they engaged once more in the hotel and cafe business, acquiring the Niobrara Cafe and later the Northwestern Hotel and Cafe.

In 1921, when Edwin, the eldest child, was ready to start school, Alf and Jennie traded their homestead claim for a home in Lusk. Alfred gave up his hotel business after a time and went to work for the railroad in the capacity of cook. His job kept him away from his family for long periods of time due to the fact that he prepared the meals for a bridge crew working from Lusk eastward into Nebraska. Therefore when the proprietorship of the Silver Cliff Hotel in Lusk became available, Alf returned to the hotel business. After the birth of their third child, Shirley, Jennie was in poor health. So once again, the Salzmanns gave up their business. This time they moved into Douglas for about a year moving to Glendo in 1927 to manage a cafe. In 1928 Alf moved his family to Guernsey where he bought a home and worked at the Burlington Cafe. In 1929 they leased the LaFayette Cafe in Douglas and the family moved to that city renting out their home in Guernsey. A year later they returned to Guernsey to live. Alf was employed as a hostler's helper in the Burlington Railroad roundhouse.

Once more ill fortune befell the Salzman family. Alf was laid off his job and the family lost their home in Guernsey. They moved to a small acreage near Orin Junction where they could raise a few animals and chickens. Shortly Alf found work in Douglas and resulted in moving the family once more. They found a small place south of town where they could keep a pig, cows and chickens and Jennie could raise a garden. In 1932 they leased the Spencer place located about seven miles southeast of Douglas.

Though there was not much money, the family managed to live fairly well and enjoyed their neighbors, the Walter Irwin family. The Irwins owned a good wagon and team. Both families would pile in the wagon to go to Douglas for a day of shopping carrying along a picnic lunch which they shared at noon time.

Several miles from the Salzman home was the Carmin ranch. The Carmins kept rodeo stock and in addition had a few buffalo. On one occasion the buffalo got away from the ranch arriving at the Salzman's farm yard one evening just at milking time. The dairy cows, terrified at the intrusion of these strange beasts, ran off in every direction. A week had passed before the Salzmanns had managed to gather up the last of their cows and bring them home.

In the spring of 1933 a severe blizzard came burying sheep and lambs under the snowdrifts. Long hours were spent digging out the live animals and counting the dead ones. It was a loss the Salzman family could ill afford. In the fall of that year the Salzmanns gave up the lease on the Spencer place holding an auction to sell off their farm

equipment and livestock. Then they moved into Douglas where Alf worked for the PWA for a time after which he bought the Douglas Coffee Shop. This venture was a family affair. Evelyn and Jennie waited tables, Alf cooked and Edwin washed dishes and helped his father.

Both Evelyn and Edwin graduated from high school in 1934 after which Edwin went to a CCC camp to work. Evelyn left home in 1936 after her marriage to Jack Kohlruss. Jennie once more suffered ill health. Without the help of his family, Alf had to hire persons to work. The business suffered so that in 1938 Alf sold the cafe and hired out to cook for other cafes in Douglas.

When Edwin returned home from the CCC camp, he and Alf joined the National Guard. When the guard was in training camp, Alf acted as cook for the Douglas unit.

Edwin was married to Bessie Shippen of Laramie in 1940 while he was attending college. Their first child, Ernest, was born in 1941 and was delivered by his grandmother, Jennie, before the doctor could arrive.

Alf was employed as cook for the Prisoner of War Camp which was constructed west of Douglas. After the camp closed, Alf returned to work as cook for the Douglas Coffee Shop.

Shirley married Joe Witt in 1947. They lived in Douglas for two years after their marriage moving to Casper where Joe was employed by the Standard Oil Refinery.

For several years prior to his 65th birthday, Alf was employed at the LaBonte Hotel. He continued to work part time after his retirement as janitor for the Converse County Bank and the Golden Rule Store. One big event he always enjoyed was the annual Congregational Church Thanksgiving dinner where he was chief cook.

The union of Alf and Jennie ended after 45 years when Jennie passed away on September 16, 1960. The eldest son, Edwin, died in 1963.

Alf lived at the family home in Douglas until he reached the age of 84, at which time he became unable to handle his part time jobs and he could no longer live alone. He moved to Casper in 1973 to live in the home of his daughter, Shirley. He died on January 3, 1974 after suffering a severe stroke.

The arrival of the rest of the grandchildren listed was always a big event for Alf and Jennie: Billy Gene Kohlruss, April 1, 1947; Linnea Carol Salzman, October 2, 1948; Karen Kay Witt, August 24, 1952; Connie Jo Witt, October 11, 1955; and Bobby Ray Kohlruss, February 8, 1957.

Following Alf's death, Shirley and Joe's daughter, Karen, passed away August 20, 1974 and then Evelyn's husband, Jack, April 16, 1975.

Shirley Salzman Witt



Sanford family 1909 L. to r. Charles, Bert, Eva, Claude, Anna and Mabel.

died. His father remarried and eight more children were born to this union.

When Bert was a young man he went to Audubon, Iowa where he worked at different jobs until 1897 when he and a friend, Eugene Fiscus decided to go to Wyoming to seek employment. They left Audubon by covered wagon, driving a span of mules. Their route took them across Nebraska to Lusk, Wyoming and then to Douglas, Wyoming, arriving May 1, 1897. His friend didn't stay in Wyoming — he went back to Iowa, and later settled in the Bayard, Nebraska area.

Bert stayed in Wyoming and found work at the Marshall Bros. Sawmill near Cold Springs. He worked for them about three years. While he was employed, he dug out a spring beside the road and walled it up with rocks. This spring is still used today by passers-by and is known as Cold Springs. Later, a post office was established in the area near the spring and was named Cold Springs, Wyoming. Bert found work on the Martin Smith ranch on Box Elder. He worked there about two years. He filed on a homestead in the Little Medicine country southwest of Cold Springs.

He married Anna Pearle Rice, born December 6, 1879 on March 26, 1902 at the ranch home of her parents, Charles and Almina Rice on Beaver Creek. They were married by Justice of the Peace, Hiram Daniels of Douglas. Anna had filed on a homestead on Doggie Creek, west of Upper LaPrele Creek, and since neither one had proved up on their claims, and they couldn't live on both of them, Bert relinquished his claim and they built their home on Anna's claim on Doggie Creek. Bert built the two-room house of logs with a dirt roof. The first year they were married, they lived with Anna's parents until the house was built. He hauled the logs for the house from the mountains with a team (named Susie and Lady) and wagon as there were no trucks at that time and no graded roads — just a wagon trail. This place was to be their

## Sanford, Bert and Anna Family

Bert was born at Chanute, Kansas, March 1, 1874, the second child in a family of eight children, four of whom died in infancy. His parents were Elisha Curtis Sanford and Mary Ellen Waller Sanford. His parents moved to a farm near Independence, Kansas where he spent his childhood days. When he was ten years old his mother

future home for many years.

Four children were born to them. Eva (born January 8, 1903, married Fred Topping, first marriage, Mr. Briggs, second marriage), Claude (born February 19, 1904, married Herminnie Brockmeyer), Mabel (born January 7, 1906, married Art Hageman), and Charles (born April 2, 1907).

(From here on Bert and Anna will be known as Dad and Mother).

Dad farmed several acres, using the old walking plow and horses. He raised grain, corn, potatoes, and vegetables, some of which he would sell to help out with expenses. He also would cut grain for others in the fall using the old horse-drawn binder.

In 1911, my grandfather, Charles Rice, bought a 40 acre tract of land near Roseburg, Oregon. He wanted Dad and Mother to move out there and live on the place. So, in November 1911 they decided to go, shipping household goods, machinery and horses by train. Dad built a house and other buildings and tried to farm the land, but it was not successful, so in October 1912, they decided to move back to Wyoming — they still owned their place here so moved back on it. About the year of 1916, Dad still held his Homestead Right, so filed on some land that joined the home place. He built a log house on the claim, and since the government required residency for three to five years to be eligible to prove up, the family lived there for seven years.

In 1918, he also filed on an additional homestead in the Windy Ridge area west of the present home. It didn't require residency to prove up — just improvements such as fences, etc. They later bought cattle for the place. This was about the time of World War I and times were hard — everyone was rationed, especially on food, and there was no white flour to be had, so we raised our own wheat and it was threshed by the Lambe Bros. using the old steam engine for power. Dad had a fanning mill — hand-powered — which he used to run the threshed wheat through to remove the weed seeds and dirt. It didn't take out all of the weed seed, rocks, etc., so the family had to hand-pick the wheat to take out the rocks, lumps of dirt, and rosin weed seeds that were left in. He had a little flour mill that he would grind the wheat into flour, and we used that home-ground flour for several years. Did it ever seem good when we could buy white flour again.

We had several hives of bees so had honey to use since we couldn't get sugar. At this time, Dad was in the age group to register for the draft, but he was never called.

After World War I was over, times were still hard. Dad worked on roads doing grading and bridge repair work. He used the scraper and Fresno using horses to move the dirt. After the fall work was done, Dad would take his little Witte Engine and wood saw, and go around the neighborhood and saw firewood for winter use as everyone burned wood for cooking and heat. I remember one winter when he was gone sawing wood, the temperature dropped to 53° below zero — it was a terrible winter and livestock really suffered from the cold. Dad had a blacksmith shop and did many repair jobs for neighbors, including setting wagon tires, sharpening plow lays, and welding, and shoeing horses.

They had one cow (Old Pet) which they milked —

they also raised chickens and traded eggs, butter, and vegetables to the stores for groceries. To keep the milk and butter cold, Mother filled 10 lb. lard pails (with lids) with milk and butter and we would take them to the creek and set them in the running water, putting a rock on the pail so it wouldn't upset or wash away. This kept the milk fresh for two or three days. I remember one day, there was a big cloudburst and the creek rose very rapidly, and before we could get the buckets out of the creek, they were washed away — some, we never did find.

We always butchered our own hogs and cured the meat in brine, and after it was cured, the hams and bacon were smoked in a little smokehouse with cottonwood bark — they were delicious!

Mother cooked whole wheat for cereal, made hominy from corn, and made the laundry soap. Mother did the laundry by hand, using the galvanized tub and a wash board — this usually took most of the day. Later, we had an old washer with a wooden tub and it had a dasher in the lid and when it was closed it washed the clothes by turning a wheel by hand. Mother made most of our clothes from hand-me-downs and flour and sugar sacks. Some of our clothes were bought from the Montgomery Ward and Sears, Roebuck catalogs. These would be shoes, stockings, and underwear — yes, in winter we had to wear the longlegged underwear with the drop-seat — also long black stockings. We kids were always so glad when the warm spring days came so we could change from the winter underwear to the summer ones which Mother made from flour sacks — and we got to go barefoot and no more long black stockings! Mother was never too busy with her family to take time to go to a neighbor's to deliver a baby. She acted as a midwife in the community for many years, and delivered the babies herself without the aid of a doctor. She delivered at least thirty babies — many of whom were her own grandchildren.

Dad would put new half-soles on our shoes, and he sewed up the rips and patched the shoes whenever they needed it. Dad was very handy at making small cabinets, tables, stands, and repairing chairs. He also made many things for us kids such as sleds, baseballs, whistles, slingshots, etc. He also made our mittens from buckskin which he tanned.

I remember the peddler that used to come with his one-horse drawn wagon about twice a year to sell his goods which consisted of staple foods, pots and pans, brooms, mops, cleaning products, medicines, liniments, tonics, salves, ointments, dress material, etc. — also, candy for the kids. It was always a big day when the peddler came. This peddler later was replaced by the Rawleigh and Watkins dealers.

Since we had no water or inside plumbing in the house, Dad dug a well in the yard in front of the house about 15 ft. from the kitchen door. It produced very good cold, soft water and Dad installed a hand pump in the well, and it is still used today. We had no bathroom in the house so had to take a bath on the kitchen floor in a galvanized wash tub. Dad built a "little house" in the backyard — there was always a good path to it so we didn't have any trouble finding it.

We had no electricity so had to use kerosene lamps or lanterns (and sometimes candles) for lights. For many years, we didn't have mail service, so when anyone went

to town, they would bring the mail for the neighbors, also groceries or other supplies. The community had a privately owned telephone line, and they used the old wall-crank type telephones. The line was owned by E. B. Shaffner who later sold it to the telephone company.

For recreation then, there were neighborhood picnics in the summer and old time barn dances. Dad and Mother furnished the music for many of the dances — Dad played the violin and Mother played the old pump-organ. We always enjoyed this old time music — I think my dad was happiest when he was playing the violin. On the 4th of July, we usually went to Glenrock to a big celebration. There was a big picnic for everyone, a parade, many races, and contests, horseshoe pitching, ball games, etc. In the evening, there would be a big dance on a platform set up in the middle of the street, and this would last about all night. We went to this celebration by means of team and buggy, by way of Windy Ridge and Clayton Hill, just a wagon trail then.

Dad bought his first car, a used 1915 Model T Touring car in 1920. He drove it for several years, when as the years went by he would buy later models of different makes.

As time went by, Dad did the general ranch work as he could for several years with the family helping. We children went to a rural grade school and graduated from Glenrock High School. Later we married and left home.

In the mid thirties, Dad was employed as caretaker at the Natural Bridge Park for about six or seven years. Then, he and Mother moved back to the ranch. As Dad and Mother were growing older and their health was failing, they sold the ranch in 1946 to Claude, the eldest son, and bought a home in Douglas where they lived the rest of their life. Mother died August 15, 1953. Dad died August 22, 1955. Son Claude was killed in a tractor accident on the ranch July 2, 1954. They are all buried in the Douglas Cemetery. Charles died October 4, 1972 in Jackson, Wyoming and is buried there. My sister, Eva and I are the only ones left in the family. Eva now lives in Jackson, Wyoming, retired after owning and managing a dude ranch at Elk, Wyoming a little over forty years. I am the only family member still living in Douglas.

Mabel Sanford Hageman

## Saul, Henry and Willard Families

Willard A. Saul and Henry C. Saul, twin brothers, were born in Iowa on May 23, 1870. Their parents, James and Maria Saul, came to the United States from Ireland. Willard and Henry were very proud of their Irish ancestry.

Willard Saul married Emma Gibson in 1896. Their children were Vera, Vernon and Veldon. Mr. Saul died March 19, 1947 and Emma Saul died December 24, 1962. Their son Vernon Saul, who had served ten years in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard, died in Marysville, California on October 24, 1973. Their son Veldon "Pep" married Julianna Hitschew. They became the parents of a son, Richard. Veldon Saul died on November 2, 1967. Vera Saul Trumper, had two children, Patricia and O'Donnell Trumper. Patricia married M. J. Murray, who is in the



Left to right: Henry and Willard Saul.

oil well drilling business, and they have one daughter, Kay. O'Donnell married Joanne Read, and they have two sons, Kelly and Michael. O'Donnell and family live in Tucson, Arizona.

Henry Saul married Viola Todd on April 17, 1898. They had two daughters, Gertrude and Mildred, now deceased. Henry Saul passed away on Jan. 17, 1939. Viola died on May 3, 1949. Their daughter, Gertrude married Everett Goodrich. The Goodrich's had two sons, Warren and Henry.

Willard and Henry Saul came to Wyoming on a hunting trip, and were so impressed with the country that they returned to Iowa and sold their holdings there. Together with their brother, J. C. Saul, they purchased a portion of the Lyman Cooper ranch on LaBonte, as well as adjoining lands, and formed the LaBonte Livestock Company. Their brand was 8. The families of Willard and Henry Saul moved to the ranches on LaBonte and Owl Creek in 1901, bought cattle to stock the grazing lands and planted crops of alfalfa and grain. In 1913, Willard and Henry sold their interest to their brother, J. C. Saul, and bought the 4T Ranch on Horseshoe Creek and a general store in Glendo.

Later on, Willard and Henry bought adjoining homes in Douglas; Willard purchased the Lowndes home and Henry purchased the Ed Reavill home on North Third Street. They opened a hardware and jewelry store in 1920 known as the Saul Co. which they operated together until Willard and his son Veldon "Pep" bought the Henry Saul interest in 1930. Willard and his son continued the business until Willard passed away in 1947; after the death of Veldon Saul, Veldon's son Richard operated the store until he sold it.

Willard Saul had assembled one of the largest and finest gun collections in the West. Willard was a great





String team on the LaBonte Ranch in 1907. The ranch was owned by the three Saul brothers. It was formerly the Lyman Cooper Homestead and is now owned by Dick Pexton. Vera and Gertrude Saul are in the foreground.

trapshooter and hunter, and had won many trophies and awards during his heyday until his illness prevented further competition. Among his vast gun collection is a .45 Colt that had belonged to Wyoming cowboy George W. Pike, and a matlock pistol dating from the fifteenth century. This firearms collection is now owned by Willard Saul's grandson, Richard "Dick" Saul. The collection of guns and swords consists of almost four hundred items; and with the exception of fifteen pieces, the collection is all numbered and cataloged.

Henry Saul's hobby was clocks and clock making. Those who have seen Henry's collection and work on home-made time pieces have marveled at the technical ability of the man who made them.

Henry was a graduate of the Omaha School of Optometry. He practiced the profession from 1920 until the time of his death. He also served as a member of the state board of examiners in optometry.

Henry was also an expert with a trap gun and held many titles and trophies won at state shoots. The local newspapers have several accounts of where the Saul brothers were in shooting matches. It was a hobby and tradition carried down to Willard's daughter, Vera, who won several trap shooting awards of her own.

The Saul brothers were very interested in the mineral possibilities of the mountains south of Douglas. They prospected considerably, uncovering many promising veins of copper ore. One such prospect was known as the Saul Mine close to Elk Mountain.

Willard was also interested in the bee business. He owned a small place on the Platte River at Orin, Wyoming where he had several bee hives. This was at one time George Howe's place. Willard sold it to Clyde Rogers.

Willard and Henry Saul were men of high integrity and are missed by their many Wyoming friends. As one man said, "I am sorry they are now gone, but I am glad I knew them."

Vera Saul Trumper

## Saul, James C. and Alice Family

What was to become "one of the largest and finest cattle ranches" in Wyoming (Douglas Budget May 2, 1944), was basically organized in 1901 in Converse County, 25 miles south of Douglas, by James Charles Saul. It was headquartered on a fork of LaBonte Creek, called Owl Creek.

James C. Saul was born in 1861. He married Alice A. Weston, a native of Norway.

My father, James Charles "J.C." Saul, was at the time operating two cattle and hog farms near Dennison, Iowa. He learned of the Converse County, Wyoming area from his two older brothers, Willard A. and Henry C. Saul, who had been up and hunted on the Lyman Cooper and James Willox ranches. The area was then used as a horse pasture by a big outfit running cattle out of the Platte River Valley.

Cooper homesteaded on LaBonte and Willox homesteaded on the west fork up at the base of the mountains. Both had 160 acre claims, plus leasing two school sections Nos. 16 and 26 and also leased some state land. They also controlled 160 acres of stone and timber land. With this they managed several thousand acres. Willox sold out to Cooper in 1897.

J. C. Saul and his brothers, Willard and Henry, bought the Cooper interest in 1901. The LaBonte Livestock Company was formed and incorporated.

When J. C. had bought out Cooper, he had sold his farms in Iowa and moved to the town of Dennison, Iowa. During this period Mrs. Saul took the children to LaBonte Ranch in the summers. Also at this time, Henry Saul saw the need for surveying, bought an instrument and instruction book and became a surveyor, the fifth man in Wyoming to get a surveyor's license.

In Wyoming at that time the banks preferred to loan money to large outfits only, not to homesteaders. J. C. was able to borrow money in Iowa to buy herds of cattle.



He kept the steers and sold the she-stuff to the homesteaders so that they could make a start.

In 1912 J. C. bought out his brothers. Part of the deal was a small ranch on Horseshoe Creek between Esterbrook and Glendo on Horseshoe Creek. In 1913 Willard and Henry bought the 4T Ranch on Horseshoe Creek and a general store in Glendo. In 1915, J. C. gave one half interest to his two sons, yours truly, Oliver, and Charles J. "Charley" Saul. I was made ranch manager. Charley was born in 1893.

About 1910 I learned to survey from my Uncle Henry. I was deputized to survey five miles of county road from LaBonte Ranch to the county road from Douglas to Esterbrook. Clark Bishop, the County Surveyor, came out to check and O.K. the survey.

In 1916 J. C. moved to Douglas from Iowa. Charles and I built modern homes on the ranch and were married. Charles J. Saul married Merle Blakeman and had three children: Jim, Cathy Jo and Margo. Cathy Jo married Gordon "Jim" Roush, who managed the Wyoming State Fair until retirement. Merle Saul, Cathy Jo Roush and her husband "Jim" are still living in Douglas at this writing. I married Jessie Archie.

In 1925 Charles J. Saul, the son, bought my interest. I went to manage the Ford Agency Garage in Glenrock, then to Florida for a real estate venture and finally to teach school in Los Angeles, California. In 1941 Charles bought out his father's interest and dissolved the corporation. Some time after that, Charles switched over to black Angus cattle from Herefords.

LaBonte Ranch planted alfalfa and grain crops on 1,000 irrigated acres and ran cattle on leased land, altogether about 35,000 acres. Normally, LaBonte Livestock Company shipped two shipments of cattle per year to the stockyards in Omaha, Nebraska. J.C.'s early fall shipments of 300 animals required a special train on the Northwestern Railroad, made up at Douglas. The second fall shipment was a trainload combined with other ranches of the area. J. C. traded his up-graded bulls for Governor Carey's registered heifers and sold these heifers.

The secret of J. C.'s success was his skill as a trader, buying and selling livestock. He could guess the weight of a steer within a very few pounds. He also helped some of his 10-15 employees get started in their own ranches as homesteaders.

Other less responsible ranch hands were often given the "fringe benefit" of free transportation in "prone position" in the back of a wagon by sober son, yours truly, after the boys had overdone Saturday night in Douglas bars. Consequently, full employment was maintained at LaBonte Livestock Company in the early nineteen hundreds. And, of course, without any OSHA government regulations. But the system worked!

LaBonte Ranch was sold by Charles J. Saul to Fred Manning in May of 1944. "One of the best bred herds in the County" said the Douglas Budget, May 2, 1944.

In the early years there were no telephones on ranches. County roads and bridges were limited. You often forded streams if you could. J. C. bought his own road grader in Iowa from the highway department and graded roads by live horse power. He built a concrete piled bridge across the LaBonte Creek when the early

wooden one was washed out in a flood. There was no such thing as Federal or State Disaster Area funds.

My father, J. C., was determined to run his own show and kind of looked down on anyone, including myself as a teacher, who had to work for anybody else.

For a period of time J. C. ran some sheep and well understood the trials and tribulations of the Western sheep and cattle wars. The Lobo Wolf was an enemy in those days as they slaughtered grown cattle. J. C. instigated a bounty of ten dollars for females and five dollars for males, to anyone who trapped or shot a wolf. Cattlemen assessed themselves five cents per head for this undertaking.

When my brother and I built houses on LaBonte Ranch, rough lumber was hauled from a nearby mill by yours truly with a wagon and a six-mule team. Finished lumber was hauled the same way 25 miles from Douglas.

Though not the very first in Converse County to have an automobile, J. C. was an early purchaser in 1914. In his latter years he was well known around town as the guy who sped around corners in Douglas without really looking to see if anybody or anything was at the corner first. Heaven only prevented an accident. But perhaps a pioneer cattle trader can be forgiven for a reckless and stubborn "Do it my way". He said when questioned on the subject, "everybody in town knows I drive like that at my age and they darn well better get out of my way!"

Alice died on Jan. 31, 1941, James C. on Dec. 16, 1947 and Charles J. on Sept. 9, 1974.

Charles J. bought the Dunn Ranch in 1936. He ran it until 1965 when it was sold to John Pexton. Some of Charley's faithful managers were Earl Castle, Tim Nostrum and Jay Norton.

Oliver Saul

## Schlecty, Roscoe and Mabel

Roscoe Schlecty was born in Versailles, Ohio in 1890. He grew to manhood there and received his education in the public schools, after which he drifted westward seeking a homestead location. He searched in Nebraska and South Dakota but finally ended up in Wyoming in 1913 where he found the sort of land and neighborhood which satisfied him. For a time he punched cows for Vic DeMott on the Fiddleback Ranch located north of Douglas and later took a homestead in that vicinity.

In July of 1918, Roscoe went overseas with the 28th Division to serve his country in the front lines during the first World War. He was severely wounded in the Argonne Forest in September of that year, losing his left arm and suffering other shell wounds about his body. He was critically ill in the hospital for several months, his recovery questionable.

Roscoe returned to the United States in the spring of 1919 and was honorably discharged from the service in February of 1920. He spent a short time after his discharge visiting in Ohio and then returned to Wyoming to prove up on his homestead.

In 1922, Roscoe was married to Miss Mabel Ellison of Cheyenne, after which the couple returned to Douglas to make their home. They were the parents of two sons, George and William. Mabel, who was a registered nurse worked in the hospital in Douglas for many years.

Roscoe was a successful candidate for the office of County Clerk in 1920 and was re-elected to serve a second and third term, ending his tenure in 1932.

Mr. Schlecty was one of the group in Douglas who supported worthwhile projects for the community. He was a Commander of the Samuel Mares Legion Post in Douglas.

In 1943 the Schlectys moved to Geneva, Nebraska, where they operated a hospital for a time, after which they moved to Alma, Kansas where Roscoe was engaged in the ranching business with his two sons.

Roscoe died April 6, 1948 at Alma and he was buried in Geneva, Nebraska.

Ruth Grant

## Schneider, John and Mary Family

John Schneider was born in 1863. He was married to Mary Alsplund who was born in 1857 in Sweden. To this union five children were born: Fritz, Clarence, Lillian, Ester and Jacob.

The Schneiders came to Wyoming to homestead completing their "proving up" on one parcel of 160 acres in 1895 and on an additional parcel of 160 acres in 1902. This land was located west of Orin, Wyoming near the North Platte River. Mary Alsplund Schneider died in 1911; John in 1926.

The youngest of the five children, Jacob, was born on March 17, 1894. He grew to adulthood in Wyoming and married Alla Smith in Chadron, Nebraska on October 27, 1920.

Alla Smith was born on July 23, 1895. It is probable that she was educated in the Nebraska school system, completing her education by attending Krister's Ladies Sewing College from which she graduated in 1914.

At that time fashion decreed that the well dressed ladies wore gowns with tight fitting bodices enforced by stays called "basques." These dresses were difficult to fit and accomplished seamstresses were in demand.

After their marriage, Jacob and Alla bought a place west of Douglas where they made their home. Jacob bought some dairy cattle, built a dairy barn and made his living for a time in that business. To supplement their income Alla made butter which, in addition to eggs, she sold to the local grocers. The eggs were tested for freshness by the water tub method. They were placed in the water and those that floated were discarded but those that sank to the bottom of the tub were determined to be fresh.

During the late 20s and early 30s times were hard, often there was no market for eggs and butter. It was a time during which "door to door" salesmen for products such as Rawleigh and Watkins came around with their wares, wandering groups of Gypsies were common and tramps came knocking at the door for a handout. The Schneiders fed them and sent them on their way with a sack lunch for their supper. The tramps marked an X on a fence post so that others of their kind would know that here was a family which would give them food.

In later years, along with his dairy business, Jacob bought a threshing machine and threshed wheat and oats for others in the community.

The Schneiders were members of the Methodist Church but attended Sunday school in the school house in the LaPrele district. Dorothea, who was the daughter of Jacob and Alla, was educated in the rural school later attending the Converse County High School in Douglas.

Dorothea believes that "Those we hold most dear never truly leave us. They live in the kindness they shared, the comfort they shared and the love they brought into our lives."

Jacob Schneider died on January 10, 1967, Alla in January of 1977.

Fritz was born on September 30, 1890 in Denver, Colorado. He married Menta Rice. They had one son, Leonard, and one daughter, Louise. Leonard never married. He died in a tragic fire in his home at his ranch south of Douglas on August 5, 1965. Louise is married and lives in Hawaii. Menta died in 1959, Fritz on November 25, 1961.

Dorothea Schneider Roe

## Scott, Arthur and Mary Family

Parents: Arthur Scott - Mary Simonsen Scott, married Aug. 28, 1904 in Avoca, Iowa.

Children:

"Roy", born Mar. 27, 1905	Pearl, born Nov. 2, 1912
Hazel, born Mar. 5, 1907	Ella, born Apr. 3, 1914
Edward, born Feb. 10, 1908	Albert, born June 24, 1916
Edna, born Sept. 26, 1909	Grace, born June 23, 1918
"Paul," born Jan. 7, 1911	Catherine "Renee," born May 22, 1920

Arthur and Mary Scott homesteaded in northern Converse County, north and west of Dry Creek, two miles south of Swan Johnson. They came with nine children. They had lost one girl Edna August 19, 1910 in Canada.

Their little home was quite crowded but they were a happy family. There was no school so Mary taught her children. Then there was a school taught by Angeline Tillard who rode horseback to school.

All the children pitched in on wash day, changing beds, cleaning house, etc.

Arthur was away some of the time working at different jobs.

The summer of 1923 tragedy struck. There was quite a bunch of neighbors gathered at a lake for a picnic, wading and swimming. When it began to cloud up they decided to leave and go to Mrs. Huff's house less than a mile away. Some were on foot, Arthur had a hayrack. As they were ready to go, lightning struck killing Harry Stone, son of Mrs. Huff, and Arthur Scott. Two of his children had hair burned on one side. Hazel had a flash burn, it went down her body and she still has a brown spot on the front of her leg.

Arthur was laid to rest in the cemetery at Avoca, Iowa.

In September 1923, Mary sold everything but the homestead and went back to the hometown Avoca, Iowa. She rented a big rambling house and all pitched in earning what they could.

Children: Roy Scott homesteaded west of Swan Johnson; when Roy proved up on the homestead, Swan Johnson bought it. Roy lived with his mother several years.

Hazel married Swan Johnson a year later; they had five children.

Ed lived in Kennawich, Washington and has two sons.

Paul homesteaded down by Cow Creek, he later sold to Archie Alexander. His wife Bernice (Reeves) lives in Casper (five children); Elizabeth in Cody; Mary and Rodney in Casper; Cathy, New Mexico; and Jerry in Kuwait (between Saudi Arabia and Iraq).

Pearl Olsen lives in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Ella Christensen in El Dorado, Kansas and has seven children.

Albert in rest home in Saratoga, Wyoming.

Grace lives in Longview, Washington.

Catherine "Renee" Walker in Richland, Washington and has three children.

Deceased Edna, Roy, Ed and Paul.

In 1929 Mary Scott married Ernest Boydston at Avoca and they had one son, Jack, who has four children.

Swan and Hazel Johnson bought Mary Scott's homestead in 1929.

Ruth Johnson Pellatz

## Scott, James Jefferson Family

He was the epitomy of the word "cowboy". Born in Scottsville, Texas May 22, 1861, Jeff Scott served as drover on several trail herds from Texas to Colorado. On one return trip he married Iona Jones in the spring of 1892. They later settled near Boyero, Colorado and moved to Converse County in 1917. The large family divided to make the trip — some came by emigrant train, others by car while Mrs. Scott and young son Earl travelled by passenger train. Earl recalls staying at the old LaBonte Hotel for one week while waiting the arrival of the rest of the family.

Jeff purchased the Lyman Cooper Ranch (presently owned by John Pollock) on Wagonhound. He sold the ranch in 1923 and, in conjunction with being a livestock order buyer, operated the Douglas Livery Stable. The building still stands. It's located east of the Burlington Northern Railroad track and is occupied by Kwik Print. In 1928 Jeff purchased the Bob Howard Ranch south of Shawnee on Lost Creek. He ran cattle on this property until 1932 at which time he sold his livestock and retired in Douglas.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott were the parents of eleven children: Roy, Newton, Bessie (Mrs. John Fitzhugh and later Mrs. Clarence Ebersold), Alta, (Mrs. Paul Shaw), Ralph, Walter, Frank, Violet (Mrs. Dick Jamison), Earl, Bill and Robert. Roy and Robert died as young children. Bill died in March, 1940 while attending the University of Wyoming.

Jeff related to family members frequently that he had actually roped a bear in the vicinity where Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas is now situated. He died June 14, 1938 in Douglas, Wyoming. Iona died May 16, 1931.

Anjn Scott Boner

## Scott, Joseph R. and Nellie

Joseph R. "Bob" Scott was born on August 11, 1865, the son of Robert and Pauline Taylor Scott, in Marshall, Texas.

He and his brother, Jeff, trailed cattle north to Colorado in 1880 and after returning to Texas they operated a ranch for a time that they were given by their father. The lure of open range beckoned them back to Colorado where the brothers homesteaded near Haswell.

Bob married Nellie Bollin in 1894. Two daughters, Ella Louise and Lucille Emogene (b. May 30, 1900) were born to them.

Shortly after the turn of the century, Nellie divorced Bob and returned to Texas taking her two daughters with her. The life on the eastern plains of Colorado was too harsh for her. She remarried but died shortly after in 1912.

After living a short time with their grandmother, Ella and Lucille returned to Colorado to live with their father. Lucille has many memories of living on the lonesome, bleak and flat prairies.

In 1917 Bob and Jeff brought their families to Converse County where they purchased the Lyman Cooper property on Wagonhound Creek, southwest of Douglas.

Around 1920 the Scott brothers dissolved their partnership with Bob returning to Colorado and Jeff staying on at the Wagonhound Ranch. Bob remained in Colorado until 1937 when he sold his interest to his son-in-law, William Patterson and came to Wyoming to live with Lucille. He died on June 18, 1943.

Ella married William E. "Pat" Patterson, a carpenter by trade. The Pattersons followed the Scotts to Douglas. Pat worked in Douglas for a while before filing on a homestead near the Scott ranch. Ben Middleton owns and lives on the land in 1985.

The Pattersons were the parents of three sons: Elmer, Scott and Jim. Elmer died when lightning hit the horse he was riding near Boyero, Colorado. He was not found for several days.

After proving up on their homestead, Pat and Ella moved back to Colorado where they were associated with Ella's father on the ranch. Ella died in 1930 as the result of a brain tumor.

Lucille taught school for a time in Wyoming. She tells of the time when she was babysitting with her cousin, Alta Scott, at the home of the neighbors in the mountains. "It was in the evening after the sun had gone down and the sky became all red. We became very frightened because it looked as if the mountains were all on fire. We gathered up the children and started to walk to get away from the fire. After going a short ways, however, we were very embarrassed to find out the cause of what we thought was the fire was the moon coming up."

Lucille married Lisle E. Pexton on March 23, 1920.

John R. Pexton

## Sears, Curtis and Martha

Curtis Sears came to Wyoming from England in the late 1800's. Many Englishmen were investing money in ranching operations in Wyoming at that time. Curtis managed a relay station for the stage stop route on the Old Bozeman Trail on Sand Creek after his arrival, but when the route was discontinued, he turned his attention to ranching. He began raising horses, importing blooded stallions from England to improve his stock. Curtis' ranch was located on Bear Creek; his brand was the reverse EB, connected. When Teddy Roosevelt was president, in the early 1900's, Wyoming gave him a well-trained gaited saddle horse born and bred on the EB Ranch.

The meadowland along Bear Creek produced a large quantity of hay, and eventually Curtis invested in cattle in addition to his horse business. The various ranchers along Bear Creek were situated about ten miles from one another. Each rancher owned a small amount of land, but controlled many acres of the open range.

The famous, or infamous, George W. Pike, was a neighbor of Sears on Bear Creek. The two became friends and companions. Both liked to drink and to gamble. They connived together against the large ranchers in the area, such as the CY, Goose Egg, and the Fiddleback. All of these ranchers imported purebred bulls from the east to improve their cattle herds. Curtis and George used these bulls in their own herds, as well as putting their brands on any "slick" calves they happened to come across. It followed, naturally, that Curtis and George spent much of their time in the saddle.

Curtis and Pike were out riding, searching for slick calves, when they wandered into the little town of Gillette. They tied their horses to the rack in front of the saloon. The town, at that time, consisted of a saloon, store, livery stable, and a few residences. They entered the saloon, asking the keeper if he could supply a drink for a couple of tired and thirsty "hombres". The keeper obliged them, of course, and shortly, Pike and Curtis decided that they would go put their horses in the livery stable and stay the night. Shortly after their departure, the saloon was robbed by two men, wearing bandana handkerchiefs over their faces. One of the robbers entered by the front door, the other by the rear. They ordered everyone to put their hands in the air, cleaned out the cash drawer and departed.

Soon afterward, Curtis and George re-entered the saloon, excited upon hearing of the daring hold-up. After some speculation, Curtis and Pike ordered free drinks for the house, for which they paid in cash. When the two left Gillette the following morning, the saloon keeper had as much in the till as he had had before the robbery, but his liquor supply was depleted.

Curtis hated sheep! One morning a band of sheep was reported grazing in the lower meadow. One of Curt's hands, named Pecker Nick Steve, accompanied Curtis, horseback, to the meadow to drive off the offending sheep. The shepherd, a Russian, refused to move his herd and an argument followed. Steve, aware that the argument was about to become a fist fight, took the six-shooters from the two men, and the fight began! The two

men fought and fought. When they could no longer stand, they would lie on the ground panting for breath. When they had recovered sufficiently, they would begin to fight again. This continued for more than an hour, finally ending when the Russian herder, wiping blood and sweat off his face, sent his dog around the sheep and headed over the divide.

Once a company of United States soldiers, on a mission, camped on Bear Creek for the night. They turned their horses and mules loose to graze. The next morning, the wranglers could not find the cavvy of stock, thus the company was unable to move. For several days the soldiers searched for their animals, but had no success. In desperation, the commanding officer offered a reward of \$500 for the return of the horses and mules. The story goes that George W. Pike and Curtis Sears appeared at the camp at daybreak with the missing animals, and departed five hundred dollars richer.

Curtis Sears was married to Martha Beatrice Carey Sears, who had come to Wyoming when she was in her teens to teach a school located at the edge of the Hat Creek Breaks. It was called Five Points. She had been born in Des Moines, Iowa in 1877. Martha was a very beautiful young woman who had many suitors.

After teaching one term, she found employment as a waitress at a restaurant in Douglas. It was there that she met Curtis Sears. He was a middle-aged widower, who seemed to Martha to be a promising prospect for a husband. She learned that besides his ranch on Bear Creek, he owned a home in Douglas which he had won in an all-night poker game in Pringle's Saloon. The house had been a sporting house, located around the corner from the LaBonte Hotel. Curtis had improved the property, turning it into a comfortable home. Curtis spent a great deal of his time in Douglas, drinking and gambling, leaving his ranch in charge of Bill Marchant, his reliable foreman.

Two children were born to Martha and Curtis. Warren was born in 1899, and Leona in 1900. Warren was a source of trouble to his mother, but Leona, in her early life, was loved by everyone. After Curtis' death in 1905, Martha was left to raise the two small children alone. Billy Marchant remained on as foreman of the ranch. In later years, however, Billy began to drink heavily. Finally, Martha was obliged to let him go. Billy spent the remainder of his life in Pringle's saloon - a bar bum.

Sheep became a lucrative business in Wyoming after the turn of the century. Fred Dilts, who had a large band of 2000 head, offered a half interest in his sheep to Martha in return for the use of her range and hay meadows. This arrangement lasted a number of years, during which both parties made a lot of money. Eventually, trouble started between them. Each partner owned cattle and horses of his own, and it was over this stock that the controversy developed. The partnership came to an end in 1916.

Warren J. Grove, Martha's nephew, had come to Wyoming to homestead one mile north of the ranch buildings. Warren was of great help to Martha, acting as foreman for her after her partnership with Dilts was dissolved.

The terrible winter of 1919-20 was an equalizer for most ranchers. Martha suffered a great loss of livestock

from which she never recovered. She mortgaged her ranch, but after a few years, she was obliged to sell it to avoid foreclosure. She did retain half the mineral rights, however, which proved to be a good income for her in later years.

After selling the ranch, Martha built a large apartment house in Casper which she called the Heart Apartments. This venture, too, proved to be costly to Martha, for business in Casper suffered a decline. Martha found it impossible to keep her apartments rented. She mortgaged the apartment house, but sold it later to salvage what she could of her investment. Martha had mortgaged everything she owned with the exception of the home in Douglas.

Martha's children were a great disappointment to her. Warren, her son, was an individual with "big ideas", none of which were practical, or proved successful. Her daughter, Leona, was married to Dick Hornbuckle who was a world renowned bronc rider, cowboy, and something of a rounder. The two separated after two years of marriage. They had a child who died at less than one year of age. Leona then became an alcoholic, spending what money she could get to support her habit.

Martha disposed of her property in Wyoming, and purchased a home in Los Angeles. Her main purpose was to provide a change of environment for her daughter, Leona, who was living in Casper at the time. Leona's life was worsening steadily. She had no means of supporting herself. She finally died in the early 1960's. Martha had Leona's body cremated, the ashes being returned to Douglas to be interred in the same grave as the body of her infant.

At the age of 80, Martha began to lose her faculties. At the age of 85, she entered a "guest home" in California so that she could have proper care. When Martha was 90, she was obliged to live in a sanitarium, since her mind had deteriorated so badly, and at the age of 96, Martha died on August 19, 1973.

All the Sears family are buried in the Douglas Cemetery. Their plot is located close to that of George W. Pike, Curtis' close friend. Curtis and George died while relatively young men from cirrhosis of the liver.

Though their methods of advancing their own personal successes were questionable at times, it was men such as these two whose exploits give the spicy flavor to the history of early times in Converse County. A "Wild West" novel would pale in comparison to these two cronies.

Perhaps the inscription on the headstone which marks the grave of Pike describes him very well. The stone was placed on Pike's grave by Lee Moore in tribute to his friend. The epitaph reads:

"Underneath this stone in eternal rest  
Sleeps the wildest one of the wayward west  
He was gambler and sport and cowboy too  
And he led the pace in an outlaw crew  
He was sure on the trigger and staid to the end  
But he was never known to quit on a friend  
In the relations of death all mankind is alike  
But in life there was only one George W. Pike"

Warren J. Grove

## Sewell, Albert and Shirley

Albert B. Sewell was born to William A. and Anna G. Sewell in Collins County, Texas on November 12, 1902. Albert's father, a native of Kentucky, was born on July 14, 1840; his mother on December 11, 1877. The Sewells lived in Texas until William's death in 1916, after which Mrs. Sewell moved her family to Arkansas where they engaged in farming, moving on to Wyoming in 1919. After reaching Wyoming, Mrs. Sewell remarried, making her home there for a time. The Wyoming weather, however, proved too severe for her and she left the state. Albert, employed as a ranch hand, remained in Wyoming later leasing the Bert Elder place. Bert had homesteaded the property earlier. Before his lease expired, Albert purchased the place, later adding land to it to total 1803 acres. Of this land, 500 acres were irrigated.

Albert raised Hereford cattle owned in partnership with Wesley Wiker of Douglas. He also bred and raised horses, crossing light-colored Palominos with Hambletonian and Kentucky Whip breeds to produce a chocolate colored animal. At one time Mr. Sewell had around 3,000 head of sheep in addition to a herd of dairy cattle. The milk from his herd was marketed in Casper. Mr. Sewell ran his stock under the Diamond Heart which he originated in 1929 and the reverse DH brands.

Albert B. Sewell was married to Shirley Bigelow on November 4, 1928. Shirley was the daughter of Alexander and Florence Bigelow. She was born on October 25, 1907. Alexander was a native of England; her mother a native of Delaware. Florence Bigelow, a nurse by profession, had come to Wyoming in 1914. She homesteaded 640 acres on Dry Creek in 1915.

Albert and Shirley were the parents of one daughter, Sandra Florence. When Sandra was 28 months old she was selected as "Baby Wyoming" at the 1939 Wyoming State Fair in Douglas.

Mr. Sewell was a success in his chosen field. He lent his time and efforts to the betterment of his community. He was a member of the Converse County Farm Bureau which he helped reorganize in 1946. He served as a member of the school board, the local telephone board and the water board. His hobby was fishing.

The ranch which he operated for many years was sold in 1961. Mr. Sewell died in 1965.

Ruth Grant

## Shadel, Melvin and Eva

Arlington, Oklahoma was the birthplace of Melvin Shadel. He was born there in 1896. When he was six years old, the family, consisting of Albert (father), Ida (mother), Samuel (brother) and Violet (sister), moved to Oregon. In 1904 Albert died. The family then moved east to Broken Bow, Nebraska. Melvin took care of his brothers and sister while his mother worked for fifty cents a day to keep the family going.

It was while living in Nebraska that he met Jake Koch. Jake was to be his neighbor when they homesteaded on Antelope Creek in northern Converse County.

After serving his country in World War I, Melvin first





L. to r. Melvin Shadel, Jake Koch and Ralph Haefe looking for a homestead in 1921.

homesteaded near Hulett before settling in Converse County.

It was in 1925, while working in the oil field at Midwest, that Melvin met Eva Rogers. She was working in a grocery store in Edgerton at the time. They were married in Denver, Colorado in 1926.

Eva Rogers was born in Nephi, Arizona in 1901. Her grandmother had come West with the Mormons on their trek to find the promised land. When Eva was two years of age, her mother died, after which her grandmother raised her until she was sixteen.

Putting an ad in the Casper newspaper, Eva found work cooking in a restaurant in Moneta, Wyoming. later she cooked at the roundhouse in Casper for railway employees. From there she went to Salt Creek and Edgerton.

After their marriage they moved to Utah to live with Eva's father, who was a well driller. But the lure of Melvin's homestead in Wyoming beckoned them, so they moved back to it in 1928.

Melvin carried mail from Verse to Bill, starting in 1930 and later from Douglas to Verse carrying it for twelve years. Later Eva carried mail to Ross. They borrowed \$692.00 in 1934 to buy a pickup to carry the mail. It was a debt that wasn't paid off until they sold the homestead back to the government in 1939.

The land was bought under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act which enabled the U.S. Government to buy back homesteads for \$1.00 to \$3.00 per acre. These lands are now a part of the Thunder Basin National Grassland.

From 1939 to 1942 they lived east of Douglas on the Spencer Place.

In 1942 they moved to Douglas buying a house on North Second Street. This house had belonged to Mrs. Smith and was previously used as a maternity hospital. At this time they also bought a small farm under the LaPrele Ditch just west of the old Frank Wheelock Ranch. This was sold in 1970 when Melvin and Eva retired.

Upon selling the ranch they moved to a small place east of Douglas. It was later to be the pilot ranch belonging to Mortons, Inc.

Melvin died on November 12, 1984. Eva still lives in her house on North Second Street.

John Pexton  
as told by Eva Shadel

## Shaffer, Dr. Foster and Kathryn

Dr. Foster C. Shaffer was born Nov. 16, 1900 at Windber, Pennsylvania in the family home located at 818 Main Street. Foster's father, Josiah, was in the lumber business. Foster attended and graduated from Windber High School. After graduation he entered the University of Pittsburgh and the University of West Virginia. Foster graduated from Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia in 1925; and in 1926 Dr. Shaffer took over the practice of Dr. L. W. Storey in Douglas, Wyoming.

Kathryn Jenne was born Dec. 23, 1902 at Douglas, Wyoming. Her father, Jacob, was associated with his brother, John Morton in the Morton-Jenne Sheep Company. Kathryn went to grade school in Douglas but when the family left cold Wyoming after Christmas for sunny California, Kathryn attended the Academy of Holy Name in Pomona, California. Later, Kathryn lived in Denver to attend Wollcott School for two years. She graduated from Douglas High School in 1922.

On May 26, 1931, Kathryn and Dr. Foster Shaffer were married, thereafter making their home at 115 North 6th in Douglas. Both Jacob and Anna Jenne passed away in 1935, and in memory of her mother, Kathryn gave new hymnals to the First Methodist Church where Anna had enjoyed many hours of churchwork. Later, Kathryn, a life member of the Wyoming Pioneer Association purchased the cedar logs to help build the Pioneer Association Museum in memory of Jacob and Anna Jenne, and herself and Dr. Shaffer. Foster and Kathryn had three children: Sara "Sally", John, and William. Foster was a busy man, but found time for his favorite activities. He also liked trap shooting, hunting, and fishing; many vacations were planned to include a lake or stream to fish in: Brooks Lake at Jackson, Wyoming; Lake Louise and Banff in Canada; Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks; and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Kathryn and Foster travelled to the World's Fair in Chicago and from there to Pennsylvania for a chance to meet and visit with the Shaffer family. He had a Life Membership in the Alumni Association of Jefferson Medical College, and was an active member of the Edwin Graham Pediatric Society, (secretary in 1925). Dr. Shaffer served as City Health Officer, Examining Physician for the Selective Service Board from 1942-1947, and was on the School Board and Douglas City Council for many years.

The first year they were married, the Shaffers purchased 80 acres of land in the Medicine Bow National Forest about 45 miles from Douglas. The cabin was the family's fishing retreat, and a place to relax and enjoy their friends. Kathryn continued to work in the church, was a Cub Scout Den Mother, Girl Scout Leader, and belonged to the Flying Needle Sewing Club.

Foster, with Drs. Gardner and Hinrichs had shared a dream of a clinic for Douglas to insure modern medical care for the community. This clinic was established the first week of August 1947, and to add to his happiness, Foster was notified of his membership in the American College of Surgeons in New York. This happy trip was not to be, for Foster was stricken with a heart attack and died August 10, 1947. He was buried with Masonic Services in Douglas, Wyoming. The community knew the loss of a

dedicated worker.

In 1950 Kathryn married Earl Banks at the Episcopal Church in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Thereafter, the family made their home at 2622 Carey Ave. in the capital city and the children attended Cheyenne schools. Earl passed away in 1953 and is buried in Cheyenne. Her children were still small, so Kathryn asked for her former name, Shaffer, to be returned. The Jennes and Shaffers were loyal members of the Republican Party, and Kathryn belonged to both the National Federation of Republican Women and the Laramie County Women's Republican Party. Kathryn enjoyed her lovely home in Cheyenne filled with family heirlooms displayed for all to enjoy.

Kathryn Jenne Shaffer is presently living in Gering, Nebraska.

Sally, now making her home in Denver, Colorado, enjoys speech and drama work for relaxation, and in the winter, snow skiing.

John, M.D., married Dorothy L. Barhite June 21, 1959 and from 1960-64 attended Tulane University Medical School in New Orleans, Louisiana. Their children, Scott, Stacey Kay, and Stuart grew up in Mitchell, Nebraska. Dr. Shaffer entered general practice of medicine and surgery at Mitchell, Nebraska in July 1967.

Bill graduated from the University of Wyoming and enlisted in the U.S. Army as a Second Lieutenant. He married Karin Felt June 8, 1963 and lived in Germany for a time. Two girls, Kathryn and Carin were born there. Little Kathryn died at birth and is buried in the family plot at Douglas, Wyoming. Clarke William was born in Casper, Wyoming. After Karin and Bill were divorced, Bill continued his military career. He and his second wife, Mary (Beard) were married April 19, 1980 and once more, are stationed in Germany.

Kathryn Jenne Shaffer

## Shaffner, E. B.

Born in Iowa in 1864, E. B. Shaffner migrated to Chadron, Nebraska at the age of 20 years. Shortly thereafter, he located at Fort Fetterman, where he remained until the railroad was built. He was then engaged as a railway mail clerk, a position he held for six years.

Subsequently, he engaged in the meat business in Casper, Wyoming. While he resided there, he acted as town clerk, and was a charter member of the first volunteer fire department in that city. In 1902 he organized the Wyoming Telephone Company, serving as its manager and treasurer. He also served as county clerk of Natrona County in 1905-06.

After 1906 he moved to Glenrock where he made his home and where he was still associated with telephone interests.

Mr. Shaffner, a pioneer in the telephone industry in Wyoming, was a genial, friendly man, taking a lively interest in the public affairs of both Natrona and Converse Counties.

Ruth Grant

## Shatto, Hilburn and Addie Family

My Grandfather, Hilburn Zitler Shatto (better known as Hill), was born December 10, 1867 in Audubon, Iowa. Hill came to Wyoming in 1894 residing at Kirtley, Wyoming, a small post office north of Lusk, Wyoming.

On April 8, 1902, Grandad filed on a homestead close to Kirtley. Here he farmed and proved up on the homestead alone until June 16, 1903, when he married Addie Church McDermott.

My grandmother came from Wisconsin as a young girl and resided for a while in what is now known as Esterbrook. Addie's dad worked in this area for a while.

Grandma was married earlier to a man named McDermott. He was related to Claude McDermott who worked in the Douglas Post Office for many years. She had one son, Clarence McDermott, better known around Douglas as Mac, and one daughter, Ruth McDermott. After marrying Hill they had one son, Earl, my father, and three daughters, Ruby, Ida and Amy.

My grandma and grandad lived on the homestead farming and ranching near Lusk till 1937. They sold the ranch to Berlie E. Hammond on Feb. 10, 1937, and moved to Douglas, Wyoming, where they purchased a home down close to the Platte River, where the fairgrounds are now. They resided here till Grandad passed away in Dec. 1950. Grandma then sold the place to the state for more fairgrounds and moved to Bonners Ferry, Idaho to live with her daughter, Ida. She passed away in Bonners Ferry in 1951.

My Dad, Earl Shatto, was born March 25, 1904, at Kirtley, Wyoming. He attended country school and ranched, farmed, trapped, carried the mail, and did whatever he could to earn a living. He also played a banjo for dances.

On September 9, 1924 Dad married my mother, the former Mildred L. Dye, from Steubenville, Ohio. Mom's dad was here working on the tank farm northwest of Douglas, Wyoming. Mom and Dad lived on the homestead near Lusk, Wyoming. While living there they had two daughters; Alta Bee, born Aug. 21, 1925, and Betty, born May 5, 1928. Shortly after Betty was born the folks moved to Douglas, where Dad took a job working for Doctor Hylton on his ranch up on LaPrele Creek, south of Douglas. Dad cowboied and worked mostly with the horses Doc ran. Mom cooked for Bill Cross for a couple of weeks then got on as a cook for Doc Hylton. The folks worked till early 1930 for Doc Hylton and then moved to Crawford, Nebraska, where Dad had taken a truck driving job. Earl B. Shatto was born in Crawford, Nebraska March 26, 1930.

My folks moved back to Lusk, Wyoming living on the homestead and in Lusk working at anything; just surviving the depression. I can remember Dad telling me about unloading a whole semi-load of sacked flour, and his pay was one sack for himself.

The folks had two more girls; Norma, born Sept. 25, 1931, and Joy, born Oct. 22, 1933. We all attended school in Lusk, Wyoming and then in 1937 we moved to Douglas, Wyoming.

Dad worked for T. Lee Reno on his ranch close to Douglas where part of the old airport is now, also for Lee at the gas company, where Lee was manager. Dad was a

mechanic and worked for Clem Hern at the old Chevrolet Garage. The garage was located in the old brick building that used to be right across from the LaBonte Hotel to the south.

I remember one time a friend of mine was going to sell me a pair of used ice skates for \$1.00. I stopped at the garage to ask Dad for the money and after a little coaxing he gave it to me and I was ever so happy; really not realizing how many groceries that would have bought for a family of seven. Dad was making \$12.00 a week at the garage at this time.

Dad bought the Platte Valley Wrecking Yard where Slick's Pawn Shop is located now. Here he bought, traded, and sold used cars. He also did welding and mechanic work. Dad was also a government trapper for many years in Converse County helping the ranchers with their predatory problems. He was also a guard at the prisoner of war camp in the 1940s. He finally gave up running the wrecking yard and worked for Gerald Reeves at the Chevrolet Garage across from the Congregational Church. Dad sold cars for Gerald until retirement.

After a short retirement he passed away at the age of 59 in May 1963. Mom lives in Casper and is remarried. My sisters and I were all raised and educated in Douglas.

Alta Bee is married and living in Kaycee, Wyoming. She raised three sons; all residing in Wyoming. Betty is married and living in Riverton, Wyoming. She raised two daughters and one son, also all living in Wyoming. Norma married Warren George of the Wagonhound country, south of Douglas, and with their two sons live on a ranch at Bates Hole south of Casper, Wyoming. Joy married Clarence Ramseier and they live in Esterbrook where Grandma started out so many years ago. They raised two girls and one son, all living in Converse County.

I married Mildred Beaver in Nov. 1950 and we raised three sons. We bought the Burch Anderson place west of Douglas in 1965. Our three sons all live in Douglas, Wyoming. Gary now has a home where the old LaPrele Hall was and where many good dances and social times were common every Saturday night. Larry lives in Douglas and works for Phillips Petroleum Company. He is unmarried. Kerry works for Converse County Road and Bridge Dept. Kerry married the former Margo McMillen. They have one son, Shane Earl, born September 30, 1981. Gary married Janet Fogg from Cheyenne, Wyoming. They have two boys and one girl, Tanner Benjamin born September 14, 1978, Tanisha Crystal born August 11, 1980, and Tyson Dean born September 15, 1982.

I really do not know the exact reason Grandad came to Douglas. I am sure Dad did because of the job opportunities. One thing I am sure of is that I am very glad they did. It has been the highlight of my life to live and be part of this community. It also has been a perfect place to raise my family. If we are just a very small part of Converse County's history, I am overjoyed.

Earl Shatto



## Shaw, James and Elizabeth Family

James Clay Shaw was born on March 17, 1852 in Lincoln County, Missouri, the son of John and Elizabeth Brow Norton Shaw.

Jim came up the Texas Trail in 1879 with a herd of 5,000 cattle. He arrived at Fort Laramie in the fall and went to work for "Heck" Reel for one season before gaining employment for Teschemacher and DeBillier on their "Duck Bar" Ranch on the Laramie River.

When Teschemacher and DeBillier folded up after the Johnson County War, Jim received the Duck Bar ranch house and headquarter buildings on the North Platte



Clay Shaw

River. To this he added a homestead of 160 acres and a desert claim of 80 acres.

He moved his family from the Laramie River ranch of his former employer's to his new ranch on the Platte.

Jim and his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of James Dodson of Missouri, had seven living children: Irene (born September 29, 1886, died September 9, 1926), Clay (born March 4, 1888, died August 10, 1957), Patti, (born August 21, 1890, died February 26, 1981), Paul N. (born 1894, died April 5, 1978), Roscoe "Peach" (born October 12, 1896, died September 22, 1970), Dewey B. (born April 24, 1899, died May 28, 1924) and Ruth (born 1904).

Jim and his brother-in-law, Bill Dodson, ran cattle in New Mexico and North Dakota until 1907 when everything was sold except the ranch on the Platte River. He

organized the Bridgers Ferry Ditch Company to get water on his lands.

He served as foreman of the Wyoming Stock Growers roundups from 1884 to 1887 and later served as its president in 1918 and 1919. He also served as a Converse County Commissioner in 1917 and 1918.

Mr. Shaw died on October 27, 1943, Elizabeth on August 16, 1929.

Irene married Harry Isaac and they lived on LaBonte Creek.

Clay never married. He ranched with his father and brother-in-law, Bill Gray, on the home place until his death.

Patti married William Gray in 1926. They had three sons: William "Billy", Robert "Bob", and Corky. The Grays operated the home place until Mr. Gray's death. At that time Billy took over the operation.

Billy married Ann Willox, daughter of Jim C. and Evaleen Willox. Their children are Penny (Moore), Andy and Bart. Bob married Betty Bruce, daughter of A. T. and Dora Bruce. They live on a ranch in Montana. Corky was killed in an automobile accident in 1951.

Peach married Gayle Neubauer, daughter of Hugo and Clara Neubauer, on July 3, 1933. Gayle had been the Home Extension Agent in Converse County. Peach served with the CCC for a time before becoming associated with the Coffee Brothers at Jay Em, Wyoming.

Paul married Alta Scott, daughter of Jeff and Iona Scott, in 1921. They had three children: Alta May (Greiman), Jim and Tom. The family lived various places in Platte and Converse Counties before moving to Cody, Wyoming. Later they moved to Montana where they acquired a ranch.

Dewey died as a young man in a drowning accident. He was crossing the Platte River on a horse when the river waters were high.

Ruth married Fred Hageman, son of Fred and Johanna Hageman, in 1926. Fred was born July 11, 1898 in Cumberland, Wisconsin. In 1911 Fred came to Wyoming homesteading near Flatop, north of Shawnee. He graduated from the Lincoln School of Business in Lincoln, Nebraska. Upon graduation he worked for the bank in Shawnee and then assumed the managership of the Shawnee Lumber Company. In 1936 he moved his family to the homestead.

They had six children: Margaret, Fred, James, Hilda, Patti and Kathryn. Fred and his wife, Vee, own the home place today. Fred Sr. died in 1963.

John R. Pexton

## Shelden, Clarence and Myrtle Family

Clarence Burr, born October 10, 1889, the sixth child of Reuben and Phoebe Shelden, was raised on an 80 acre farm in Ringgold County, Iowa. He married Pearl Culver, a red-head, in Iowa and they had two sons, Wilbur Paul "Bill" and Richard Burr "Dick." Pearl died in 1918 in her home in Iowa. Bill, four years old, stayed with his dad and Dick for two years then went to live with his grandparents, the Culvers.

In 1919 Burr married Myrtle Smith. They moved to Nebraska where Burr continued to work for the railroad.

1920 found Burr and Myrtle going by train to Wyoming to homestead. Burr's two brothers, Leonard and Roy, and one sister, Olive Van Pelt, were already living in Converse County. Burr filed on land west of Leonard and Roy; and northwest of Van Pelts. They were all within walking distance of each other, about five or six miles. Burr worked for the railroad two or three years before proving up on his homestead in 1926.

The family lived in the Cowger house, owned by Lee Fowler, a neighbor, while Burr built their home. The house was built of native lumber that was hauled in by team and wagon. Burr worked for Fowlers for one year.

In 1921 the first child, Viola Mae "Vi", was born and in the next 14 years seven more children were born: Clarence Leonard "Buck", Helen Alice, Iona Emma "Kelly", twins - Lawrence Albert "Pete" and Gladys Phoebe "Polly", Ruby Louise and Dorothy Elnora "Dot." They attended Meadowlark and Sunnyside Schools. Meadowlark was within walking distance. In 1935 the children went to Sunnyside and rode a bus to the community school. Mrs. LeVasseur was the teacher for the 21



Standing: Myrtle Shelden. Middle row: Clarence and Bill Shelden. Front row: Viola, Helen and Buck Shelden.



children: Burr Sheldens, Will Reeds, Lee Fowlers, Raymond Bakers, John Numrichs, Harry McKinneys, and Powell-Goldsbys.

A team and wagon brought home the supplies bought in Douglas 35 miles south. Two children were allowed to go at one time. They received 10¢ which bought two ice cream cones. The family went to Dry Creek for dances, 4th of July celebrations and other social events.

Burr lived two hoops and a holler (about two miles) from Will Reed and about the same from Babe Reed. Violet and Buzz Reed (Babe's) would ride horseback with Vi and Buck to get the mail. Once Babe's watermelons weren't ripe and were forbidden to the kids until they were, but the Reed and Shelden children tried them anyway. They stole the 20 or so melons, ate heartily and soon got sick and regretted the deed.

Money was scarce and so were new shoes. Each child received one new pair every two years. Helen remembers when she was young and little, too little for chopping wood. She tried anyway, and the axe slipped, slicing off the toe of her new shoes and some toenail. She wasn't worried about her toe and all the blood but her new shoes!

When Pete and Polly were four or five they brought a rattlesnake into the house to show Myrtle. Her scream startled the kids and the rattler. He crawled out the door without any harm done except a good scare for Myrtle.

Burr owned horses for the wagon and one mare was particularly baulky. One time pulling hay she wouldn't move so he built a fire under the horse. She moved then — just far enough to burn part of the wagon.

Burr raised corn and grain, about 30 head of sheep and 40 cows. The drought started in 1933 and continued for four years. Russian thistles were put up for the cows because they were the only thing that grew.

With the drought came wind and dirt until even the fences were covered. If it wasn't tied down it was blown away including the top soil. The once farmable land was gone. In 1940 the government paid contractors to reseed the land. It's now used mostly for grazing and some hay land.

The drought brought many hardships and many homesteaders sold their land. Burr sold the farm to Lawrence Jacobs and in 1936 went to Missouri to find another farm. He bought a small place near Lebanon, Missouri. Myrtle and the younger children, Helen and Dot moved to Missouri. Bill and Vi were married and Buck, age 13, was working for Elmer Cowell.

They raised chickens on the Missouri farm. The family lived there almost two years. Burr worked in Wyoming building fences for the government. In 1938 the children, Helen, Kelly, Pete, Polly, and Ruby came back to Wyoming with Burr. Myrtle and Dot, the youngest moved to Omaha, where Myrtle died in 1952.

Burr and the children moved to the Six-Mile place north of Douglas. Burr farmed and worked for the government, two weeks at a time. The children went to the nearby school. The teacher was Gladys Hill.

Helen was 13 and thought she could take care of the other children. This made babysitters hard to find and keep. Mrs. Wheeler stayed longer than most. The children can remember eating beans, gravy and bread — bread and gravy and beans.

Buck lived and worked for the Cowells until he was

18. Pete had a horse named Monte. He rode to visit Buck about every week. In 1940 Kelly 14 and Polly 11, decided to visit Buck. They walked. It was 38 miles. The rain and wind came up and the girls made it to Fowlers, 30 miles. They didn't see Buck but did catch pneumonia.

In 1941 the family moved to town. Buck owned a place in Brownfield and the family lived there. Burr still worked for the government. He retired in 1944 due to illness. The children went to school in Douglas and graduated from Converse County High School.

In 1950 Burr moved into town. He spent time with many of his grandchildren. He lived in an apartment in Douglas until his death in July 1957.

Bill, the oldest son, worked around Douglas as a ranchhand for many years. He married Waunhita Patterson in 1934 in Douglas. They moved to Idaho in 1945 and raised their family there. They had three sons, Wilbur Eugene "Billy", Dennis Allen "Denny" and Allen Leroy "Alley". Bill lived in Idaho until his death in Nov. 1979. Waunhita died in Feb. 1983. The sons who work in the timber industry, live in St. Maries, Idaho with their families.

Dick lived with his grandparents, the Culvers, until grown, then held various jobs including flour milling. He died in 1954 in Omaha.

Viola married Dick Porter in 1937 in South Dakota. Dick worked on the Jacobs' ranch until 1941. Then they moved east to Nebraska. Vi had five children, Richard Dwayne, Marvin Lee, Sharon Ann, George Jr. and J. C. George Jr. died in June 1979. The other children and their families live in various parts of the United States. Vi and husband Jennis Wilson live in Omaha.

Buck worked on the Elmer Cowell ranch for six years and then went into the service. After four years in the marines he returned to Douglas. He worked as a ranchhand with Charles Pexton before he married Betty Jean Cole in Sept. 1950. Buck continued to work for the Pexton ranch until 1954.

They moved into Douglas to Buck's place in Brownfield Addition. Buck worked for Rissler & McMurry and Knisely Moore Construction Companies. He moved with the work while Betty and the children spent the winters in Douglas and the summers wherever Buck was.

Buck went to work for the Douglas Dairy in 1964 as a delivery route milkman. He worked for the dairy for two years. In 1971 he went to work for Converse County Road and Bridge. Buck still works for Converse County and he and Betty spend their spare time in their mountain cabin south of Douglas.

They had five children, Barbara Jean, Beverly Ann, Bonnie Leona, Buck Burr and Benjie Louise. Barbara and husband Elwood J. Axness and children live in Newcastle, Wyoming and have a trucking business. Beverly and husband Thomas L. Reed and children ranch north of Douglas on the Reed Ranch. Bonnie and Jesse P. Roediger live in Douglas and work part time on the Roediger ranch near Glendo, Wyoming. Bonnie works for Kansas-Nebraska Energy and Jesse for Menter Trucking. Buck B. and wife Sharon Ann (Cossart) own a trucking business and live in Newcastle. Benjie is in the U.S. Air Force. She is stationed in Rapid City, South Dakota, Ellsworth Air Force Base.

Helen worked as a waitress and held other jobs dur-



ing high school. She lived with a schoolhood friend until she married Walter E. Metz in 1947. They moved to Midwest, Wyoming where Bud worked for Amoco Oil. Bud is a retired Oil Field Superintendent and they now live in Casper, Wyoming.

They had two children, Carol Jean and Darrell Dean. Carol and husband Don Jepsen and children live in Cody. Don works as loan supervisor at Provident Federal Savings and Loan. Darrell and wife Diana (Packard) and children live in Casper. Darrell works as an Engineer for Amoco Oil.

Kelly taught school at the Cross School for a while after graduation then married Clem Neopolitano in March 1945. He was a guard at the prisoner of war camp located in Douglas. They moved to New York and bought a small farm. Clem died in 1983. Kelly still lives on her farm in Troupsburg, New York.

Pete worked as a ranchhand on many of the ranches around Douglas; Elmer Cowell's, Charles Pexton's, Alexander's, and Natural Bridge Ranch. He married Shirley Dieleman in 1949 and continued as a ranchhand and at other available jobs. They had three children, John Lawrence, Judy Lee and Fay Elliot "Chip."

In 1956 Pete joined the U.S. Army. He was a 20-year career man. In 1967 he married Elaine Mary Weis of Iowa. He retired and moved to Elaine's family's farm in Earling, Iowa.

Polly graduated in 1949. She taught school in Elk Mountain, Wyoming for two years. She worked as a nurses aide in Omaha, Nebraska for awhile and visited sister Kelly in New York. She returned to Douglas and married William L. "Bill" Shaffer in Sept. 1954. They have a small farm west of Douglas. Polly works as a nurses aide at Michael Manor in Douglas.

They have two children, Mitchell Allen and William Arnold "Billy". Mitch and wife Linda (Comstock) and children live and work on the family farm. Billy lives at home and works part-time.

Ruby married Jack K. Metcalf in June 1949. Jack worked for Knisely Moore, a construction outfit. They moved where the company sent them. He started trucking for Burlington in 1951 and still drives.

They have three children, Terry Sue, Dona Louise and Jackie Kay. Terry and husband David Boman and children live in Laverne, Oklahoma where David is a welder. Dona and husband Randy Buckholz and children live in Brighton, Colorado. Randy is a machinist. Jackie and husband Dan R. Monroe and children live in Denver, Colorado. Dan is a fence contractor.

Dot lived with her mother, Myrtle until her marriage in July 1953 to Frank Barna. Her first trip to Wyoming to see her brothers and sisters was in 1966. Frank and Dot lived in Iowa where they both worked at various jobs. They now live in Red Oak, Iowa where Frank is self-employed as a paint contractor and Dot keeps busy doing whatever she sets her mind to.

They have two children, Michael Frank and Cheryl Susan "Cheri". Mike and wife Carmela (Dunn) and boys live in Red Oak. Mike works in radio and advertising. Cheri and husband Michael Patterson and children live in Red Oak. Mike is a building contractor.

C. L. "Buck" Shelden  
Beverly Shelden Reed

## Shelden, Leonard and Rosie

Rueben and Phoebe Shelden, the parents of 10 children, five boys and five girls, lived in Ringgold County, Iowa. They owned and farmed 80 acres which in that day was a big place. It wasn't big enough for five boys to make a living on so in 1917 Leonard, the second son, moved to Wyoming and in the following four years, two brothers Roy and Clarence Burr, and a sister, Olive Van Pelt, followed and settled in Converse County. The other children, Nora, Ezra, Anna, Winnifred (Winnie), Myra, and Guy stayed and settled in various parts of Iowa and Missouri. Ezra, oldest brother, retired to Douglas in 1950 and lived here until his death in 1954.

Wyoming with lots of space and your own land sounded good, so when Leonard was 33 he and his wife Rosie Shields came west. He filed for a homestead north of Douglas around what is now known as Shelden Draw. It was west of Bill, Wyoming in flat, choppy, hill country with sagebrush and cactus.

After filing, Leonard hunted a year. He was mostly a loner and loved to hunt with his hounds. With antelope and wild horses in abundance his hounds and family were fed well. He shared meat with his neighbors.

Leonard slowed down his hunting and trapping to prove up on his land. They had a frame house that Rosie kept spotlessly clean. "Clean enough to eat off the floor." She walked four miles to get the mail once a week. He raised corn, about 50 head of cows, a few chickens and a couple of pigs.

One son, Clarence Faye was born and raised on the homestead. He married and homesteaded on Skunk Creek, six miles from home. They moved to Douglas in 1937, when the drought moved many families. The farm was sold to Lawrence Jacobs. Faye went to work for the C-Bee's, a navy construction outfit during the war. He moved around and the family lost track of him.



Rosie and Leonard Shelden with their hunting dogs. John VanPelt and Myrtle Shelden on the right.

In 1938 Leonard leased his homestead and then later sold it to Tillards who used it for sheep grazing. In town he became a chicken farmer with 100 hens for layers and more for fryers.

All through his life hunting was an important part of him. He loved to hunt antelope. Even when he had a hard time seeing to read and write, his nephew, Buck, took him for his last antelope hunt in October of 1969.

In the 40's he was divorced and later married Irene, a white Russian from the Phillipines. Irene died in Douglas in 1967. Leonard retired when he was 70 and lived in Douglas on Brownfield Road until his death in December of 1969.

C. L. "Buck" Shelden  
Beverly Shelden Reed

## Shelden, Roy and Pearl

Wyoming, and a chance to own land, drew many people from the East. Roy, fourth son of Reuben and Phoebe Sheldon of Ringgold County, Iowa came to Converse County in 1919. A brother, Leonard had a homestead about 30 miles north of Douglas. Roy filed about five miles east of him. It was four or five miles west of the present day Highway 59.

Roy brought his wife, Pearl and two sons, Earl and Harold. One son, Paul was born on the homestead. Roy had sold real estate in Iowa before he moved. Before proving up on his land in 1922 he sold real estate here.

He started farming and soon had one of the biggest farms around. Their home was fancy for that country with a porch with columns and two stories. They also had a two story barn. He raised different kinds of grain and a few cows. Roy sold insurance on the side. He also owned a threshing machine and did custom threshing.

The sons grew up and left home to do other things. With no available help Roy sold his farm to the government in 1936. He moved to town and became a real estate and insurance broker.

He was known for having an eye for women. Even until his death at the age of 87 he fancied the fair sex.

He divorced and married Emily Baker in 1949. With Emily's children they moved to California. Later Emily and the children moved back to Wyoming.

Roy continued his real estate and insurance until he retired in 1969. He lived in California until 1978. During his retirement he traveled and visited many of his nieces and nephews. At the time of his death he was living with a niece in Malvern, Iowa. He died May 18, 1979 at Clarinda, Iowa.

C. L. "Buck" Shelden  
Beverly Shelden Reed



L. to r. Harold, Pearl, Earl, Roy and Paul Shelden at Roy's homestead.

## Shepard, Tom and Sarah

Thomas Walter Shepard was born on March 16, 1874 in Ash City, North Carolina to Leander J. and Margaret Shepard.

At the age of five, Tom, as he was better known, along with his parents and brothers Luther, Millard and Charles moved to Elk Creek, Tennessee and in 1883 to Plainville, Kansas.

On September 5, 1896, Tom came to Wyoming to work for the Macfarlane Ranch on Horseshoe Creek near Glendo.

Sarah Gordon became his bride on May 8, 1900. Sarah was born in Ballymena, Ireland on February 1, 1875, the daughter of Dave and Isabell Gordon.

The Shepards lived for awhile on North Horseshoe Creek after their marriage before moving in 1910 to a



Tom Shepard family 1910 L. to r. Sarah, Helen, Harry, Vivian and Tom.

ranch southwest in the mountains. The ranch was purchased from Arthur Kenyon who had bought it from John Newell in 1897.

Charlie Shepard, Tom's brother, homesteaded south of the new ranch. A spring flowing ice cold water was close to Charlie's buildings. It is still known as the Shepard Spring.

Three children were born while the family lived on North Hoseshoe; Vivian Isabell in 1901, Helen in 1902, and Harry in 1906.

School for the Shepard and the William Brose family was held for six months a year. The Brose children stayed with the Shepard family for three months and the Shepard children stayed with the Brose family for three months. The teacher would also live where the children were. This arrangement prevented the children from having to ride back and forth the seven miles between places.

Among the teachers were Mrs. Slim Heldt and Edith Mae Mitchell. Edith Mae was later married to Sarah's brother, Dave Gordon, Jr.

In the fall of 1915 Tom and Charlie Shepard sold their places to John Pexton. Tom and his family moved to Mitchell, Nebraska where they bought an irrigated farm. High school was also available for the children.

On June 7, 1924 Vivian became Mrs. George LeRoy Baird in Mitchell and on June 14, 1924 Helen became the bride of Carl P. Gill in Greeley, Colorado. Harry was never married.

Tom died in 1952, Sarah in 1944, Harry in 1968 and Vivian in 1982.

Helen Shepard Gill

# Shippen, John and Clarissa Family

I am Ruth Shippen Mason and this is the story of my family.

John Norris Shippen, my grandfather, son of William and Rebecca Shippen was born November 18, 1850 in Wabash County, Indiana.

After the 13 colonies were formed, the Shippen brothers, of whom my great grandfather William Shippen was one, settled in the Colony of Pennsylvania. These folks were rovers, never tarrying long in one place. Moving west they lived in Indiana, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska.

John Norris Shippen and Clarissa Jane Mickey, born January 29, 1856, Louisa County, Iowa, were married June 29, 1876 in Taylor County, Conway, Iowa. They were the parents of eight children as follows: Walter Norris Shippen, born April 6, 1877, Taylor County, Iowa; Jessie Alice Shippen, born May 14, 1881, Nemaha County, Nebraska, died in November 1968 (she had been a resident of Manville 80 years); Mamie Bloom Shippen, born September 5, 1883, Gage County, Iowa, died February 3, 1980; Cody Daniel Shippen, born November 11, 1886, Smith County, Kansas, died March 19, 1927; Nellie Shippen and Della Shippen, twins, born January 10, 1889, Converse County, Wyoming, died February 8, 1889; Ina Sticia Shippen, born December 23, 1889, Converse County, Wyoming, died January 13, 1956; and Albert Lee Shippen, born March 3, 1892, Converse County, Wyoming, died May 14, 1949.

In 1887, Newt Allen, a brother-in-law of Grandpa Shippen's, being a wounded Civil War veteran, was given a homestead in Converse County, Wyoming plus a \$10.00 per month pension. Converse County included all of that area which is now Niobrara County. Niobrara County became a county in 1911. He sent word back to his relatives in Kansas that there was plenty of work, especially carpenter work in the new towns of Lusk, Douglas and Manville.



Cody and Daisy Shippen on their homestead, 1911, with their daughter, Ruth.



Cody Shippen in Lost Springs.

In Kansas, Grandpa Shippen was a carpenter and a horse trader owning a number of good horses.

During the summer of 1887 a spell of hot dry winds hit Kansas burning all vegetation to a crisp. Also, at this time, there was an epidemic of glanders disease in all of the horses. This is a fatal and dreadfully contagious disease. The authorities killed practically all of the horses and Grandpa lost all of his.

Newt Maples, a bachelor friend and neighbor of Grandpa's, had an old gray mare which had escaped the glanders disease. Grandpa furnished a one-horse cart and Newt furnished the mare. They loaded their combined carpenter tools and a few necessities and started west, planning to find work along the way. Soon, they ran out of food and money, so they started selling their tools a piece at a time until they were gone; then they sold the cart and the harness. They took turns riding the mare but finally sold her. When they reached Fremont, Nebraska there was a train; they sneaked on it and rode the rails to Manville, Wyoming.

Grandpa took a preemption claim about six miles south of Manville. He did carpenter work and at every available time worked at building a half log and half dug-out one room house to bring his family to.

The John Shippen family arrived in Manville in June 1888.

Grandma Shippen's parents, Joseph Mickey and Mary Ann Van Horn Mickey lived at Kimball, Nebraska. She and the children (Walter, Jessie, Mamie and Cody) came by the Union Pacific Railroad to their home where they were met by Grandpa.

Grandpa had borrowed a team and wagon from a neighbor; and they finished their trip to Manville via wagon and moved into their new one room house.

While living here a neighbor had given Grandma Shippen and son, Walter, a pair of jennies and \$5.00 for harvesting a field of potatoes. These Jennies became a part of the family, affording the whole family a living source of enjoyment and pleasure but were also indispensable for their transportation and for being their beasts of burden.

Ina Sticia Shippen was born here in this log-sod house, December 23, 1889. When she was three weeks old the neighbors invited the family over for dinner. During their absence the house caught on fire. Everything was lost except the clothes they were wearing and the team and wagon.

Then they moved to Manville, Wyoming where they lived about three years. All of the time Grandpa found plenty of work at his carpenter's trade.

Grandpa relinquished his preemption claim and filed on a homestead on Muddy Creek about twelve miles south and west of Manville. This place later became a part of the Lloyd Smith ranch.

Grandpa always continued his carpentry and when sheep moved into the area, he built shearing pens and ran a shearing crew, consisting of his two sons, Walter and Cody, plus nephews in the Manville area. Young boys started shearing sheep when they were so small they couldn't wrestle their own sheep. Grandpa would throw the sheep, tie it down and then the shearing was done.

Of course, Grandma Shippen cooked for the shearing crew most of the time. One day Grandma was running low on supplies so she sent daughter Jessie with a team and buggy to Manville for them. Baby sister Ina went along. The team was a pair of mares with colts tagging along. On the return trip home a gray wolf attacked one of the colts. Aunt Jessie had a buggy whip with which she would whip the mares to make them go faster and also whip at the wolf to try to scare him away. Needless to say, groceries were scattered all along the way and the buggy whip was pretty well whipped out. One colt "Frank" was torn in the back muscle of his hind leg but the girls did stay in the buggy and made it home. Frank's wounds healed and he was not crippled. He lived to be 19 years old and always carried those scars.

While living on the Muddy, the Sioux Indians from the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota made an annual trip from South Dakota to the Big Horn Mountains in the spring to hunt and fish through the summer returning to the reservation in the fall. They always camped near Grandpa's place and Old Man Afraid of His Horses always came to have dinner with the family.

During one of these visits, Grandma was churning butter. When she finished, she gave each Indian a cup of buttermilk to drink. The Indians coughed and sputtered around, telling how terrible it tasted. The Shippen children watched all of this and giggled amongst themselves for just the night before they had visited the Indian's camp and watched the squaws frying rattlesnake in a skillet for supper. The old snake would fry for a while then the reflex action of the muscles would cause the pieces of meat to jump up and hit the lid. One time this caused the lid to pop up and a piece of snake landed in the ashes. A squaw just picked it up, brushed the ashes off, put it back in the skillet, and continued cooking supper. The children just couldn't understand how anyone could eat rattlesnake meat but still dislike to drink good fresh buttermilk.

Grandpa and Grandma lived on the Muddy until 1903. They moved to Buffalo, Wyoming where they lived with their son, Albert Shippen, who was operating a sawmill. Grandpa became a partner in this business. Later on they moved to Kaycee, Wyoming.

Grandma Shippen died near Kaycee, June 11, 1914 and was brought to Manville for burial.

Grandpa Shippen and son, Albert, continued to operate the sawmill until the time of Grandpa's death. He died February 27, 192\_\_ of a heart attack. He also was buried in Manville.

My daddy, Cody Daniel Shippen, married my mother, Daisy Howard, daughter of Robert and Prudence Fenwick Howard, on December 8, 1909 in the Methodist Church in Manville. Mother was born on July 10, 1888 in Cimarron, Kansas. They had three children; Ruth Violet, born June 15, 1911, Converse County, Russell Raymond Shippen, born May 26, 1917, Converse County and Rena Rebecca Shippen, born July 12, 1921, Converse County, died June 9, 1935.

My parents moved to Daddy's homestead, three miles northeast of Lost Springs in 1910.

They raised cattle and horses and Daddy did some farming. Daddy was a bronc buster and a cowboy. He was not afraid of any horse, no matter how bad a reputation the horse had. His delight was to ride in all of the rodeos, Fourth of July celebrations, or local get-togethers that the local neighborhood would have. He also broke horses for anyone, taking any material thing in payment for his efforts, many times he received no pay, just the satisfaction he gained.

I have an antique "Regulator Clock" with date hand, which Daddy took as payment for breaking a horse for a neighbor.

Each spring, Daddy would go to shear sheep for the entire sheep shearing season. One of my vivid memories is of Daddy, with Mother's help, loading his bedroll and the sheep shearing equipment plus a suitcase containing clothes on a very unwilling pack horse. His shearing equipment consisted of several shearing blades, a can of machine oil and a hootenanny a device for setting the shape of the blades. He received board and nine cents per head for shearing.

We children all learned to ride a horse, milk a cow, help brand calves and clean out barns long before we ever attended school. We always owned our own saddle horse, saddle, bridle, spurs, the whole bit. One of the first Christmas presents we received after learning to walk was a new saddle.

Our lives on the homestead were full of hardships, but we were always happy, not realizing there was another way of life. We burned wood for heat and cooking, many times burning sagebrush. In the fall, a slack time of labor on the farm, we would go to the timber with a team and wagon to get a huge load of wood. We would take our lunch. We children had great fun on these trips and looked forward to the next one.

Mother was a remarkable woman. She raised a huge garden every year and canned all the produce as we never had even an ice box. She raised many baby chicks each year by setting hens on the eggs produced at the ranch. Mother made her own soap with lye, water and the cracklings we had when we butchered a pig or two each year. And in our lives we knew nothing of baker's bread or pasteries. Mother did it all.

All of our traveling was done in the family buggy with horses. I can still feel the warmth of rocks and/or sad-irons heated on the wood stove, wrapped in paper and put



under mounds of mother's homemade quilts in the back of the buggy where brother Russell and I rode. On one trip, in the black of night, Daddy called back to us, "Are you kids awake?" I answered but Russell never uttered a sound. Daddy called again but not answer, so I said, "I'll see if he is asleep, I'll stick my finger in his eyes to see if they're open." He didn't approve of this, but he did answer.

In May 1924, Daddy and Mother moved to Mother's old childhood home on Lost Creek. Here life was easier and we were closer to town. The folks could raise more cattle and horses and there was no farming to do. The place was sub-irrigated along Lost Creek, affording tons of native hay.

Daddy died in March of 1927. Mother continued to live at this ranch home, owning her own range cattle, and milking cows until about 1940. She then sold her cattle, took in stock to pasture and hired the hay put up for shares until her health dictated she moved to an easier life and closer to a doctor. She moved to Douglas, Wyoming in 1951.

In May 1972 she suffered a severe stroke which left her entire right side paralyzed permanently. She died September 9, 1973. She and Daddy are both at rest in the Douglas cemetery.

Ruth Shippen Mason

## Shonsey, Mike

Michael O'Shaughnessy, the son of Irish immigrant parents, was born in Montreal, Canada in 1863. When Mike was three years old, the family moved to Ohio. At the age of 12, Mike was employed by a cattle feeder, T. B. Hord, and when he reached his teens, he came west to work on Hord's 77 Ranch, located north of Manville, Wyoming. By error or intent, the spelling of the name, O'Shaughnessy was altered first to Shaughnessy, later to Shaunsey, and still later to Shonsey.

The range cattle business was Mike's natural element. He held positions such as foreman, cowhand, and wagon boss for several outfits, namely the CY, Guthrie and Oskamp's Trowel outfit (so-called because their brand resembled a brick layer's trowel), and the Western Union Beef Company which had acquired the EK Ranch in Johnson County. At one time, Mike owned ten shares of stock valued at \$100 per share in the Guthrie and Oskamp Cattle Company. Shonsey also won the World's Calf Roping Championship at Frontier Days during the 1890's.

His homestead was on the West Fork of LaBonte Creek.

Mike had ridden the range for years. He had seen all kinds of rustling and watched cattle thefts increase, all the way from dry-gulching the cows to stealing their unbranded calves. He had seen brands cut out of the hides of live animals, and young cattle run off to isolated places to be hidden until they reached a saleable age, about six months or so. Mike could not stand to witness these depredations at the expense of his employers, and further, he felt that the cattlemen were being accused of ruthlessness and of charging innocent men with stealing cattle unjustly. He was convinced that the cattlemen wanted only to claim the animals which they owned, and

that the ownership could be determined by the brands.

Shonsey was the foreman of the EK Ranch at the time of the "Invasion". His employer was George A. Baxter, manager of the Western Union Beef Company. Mike had been considered throughout his life as a "law and order" man. Because this was his disposition, and because Baxter was one of the prime movers in the invasion, it seemed inevitable that Shonsey would become involved. He seems, actually, to have played the key role in the whole unfortunate affair, the Johnson County War.

As in all conflicts, the right and the wrong of the Johnson County War depends upon the point of view taken. It was but an interlude between the era of public domain and private ownership, and a result of several things. The cattle barons and kings had operated freely on the open range for some years. Cattle stealing was always a worry. The transition from open range to a more complex and more diversified economy was taking place. Homesteaders with plows and fences were moving in, and herders with their bands of sheep were arriving to compete with the cattle for the pasture. And so the cattlemen, with their large herds and crews of cowhands were plagued by nesters, settlers, Grangers and rustlers. With the ever increasing numbers of cattle grazing on the range, it had become overstocked and the grass was short. Then nature took a hand, dealing harshly with the cattlemen. The winter of 1886-87 was devastating. The cattle, already existing on short grass during the dry summer of 1886, went into the winter in poor flesh. Blizzard upon blizzard followed by bitter cold took its toll, and by spring of 1887, the draws and coulees were full of dead animals. The days of the cattle barons were numbered as their herds were decimated. The numbers of cattle declined from 9,000,000 head in 1886 to 3,000,000 head by 1895. Those of the cattlemen who were able to remain in business in spite of their heavy losses and high interest costs, were able to count their herds easily, and they were ready to fight to protect their remaining cattle. In many cases, they hired stock detectives to track down those cowhands and nesters who were branding maverick cattle, and those thieves who were altering brands on beeves. Many cattlemen were driven out of business.

The changing times brought seasonal unemployment to more and more cowpunchers as the big ranchers tried to economize. During the winter months, many cowboys were unemployed, but the ranchers allowed them to live in the isolated line camps on their property. There the cowhands could make a little money by branding mavericks with the brands of their former employers who would pay from three to five dollars for each animal. Then the cowboy learned that they could make more money branding the mavericks for themselves — so the practice, which the cattlemen felt was rustling, began.

Large ranchers blacklisted those cowhands who branded mavericks for themselves and barred them from the Stock Growers Association roundups. The Territorial Legislature created a Board of Livestock Commissioners in 1888 made up of Association members. However, the functions of the board were no longer those of the Cattlemen's Association. The Board was placed in control of the roundups, the sale of unbranded animals and brand inspection. Brand inspectors were instructed to seize cattle wearing the brands of the blacklisted men,



sell the cattle, and turn the receipts to the Board. This ruling drove small ranchers and farmers together in sympathy, and sometimes to actual cooperation with men who were openly rustling cattle.

In the spring of 1888, Mike Shonsey was in charge of the Platte River roundup. He was employed at the time as foreman for the CY Cattle Ranch. He had been instructed to blotch all brands belonging to the men on the blacklist if they were not present at the roundup, and to put Carey's brand on the cattle in addition to the Association brand, "M" on the animal's neck. Some cattle belonging to Mike Champion were in the roundup herd. Champion came to Shonsey and asked permission to cut out his cattle. Shonsey, seeming amiable, suggested that Champion wait for a day or so till the herd was worked, and then come pick up his cattle. Champion agreed, and departed. Immediately thereafter, Shonsey ordered his hands to cut out the Champion cattle and run them off. When Champion returned to claim his stock and found what had happened, he and Shonsey had a heated argument ending just short of physical violence.

As time passed, Shonsey apparently forgave Champion for he seemed friendly enough, but he nursed his hate and anger towards Champion. The owners of small herds continued to be treated unfairly by the cattlemen. In 1891, a new list of "black-balled" stock owners was made out by the Northern Wyoming Protection Association. This list included nearly every man who owned a hoof of stock, excepting the cattle barons, of course. Proceeds from cattle shipped by the black-listed men was held by the Stock Commission. They were told that when they furnished proof of ownership they would receive their money, but though the men furnished proof of ownership, they received no payment. The cattlemen made plans to murder the small stockholders so that there would be no one to claim the money or to prosecute the cattlemen. Some of the prominent cattlemen organized themselves into a group called the Regulators, or Invaders, and sought to take the law into their own hands. There were about forty-two men in this group, one of which was Mike Shonsey. The group hired 25 professional killers to accompany them into Buffalo, Wyoming, then considered the rustler's capitol.

The first name on the list of black-balled men was that of Nate Champion, supposed leader of the rustlers. In the fall of 1891, Mike Shonsey, in the company of five or six other men crawled to Champion's door and tried to kill him, but the attempt failed. Later Shonsey sent word to Champion to come to the EK Ranch to stay if he was afraid to stay alone at the KC Ranch. Champion was suspicious of Shonsey, and declined the invitation. As a result of this incident, and many others, everyone carried firearms. The cowmen then decided that it would be simpler to ambush the black-listed men, rather than to visit their cabins. Several murders were done in this manner, suspects were arrested, and hearings were held but there were no convictions.

It was Mike Shonsey who provided the information which led to the murders of Nate Champion and Nick Ray. He rode to the Tisdale Ranch where the Invaders were gathered and informed the leaders of the Invasion of their whereabouts. The Invaders concluded that they must not fail to seize the opportunity to begin their work,

and voted to proceed to the KC to deal with Champion and Ray. The success of their campaign depended upon speed and the element of surprise, but the decision to attend to the "little" job of disposing of Champion resulted in a delay of their plans to attack the town of Buffalo. They lost valuable time and much of the "surprise".

In April of 1892, the Invaders laid siege to the building on the KC where Nick Ray and Nate Champion lived. Ray was shot soon after the fight began, but Nate Champion held off the Invaders for about a day and a half. Finally, the Invaders fired the building, and Champion was shot as he ran out of the burning cabin. A man, by the name of Terrance Smith, heard the firing and hastened to Buffalo to inform the sheriff. The Invaders left the KC and went to the TA Ranch to plan their next move.

The townspeople of Buffalo were indignant over the murders, even those persons who resented the settlers. They began to champion the cause of the rustlers, since it was evident that soon they must face the task of protecting their own property from lawlessness. The sheriff, Red Angus, formed a large posse and rode to the TA where a fierce battle ensued, beginning on Monday, April 11 and lasting until Wednesday morning when the troops arrived from Ft. McKinney. The Invaders, upon seeing the troops, surrendered to Sheriff Angus. Shortly afterwards, the prisoners were taken by the soldiers and marched to Ft. McKinney to be confined there for five days, and then to be taken under armed guard to Ft. Fetterman. From Fetterman, the Invaders were taken to Ft. Russell to await trial. The troops were not friendly to the Invaders, affording them bare civility.

Two days after the surrender at the TA Ranch, the funerals of Champion and Ray took place in Buffalo. The funeral was so large that it had to be held in a store building. The remains were escorted to the cemetery by a hundred well-armed, mounted men.

Shonsey's services with the Western Union Beef Company were terminated while he and the other members of the Invasion were detained at Ft. Russell. Eventually, all of the Invaders were released, and Mike Shonsey returned to work for Hord as the foreman of the Lance Creek Cattle Company on the 77 Ranch.

The tragedy of this whole incident was that the wrong people were on the blacklist of the cattlemen. Because of the hard feelings between good men, the thieves took advantage of the situation and aligned themselves with the small ranchers, and thus, by association, many settlers and ex-cowboys blackened their own names. In addition, most of the big cattlemen did not live in Johnson County, and did not understand the true situation.

Mike Shonsey denied having killed Nate Champion at the KC. He admitted, however, that he had fired a shot simultaneously with another man, and that either bullet could have taken Nate's life. Dudley Champion, Nate's brother, was convinced that Shonsey had killed his brother, and made threats that he would kill Mike Shonsey on sight. Whereas Nate seemed to enjoy a reputation of being a fair and honest man, such was not the case with Dudley. The week prior to his confrontation with Mike, he had been surprised by two cowhands sulking around the Ogalalla's headquarters ranch located on a branch of Antelope Creek in northwest Converse County. Under questioning, Champion freely admitted that he

was there for the purpose of killing Billy Irvine, one of the Invaders.

A trail herd from Throckmorton, Texas had arrived on the 77 range, and the wagon boss, David D. Mathew, had come to the headquarters to ask permission to stay the night. About four o'clock, Mathew and Shonsey were riding toward the wagon boss' camp, when they sighted three riders coming towards them. Two of the riders were employees of Mathew and the third was Dudley Champion. Dud recognized Shonsey immediately, but Shonsey, facing the sun, failed to recognize Champion. However, he did note that the stranger had removed his revolver from its holster and stuck it under his belt for quick action. Shonsey prudently made similar preparations.

The two men rode to within ten feet of one another, and exchanged greetings. Then Shonsey told Champion that he understood that Champion had threatened to kill him on first sight, and drew his revolver. Champion shouted for Mike to hold up, denying that he had said any such thing. Mike lowered his gun for an instant, and it appeared that he was not going to shoot, but Champion slipped his hand to his revolver, and as he whipped it out, Mike fired first. As Champion started to fall from his horse, Shonsey fired twice more. Champion, then on the ground, held his gun with both hands and tried to shoot. Shonsey dismounted and pumped another shot into the wounded Champion, remounted and rode away.

Mathew went to Champion's side. Champion, mortally wounded, said, "Take my six-shooter and tell the boys that Mike Shonsey shot me. I can't cock it; I can't cock it".

Subsequently the coroner's jury went to the scene of the shooting, and they examined Champion's revolver. It was found to be full of mud. Because of this, the gun could not be cocked, nor would the cylinder revolve. Apparently, while Dud was crawling around in the willows and sagebrush in the creek bottom adjacent to the Ogalalla intending to kill Billy Irvine, his revolver had become fouled with mud. Though Shonsey beat him to the draw, it is very probable that Dud would have succeeded in killing Mike had not his revolver misfired.

When Mike reached the 77 after his meeting with Dud, he changed horses, and his clothes and rode to Douglas that same night, a distance of approximately sixty miles. He gave himself up to Harve Allen, deputy sheriff, shortly after midnight. Mike was cleared of murder charges, however, since it was determined to be a case of self-defense.

Eventually, Mike Shonsey moved his family to Central City, Nebraska where he was employed as foreman of the Wells and Hord Company Feed Yards. At a later date, he purchased Wells' interest, and the firm name was changed to Hord and Shonsey. Finally, Mike bought out Hord's interest and ran the business under his own name. Mike died in Nebraska at the age of ninety-one in 1954.

Ruth Grant

## Sims, Albert N. and Della Family

Albert N. "Bert" Sims was born on April 18, 1866 in Wyoming, Illinois. It was in 1884, at the age of 18, that he came west to South Dakota and then to western Nebraska a year later. In 1891 he spent some time in Manville, Wyoming working with his brother, Louis "Lou" Sims who had a ranch southeast of Manville called the "Old Woods Ranch" where he raised cattle. Bert Sims also worked at a ranch located on Walker Creek.

Two other brothers of Albert Sims were also located around Manville at this time. They were Millard Filmore "Fil" Sims and Ansel "Bay" Sims. The brothers owned a livery barn and a small store in Manville and they also owned sheep.

Albert Sims went back to Wilour, Nebraska where he married Della M. Rogers on June 15, 1898 and they made their home there for a short time. On October 8, 1901 their first child was born, a son named Cecil.

The Albert Sims family moved to Manville the first of the year of 1902. Cecil was three or four months old. Albert Sims helped the minister who was known as "Preacher Hughes" build the Methodist Church in Manville. "Preacher Hughes" had a son named Otis Hughes. After the church was completed the Albert Sims family and the Hughes family made a trip to California by wagon. Here the Sims family stayed for three or four years. Cecil can remember being in San Francisco immediately after the big earthquake of 1906 and visiting his mother's sister and her family who had lost their home in the disaster and were living in a tent.

While living in Santa Cruz, California, two more children were born to Albert and Della Sims. Edna Elizabeth was born on November 5, 1906 and Gladys Mae was born on October 29, 1908.

In about 1909 the Sims family moved back to Manville where Lou Sims was in the horse business. Lou and a second cousin, Roy (Peg) Baughn, trailed a rather large bunch of Indian ponies from the Rosebud Indian Reservation to Lou's ranch where a lot of them were broken to ride and were sold. The Sims also raised their own horses and had some thoroughbred stallions.

Because of the hard winters, Albert Sims got a place on Twenty Mile Creek which he thought would be a better place to winter stock, which it was. However, the first winter there was a bad one. Everything snowed under, sagebrush and all. There was no chance of hauling feed from the railroad and the family ran out of some staple foods. Fil Sims made snowshoes and walked five miles down the creek to the nearest ranch, the old Bob Spaugh place which is now owned by Bob Manning. Ray Valentine was there managing sheep for himself and Ras Baughn. When they finally got a load of shelled corn through on a bobsled, it was too late. They lost about half of their sheep from which they derived 50¢ a pelt.

The first living quarters at the Twenty Mile Ranch was a little log cabin, a sheep wagon and two tents. With Fil's help, Albert Sims built a frame house which still remains as the living quarters for the ranch. Bay Sims eventually sold out his interests and went to California. Fil Sims stayed at the ranch for a while. They owned sheep. Later on, he and his son-in-law, Oscar Bar-

tholome, owned a hardware store in Manville for a number of years.

Lou Sims moved his family near Woonsocket, South Dakota where another brother, John Sims was located. Albert Sims and his family stayed in Newport, Nebraska for about three years. While living there another daughter, Delberta, was born on October 24, 1914. They left Newport coming back to Manville where they stayed for a while before going back to the ranch on Twenty Mile. They repaired the old fences and built new ones. Albert bought more land which had to be fenced. More cattle were purchased and later another bunch of sheep was added, which were kept for a number of years. The coyotes eventually got so bad they sold all of the sheep and ran only cattle.

In about 1916, Cecil Sims and Leo Eusler worked for Ad Spaugh, lambing at the TJ Ranch where Dutch Shorty was foreman. The following year they worked for the government poisoning prairie dogs. Leo later joined the army and was sent overseas.

Edna Sims and her husband, Beryl Fullerton, worked at the Twenty Mile Ranch for eight years. They had an interest in the cattle with Albert and Cecil. There was a very dry year in 1934 and what grass grew, the grasshoppers ate. Beryl and Edna took their share of the stock over to the Bill Sherman place. Here, there was some hay and green grass around the creek that the grasshoppers hadn't eaten. Cecil and his dad sold most of their cattle to the government for almost nothing. They kept 27 head of dry cows that Cecil was able to winter on sagebrush and soap weed with about five pounds of cotton seed cake per head per day. Most of these cows calved the next spring and more cattle was bought to build up the herd again. At this time Gladys's husband, Henry (Hank) Amend, also bought some cattle which Albert and Cecil ran for him. Hank was working in Lance Creek in the oil fields at the time.

About 1938, Albert and Della Sims bought a house in Lusk where they made their home. After Albert's retirement, due to poor health, Cecil continued to take care of their cattle and Hank's. By this time Cecil owned the old Charlie Sherman place two and one half miles northwest of Manville. He summered on this place and wintered on the Card ranch at Lost Springs which Hank Amend had purchased. Albert Sims was able to lease the Twenty Mile Ranch for a very good price.

Albert Sims passed away in Lusk on October 12, 1943. His widow, Della, stayed in Lusk for a while before renting her house and spending the summers at Lost Springs with her daughter, Gladys, and the winters in Madera, California with her daughter, Delberta Simpson. In 1952 Della Sims sold the Twenty Mile Ranch to her granddaughter and her husband, Mae Ann Manning and Robert Manning. Della Sims passed away in 1961.

Cecil was married to Pauline Whiteaker of Flint, Michigan in 1942. They lived on Cecil's own place year around as Hank Amend had quit the oil field work and was living on his own ranch. To the Sherman place, Cecil added the Theron Grant place, the adjoining Day place and the Lincoln 80 acres. This gave him a total of 1680 acres on which he was able to run about 100 cows and calves, usually selling the calves in the fall. Cecil put up all the hay he could and had to build sheds and wind

breaks for the cattle. In the severe winter of 1948-49 he never lost one head of cattle. There was no chance of hauling the hay out from the stacks so he had to tease the cattle with a fork full of hay to a stack, then pitch the hay out from the stack as far as he could so they could all get some. His hardest job was getting the cattle to water as he was watering from a windmill and tank. There was a huge snow drift, a quarter of a mile long, which passed the tank, and the snow kept blowing over the tank making it difficult to keep a hole open for drinking. The snow and ice kept building up at the side of the tank and he had to dig down to the tank. In spite of his efforts to keep the tank shoveled out, the cattle would end up kneeling to drink. The wind never let up for weeks and it was a long winter.

In 1955, Pauline Sims' parents needed her help because of their health. Cecil sold the cattle, hay and some equipment. He leased the place and moved his family to Michigan where he bought and farmed 120 acres, where they are still living. Cecil later sold his Manville place in 1961 to A.A. (Andy) Nelson who lives there now.

Cecil and Pauline had three children; Marilyn Jean, born July 27, 1944, Zaidee Ellen, born July 30, 1947 and Arthur Ray, born on June 11, 1949. All of the children were born in Lusk and attended the Manville Grade School.

Edna Sims was married to Beryl Fullerton on June 19, 1927 at Douglas. They were the parents of three children. One son, Dale, on March 8, 1930, and two daughters, Della Mae (Coon), February 21, 1935 and Donna Kay Fullerton on January 21, 1947. Beryl passed away in 1965.

Gladys Sims married Henry Amend May 31, 1930 at Douglas, Wyoming. They were the parents of Mae Ann (Manning) September 2, 1932, Marvin on December 22, 1941 and Mary (Engebretsen) on June 20, 1945. Gladys passed away in May 1963 and Henry in December 1970. Marvin was killed in an auto accident in 1970.

Delberta Sims married Roe Simpson June 22, 1938. They moved to Madera, California in January 1946 where they are still living. Roe worked as a carpenter and spent many years associated with the County Superintendent of Schools. Delberta worked for the high school as the pastry cook. They are both retired now. They are the parents of two children, a son, Albert, born on May 13, 1941 and a daughter, Joan, on March 19, 1945.

Cecil Sims

## Sims, Susan Hardcastle Family

Susan Hardcastle was born in Texas on June 29, 1854. She married Dr. James H. Sims of Harwood, Texas. They had seven children; Stella (b. 1874), Arthur (b. 1877), Claudia (b. 1879), James (b. 1880), Albert (b. 1882), Chester (b. 1884) and Victoria (b. 1886).

Dr. Sims passed away in 1894 at Harwood, Texas. Susan lived in Texas until April 23, 1901 when she moved to Douglas with all of her family with the exception of James. Mrs. Sims died on May 15, 1937 in Douglas.

Stella married Mr. Everton and lived most of her life in Lawton, Oklahoma and Cheyenne, Wyoming. They had two daughters, Vivian and Hazel. She was also married to Arthur B. Dussair. Stella died on November 12, 1941.



Victoria Sims

Arthur worked as a young man in Georgia as a telegrapher. He, along with his brothers, Chester and Albert, worked for the Mountain Valley Sheep Company after they came to Wyoming in 1901. The Mountain Valley Sheep Company was owned in 1908 by O.P. Witt, George F. Goodwin and George Cross. In 1908 the brothers bought Witt and associates out. They ran the outfit until 1912 when blizzards and loss of stock forced them out of business. Each of the brothers then went into the ranching business on their own having homesteads in Downey Park and a few miles northeast of Douglas. Arthur married Margaret Numrich, daughter of John H. and Gertrude Numrich, on December 9, 1931. They had



Albert Sims 1955

two sons, Arthur M. Jr. and Allen Lee and one daughter, Margaret (Bluze). Arthur died on February 11, 1957 and Margaret in April 1969.

Claudia married Walter J. Dalton on March 11, 1911. Walter was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1887. In 1915 they opened the W. J. Dalton Co. Store on Center Street just west of the Metcalf Mercantile (the Golden Rule is there now.) Louis Bynum bought them out in 1932, and they moved to Cheyenne where Walter was employed with the State of Wyoming in the state sales tax system until his retirement in 1942. Walter served as a member of the Wyoming House of Representatives. He was also interested in the oil leasing business. Upon their retirement they moved to St. Petersburg, Florida where Walter died in 1961. Claudia moved back to Douglas and lived at 339 North Fourth Street. She died in June 1965.

James worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad as a brakeman and conductor when he was a young man. He came to Wyoming in 1917 and joined his brothers in the ranching business. Later he sold out his interest to them and returned to work for the railroad. Edna Musgrove of Memphis, Tennessee became his wife in 1917. In 1953 he



Mrs. Susan Sims 1892

moved back to Douglas where he resided until his death on June 4, 1957.

Albert became associated with A. D. and Jennie Chamberlin after he and his brothers dissolved their partnership. It was an association that was to continue until Jennie's death in 1949. In Albert's later years, he became associated with Lyle and Elizabeth Hildebrand. L. C. Bishop, a lifelong friend, and Albert along with Lyle were great history buffs. Together they made many treks over the Oregon Trail. Another history buff from Massachusetts, Pete LaBonte, was also another great friend of Albert's. Albert died on October 1, 1969.

Chester was also involved with his brothers in the ranching business after he came to Wyoming. He married Nellie Prill, daughter of Otto G. and Elizabeth Prill, in Laramie on June 9, 1911. Nellie was born in Glidden, Iowa and attended schools there. Later she went to the Valparaiso University. Her father was a farmer and store owner. Nellie also homesteaded in Downey

Park. Prill Draw in the park is named after her.

Two sons, George and Arthur C., were born to them. Art is married to the former Hope Ireland. They have one daughter, Judy (Hageman). Art runs cattle and sheep on most of the Sims Brothers land today. George lives in Cheyenne where he is retired from the Wyoming National Guard. He served many years as the state selective service director. George is married to the former Mary Ann Klett. They have two daughters, Carol Ann and Barbara, and one son, Jon.

Nellie died in 1959 and Chester in 1964.

Victoria, the youngest of the Sims children, went to school for a while in Douglas and later attended the Little Child of Jesus Convent in Cheyenne. Several other young ladies also attended the convent, among them was Mary Cross who was to be Victoria's lifelong friend. Victoria taught school in the country for a time after her graduation from high school. She was also a bookkeeper for the Mountain Valley Sheep Co. and worked for the U.S. Post Office in Douglas before her marriage in 1914 to Kirkwood Pritchard. Kirkwood was a civil engineering student at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado at the time. After their marriage they moved to the east where he worked for a big construction company. They had five children, three boys and two girls. One of the girls, Carolyn V. Tobin, lives in Sidney, Nebraska.

George C. Sims  
Carolyn Tobin

## Slaughter, Joseph and Emma

There are so many memories and so many things to tell about it is hard to know where to start. Dad (Joseph R.) was born in Albany, Ohio in February 1860, and in the summer of that year his father, John Slaughter, who was working in Colorado, died. His mother, Mary Durant Slaughter, brought her six-month-old son, Joseph Russell, to Colorado in search of her husband's grave, which she was unable to find. Dad said the story was that his father was buried some place along Cherry Creek.

Dad lived in Colorado and went to school, then when he was about eighteen years old he came to Wyoming. . .to Cheyenne. . .where his grandfather, John Slaughter was Territorial Librarian and Ex-Officio Supt. of Public Instruction. He had been a Justice of the Peace and held some other political offices prior to his appointment as librarian. It was in Cheyenne at this time that Dad bought his first spurs, in 1878 and they are my treasured possessions.

He worked for some of the large cattle outfits in several counties for about ten years. In 1891 or 1892 he homesteaded on what was later the Lower VR Ranch or the old Hemingway Place.

Some of the friends Dad made during his "cowboy" days were his lifelong friends and neighbors. Bill Fenex and Jap Sumner would get together with Dad and tell some of the tallest tales. . .and laugh and slap their thighs. . .the three of them in the autumn of their lives reminding each other of the different "times". . .one time when they had really "tied one on" and had gone to the LaBonte Hotel to sleep it off. . .the next morning when

Jap woke up and looked outside he ran over to Dad and shook him awake and yelled "Joe, get up, get up. . .my God we slept all winter". . .one of Wyoming's chinook winds had come up in the night and melted all the snow. I can hear them laughing yet. . .and I never did get to hear the last of the story about the night they were sitting around the campfire and roped the bear. . .I sure wish tape recorders had been around then.

While Dad lived on his homestead, he and John Higgins got acquainted and got interested in the sheep industry. Later he organized the Slaughter Patzold Sheep Company which was one of the biggest outfits in the state. It was located north of Glenrock and was called "The 55". Their brand was registered **25**. Dad had a big barn which was just back of the Lincoln Building, and I remember when the horses and the big high wagons would come to town for provisions, enough to last the whole winter, they were stabled there. One year I remember them telling about a really bad spring snow-storm and how many lambs and sheep were lost, piled up in snowdrifts...one outfit lost 80,000???

Dad married Emma L. Kimball, daughter of Col. E. H. Kimball, in 1901. He built a house on Main Street in Glenrock and it was the first house to have hot water heat. I guess everyone came around to see how it worked.

Dad served in the Seventh State Legislature in 1903. He was the first Mayor of Glenrock and served two terms, 1909 and 1910. He was also Vice President of the Glenrock State Bank.

In 1906 Mom and Dad adopted a son, Russell C., then three years later I, J.R., was born and in 1922 my younger brother Lyle K. was born. We all lived and grew up in Glenrock.

We had one of the first cars in Glenrock, a 1913 Buick. I remember in later years the people that had cars would load up family or friends and we would all go to Douglas to the fair. It was an all-day journey.

One year Mom and Dad, Russell and myself, Jap Sumner and wife Lizzie and daughter Ozra and Bill Fenex and wife Sabra and kids, Floyd, Guy and Gladys, all drove to California. It took us two weeks to get there and we camped out at night. We all thought it was the most wonderful trip even though there were just trails and it was mighty slow going.

When I was about twelve years old we went to California and Dad bought a grocery store in Long Beach. We were there about two years and then we came back home to Wyoming. Dad sold the big house and we moved to the little house across from the Glenrock Garage and at the top of the hill to Happy Hollow. Dad traded some land he owned down in the bend of the river (The Pacific Power Plant is located there now) for the little house.

The old ice house was just below the hill, and they cut ice from Deer Creek and stored it there for the town use. We used to skate on Deer Creek from the ice house clear to the VR Ranch. Seemed like all of the kids in town skated there in the winter and went swimming in the summer.

Mom and Dad loved to play cards. They played five hundred and then later bridge, two or three times a week. Jap Sumner and his wife Lizzie (who was Mom's sister) were some of their favorite partners. Mom and Aunt Lizzie belonged to a card group called the O.T. (old timers)



Club. The women had been friends before they were all married and they had some great times. Once they went up to a cabin in Boxelder Canyon to play bridge and spend the night. Uncle Allan Kimball, Bill Woods and somebody else dressed up in outlandish clothes and went up to the cabin and about scared the women to death. . . I don't know if they ever went on another overnight bridge trip.

I think the saddest and yet the proudest day of Mom's life was when my brother Lyle went into the service in the navy. For her part of the "war effort she corresponded with thirty-two of the Glenrock service men and some of their buddies. She didn't just write one page but she wrote page after page of little things that happened and things she thought they would be interested in. It was very difficult for her to write and I remember watching her many times. . . her straight pen held between her middle finger and her index finger. . . after the war, when the men came home each and every one came to tell her how much it meant to hear from home and how much they appreciated what she had done.

During the war years, 1940s, Dad applied for and got the janitor job at the Glenrock Grade School. I don't think he expected he would get it, as he was in his eighties then but he wanted to do something and he needed the money. The kids loved and respected him. It was always "Mr. Slaughter, can I clean the blackboards?" or, "Mr Slaughter, can I carry the water upstairs?" (At that time all of the water used for cleaning the floors and blackboards had to be carried in pails up the flights of stairs). He stopped many a fight and made the kids shake hands. . . I think sometimes they just picked a fight so Dad would step in. An article published in the local newspaper entitled "An Unsung Hero" was a fine tribute to him.

Dad was a loyal Mason and was made a Master Mason in Casper in 1902. He was Master of Glenrock Lodge No. 22 A.F. & A.M. in 1907. Dad died in the Douglas Hospital in 1948, not too many miles from Fort Fetterman where he had come as a young boy. It was his Glenrock Lodge that conducted the services when he died. A fitting tribute to his funeral, two young friends, one the grandson of his old "cowboy" buddy, Bill Fenex, sang "Home on the Range."

J. R. Slaughter

## Slaymaker, Samuel

Sam Slaymaker was born in Pennsylvania and, when a mere boy, enlisted and was severely wounded in the advance on Atlanta under General Sherman. At the close of the Civil War he re-enlisted and served through various campaigns against the Indians in Montana and what was then Dakota, being later stationed at Fort Fetterman. He was a quartermaster sergeant while stationed at Fort Fetterman.

After his discharge from the army, Mr. Slaymaker established a road ranch on upper LaPrele Creek, along the road to Rock Creek and Medicine Bow. He later moved his popular stage coach service to Buckshot above Spring Canyon on the same road and his former location became the Andrew Jackson Ranch, now a part of Rory Cross' ranch.

It was during this time that he was married to Ellen



Samuel Slaymaker

Howard, daughter of James Andrew and Anna Howard, on March 23, 1872. Ellen was born in Greenfield, Pennsylvania on January 8, 1850.

He served as Justice of Peace for Albany County in the LaPrele area. Later, when Converse County was formed in 1889, he served as its first Assessor. He was re-elected and was to serve later as one of the first Clerks of County Court. In January 1906 he was appointed receiver of the U.S. Land Office.

Sam and Ellen were divorced and for a second wife he chose Flora Hobbs. Death came to Mr. Slaymaker on December 28, 1912.

John R. Pexton

## Slichter, Charles and Florence

In 1884, John and Sarah Slichter, with their children Jesse, Ida and Charles, took the train to Cheyenne, Wyoming from Ringgold County, Iowa. They travelled with team and wagon from Cheyenne to Boxelder Creek, near the Platte River in Converse County. The family settled here for awhile, then moved a few miles east, where they established a hay ranch, with horses and cattle.

Young Charley became a cowboy, and representative for the ranch, on the open range. Bedroll, slicker, grub-wagon, remuda and roundup time was the way of life for the cowboy of that era.

Later, Charley proved up on a homestead in the vicinity of Inez, the home ranch. He later took out an "additional" which included the rocky Pine Ridge.

At a 4th of July celebration (the 4th being the big celebration of the year until the state fair was held at Douglas). Charley's sister, Ida, introduced him to



Charles and Florence Slichter 1955

Florence Young, daughter of Robert and Ellen Young. He was in a spring wagon with a broken leg! Over a year later, October 31, 1905, they were married — a long engagement, as Charley was out on the open range most of the time. When they established their home on Charley's homestead, they had sheep. Living there in winter, and summering on open range, where laundry was dried on the sagebrush. Their first son died in infancy and was buried at Fort Fetterman. His grave is still there.

During this period of time, it was common practice for the Sioux Indians from the South Dakota reservations to visit the Arapahoes and Shoshones, and each summer would find them camped across the Platte River, where they rested their horses and replenished their food supplies by hunting. The Slichter family always tried to maintain friendly relationships with the bands of roving Indians.

Game was in abundance, and when they wanted sage chicken for dinner, Florence would walk out on the prairie to the watering holes with her quirt, and kill the young birds by snapping off their heads.

In 1910, their son Marvin was born; and in 1911 Charley's father died, at which time Charley, Florence and Marvin moved to Inez to assist Sarah in running the ranch. In 1915, a daughter, Edna Elizabeth, also died in infancy, and is buried in Douglas. Daughter Hazel and son Frank were born while Charley and Florence lived at Inez. Both Frank and Charley were stricken with smallpox, as vaccination was not too successful at that time. Red posters were placed on the homes where there was smallpox, and many people died during the epidemic.

Charley's brother, Jesse, owned the Overland Agency in Douglas, so when Charley and Florence purchased their first car, it was an Overland. It was an elegant car, with isinglass side curtains which snapped on in

winter and off in summer. A buffalo robe was always carried in the back seat for the children to snuggle under. They made several long trips in the Overland, including Yellowstone Park and Frontier Days in Cheyenne — both journeys of some distance in those days!

Inez ranch was located on the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad and the "river road", which was a forerunner of Highway 20. Gypsies sometimes travelled the road, and the children were then kept close to the house, fearful of being kidnapped.

The Inez coal mine and Black Diamond mine were south of the ranch, and Sarah, Charley and Florence helped many miners, who were down on their luck, by offering shelter and food.

About this time, Charley studied surveying, and purchased his own surveying instruments, which he used for many years.

In the spring of 1921, Charley and Florence and their children moved to their homestead, and began the construction of new buildings. In May of 1922, a late spring blizzard buried many livestock under high drifts, freezing them in their tracks. Their livestock loss was tremendous, and even the children's pet horse died. Logs were hauled from Cold Springs with which to build the house and corrals, and the new house was furnished in time for the arrival of their third son, Charles Henry on April 23, 1925.

With Marvin's help, Charley worked a coal mine west of the home place, often receiving payment for coal in garden produce. They also worked horses when Highway 20 was under construction. Sheep became the main stock on the ranch, and son Frank's registered 4-H sheep improved the herd.

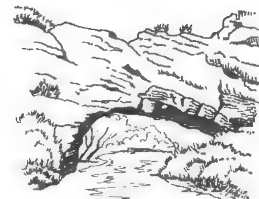
Both Charley and Florence were avid readers, and subscribed for many decades to the Omaha Daily News, which came on the train. Since cattle were always shipped to Omaha, the newspaper was scanned very carefully for the livestock market news. Also of great interest was the price of furs, since all of the boys trapped for extra income.

Charley served as county commissioner for two terms. One of his duties was to be in attendance when a county patient had surgery.

After Florence and Henry died, Florence on July 9, 1958 and Henry on Dec. 23, 1964, Charley sold the ranch and moved to Douglas, where he died in Sept. 1967. All are buried in the family plot in the Douglas cemetery.

Charley and Florence saw many changes in their lifetime. They saw Wyoming progress from a territory to a state; they saw the big ranches on the sparsely open range give way to fences, highways and smaller ranches. Days and weeks spent in the saddle, riding the range, gave way to the more sedate duties of running a sheep ranch and raising a family. May we all remember, with gratitude, this pioneer family who gave us much of our heritage.

Hazel Slichter Lewis



## Slichter, John and Sarah Family

As it has been 75 years this month since I, Jesse Slichter, arrived on the Platte River in Wyoming, near Fort Fetterman, I will attempt to put down some of the experiences of my life.

I was born on a farm near Creston, Ringgold County, Iowa, on June 18, 1878, the oldest son of John and Sarah Slichter. Next was Ida, December 9, 1879; Charles, April 7, 1882; Lily Ellen, July 31, 1886 and died December 14, 1887; an adopted sister, Mary, born March 12, 1895, her mother having died six weeks later and adopted April 15, 1896. Sister Ida died January 1947 leaving three of us to answer roll call this date.

My father, a lover of horses and very tired of the Iowa mud, wanted more room to raise a lot of horses, decided to move to Wyoming. So in the fall of 1883 he came to Cheyenne where his brother-in-law, Wm. Ford, was hustling luggage for the Union Pacific Railroad. They both, along with a surveyor, came to Fort Fetterman where they located claims seven miles up the North Platte River.

During the claiming out of the claims, father had his first misfortune to lose \$300 from his shirt pocket; in walking so much his suspender buckle wore a hole through his shirt. As he retraced most of his tracks after he was always of the opinion that the surveyor picked it up, as the surveyor always followed up.

After returning home, Father arranged for selling out and early in 1884 held a public auction and sold all he could not load up. One thing I remember now of this sale was when my long chain that I had hung between two elm trees for a swing was offered for sale I had a hard cry over it. Father hitched two large mares and a large bay stallion to the wagon with plow tools and household goods and started alone for Wyoming, after having put Mother and us three on the railroad for Cheyenne, where we stayed with Wm. Ford, Mother's brother, until Father arrived.

After a short stay in Cheyenne, the Ford family in one wagon and our family in another, started the long trip overland following the Cheyenne-Buffalo stage route via Rock River through Downey Park and Spring Canyon. My only memories of this trip was the layover while one mare had a colt and the stallion took her place at the wagon. Later a wagon wheel ran over the colt's front foot and mother often had to walk up the hill while the colt had to ride the rest of the way. He, or Ned, as we called him, grew up to be a very useful horse and we used him to break others for 16 years afterwards, but he was always lame as his hoof was split and he had to wear one shoe.

We pitched the tents one-quarter mile apart on the separate claims along the river. Ours was too close and I remember the move back 300 yards when the river about cut us off from the mainland. The Platte has never reached the high mark made in May 1884.

About the first job was to get wild meat and to start hauling logs from the mountains to build houses for the coming winter. Each house had one large room 16 x 24 feet with one window and door. The logs were pinned with wooden pegs, the dirt roof let in some rain at times, but was a great change from the tent that had to be put up

sometimes in a hard wind and most always after night.

Father and Uncle Will went to the Fort once a week for the mail and Mother and Aunt Rose cried until they got back, fearful that the cowboys might shoot them.

Having the houses pretty well in shape for our first winter in Wyoming, the time came to get the needed groceries on hand. The start was made to market which was 200 miles away, by Father and Uncle Will, over the same road to Cheyenne. They had fairly good luck on the first trip and were gone only about 15 days.

The second trip, in the following spring, six months later, was not so good and nearly cost them their lives, being caught in a big blizzard half way on the open prairie. They had no wood and finally cut a telegraph pole down to save themselves. I can well remember my aunt coming across the sagebrush carrying her boy in the snow two feet or better deep as she was afraid to stay alone any longer.

The spring of 1885 proved to be the starting point for Father in fulfilling his desire to start in the horse business. A large herd of Texas dogies came up the trail from the south and Father held them up while he got possession of seven mares, weight about 750 to 800 pounds, and all different colors, pintos, roans, grays and buckskins.

This was the foundation where he started breeding up a large herd of horses by using good stallions, until we had 500 head of fine horses running at large on the north side of the Platte.

As Fort Fetterman was vacated by the soldiers in 1883, it was taken over by the cowboys and was a very wild place. During the next four years, with someone dying with his boots on most every week, Mother and Aunt Rose were very nervous when any cowboys showed up. They soon learned that the cowboys would do anything for us, especially a woman, which was illustrated one summer day when the Platte was very high and two of them swam their horses across up to the house and asked for a drink of water, "Just to see and talk to a woman, they risked getting drowned."

Game of all kinds was very plentiful as I remember the time of late fall of 1885 when some 300 antelope came down to drink just across the river. I followed Father down and hid in the sagebrush on our side and when all were drinking he opened up with the 45-70 Marlin, dropping three. When we waded across, one had a broken back and was crying, so was I, and I got a good tanning for telling Father he was mean and cruel to cut its throat.

Mother always jerked lots of meat to chew on through the winter and Father tanned the hides to make us lots of pants, shirts and gloves. My first long pair of pants was made of buckskin with a fringe down the side and I tried them out in water, hung them up on my bed post to dry, and the next morning I had knee pants and a good cry too.

The summers of 1885-1886 saw a large number of southern Longhorn cattle being driven up and turned loose in Wyoming, Montana and South Dakota. We had a very hard winter of 1885-1886 with lots of snow and a lot of cattle died and the carcasses were everywhere along the river.

The spring and summer of 1886 saw the Fremont Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad arrive at the town of Douglas and Father made his last trip to Cheyenne to fill up the larder for winter. Also coal was found on Deer

Creek 15 miles west and a little town started up. Father started to haul produce and other things from the end of the railroad at Douglas to the new town of Glenrock.

Also, a school was to open up in the fall of 1886 and as Ida and I would be seven and eight years old, it was time to get some book learning. It was decided that we move to Glenrock while father hauled stock for the two stores. Ida and I went to our first school in a one room log house with about 20 other kids. Mrs. Birney was our teacher. The highlight of my memory was the escape from drowning. Along with Charlie Rate, a boy my age, we set sail on an old log raft across some back water that the river made. Other boys used to cross on it, but it upset half way with us and when our mothers got through with us afterwards we almost wished we had drowned.

During the summer of 1887 we moved back on Box Elder Creek where Father built a nice one and one half story frame house and built a ditch from the creek. The second year we had six acres of oats that father cut with a hand cradle and bound in bundles by hand. This was our first grain in Wyoming.

A man by the name of Vosburg opened up a small coal mine one half mile from our log cabin, which in later years grew to quite a coal camp. A school started in the fall of 1888, so we had a school to go up to the fifth grade. I was needed for work and this finished my school days. Our first teacher at Inez was Mrs. Roberts. Inez was the name given the coal camp and Mother was elected the first Post Master. She held this post until it was abandoned in about 1920.

This coal camp flourished for about ten years and was a very lively place with 80 miners employed at its peak. They had weekly dances on Saturday night that usually broke up in a fight because there was always plenty of liquor to do the fighting. The company mine closed down in about 1920.

Father opened up a small mine for coal to use among the ranches that had grown up along the creeks. He employed eight to ten men in the winter. We had some shacks built for the miners to live in and I was batching among them while hauling coal.

I went through a very sad experience for me as we only had one man and wife, a young couple with a very nice little boy of two years. We all became very attached to him and he took a bad cold. I took my turn of sitting up with him nights. He grew worse and no doctor was available. We sent the father, with two men, on a hand car to Glenrock for medicine. At 3:00 a.m. the little fellow passed away and at daybreak the father was coming up the hill with a man on either side, too drunk to stand up alone. He had the medicine that was not needed then. I helped to make his little box and laid him to rest in the Fort Fetterman graveyard. The couple then left and was never heard from again.

We moved to our place on Box Elder Creek after leaving Glenrock in the spring of 1887. We had easy access to water for irrigation and the whole creek had been reopened for filing. This creek had all been filed on by Carey Brothers in 1883 by dummy entry men under the Desert Act.

The law at that time stated that all desert land was land void of trees and water and all the claims that had trees and water were canceled by the U.S. Land Office in

1886. So Father, along with others, filed on 160 acres, built a nice house, barn and a ditch on the land from the creek.

This encroachment on the land did not set well with the Carey interests, so when the squatters on this land were away, the foreman would visit the place with wagons and men and dump everything off in the creek as they did our neighbor, John Morton.

I well remember the day our time came. Two wagons and four men and the foreman, Edward David, drove into the yard. Now, it so happened that two brothers of Mother's had just arrived from Iowa and one was inside with Mother and the other with Father on the woodpile. David went to the door and Mother held it shut with the aid of the brother. He ordered the wagons backed to the door but the men refused on finding a woman and children. Lots of angry words were exchanged before they left. A short time later, after the brothers had gone home, Father and Mother were arrested and ordered to appear in Glenrock, twelve miles away. Father's lawyer advised him to leave us three kids at home alone. The same wagons appeared, but when they saw us playing in the yard, they got scared away. The judge dismissed the case. I was told later that two men were guarding us kids from the creek bank 200 yards away with Winchesters. The next year, J. M. Carey got in the U.S. Senate and got a bill enacted to get rights to the creek and notified us to vacate. So three year's work was lost causing misfortune number two.

Misfortune number three came about this way, one years later. After Father lost the creek ranch he decided to take a ditch out of the creek for the home on the river and sent for a surveyor. Mr. Bliss, of Cheyenne, arrived in due time and completed the job. Father had been working on it for a year and one day received a letter from Mr. Bliss stating that in checking his notes he found out he had the lower end of the ditch to be twelve feet higher than the headgate. The year's work was lost. This ditch proved to be a very large undertaking with only broncs to work and no money to hire any help. I quit school during the fifth grade at age twelve. I went behind a scraper with a pair of broncs. It took us seven years to finish and another five before we got water through. A story got around the neighborhood that John Slichter was off his rocker to start such a big job as it turned out to be.

We moved all the buildings, etc. back to the river ranch and started to clear off the sagebrush to raise hay and oats. We had eight to twelve cows to milk and were riding for horses a radius of 25 miles north of the river.

Our first Justice of the Peace at Inez was a colored man by the name of William. He and his wife homesteaded 160 acres, all across the river, except ten acres joining us on the north. He built a board shack on this ten acres. The wife was a great help at times for Mother and when anyone was sick around camp. Father got the place when they left the country.

The railroad built up the Platte River through our ranch to Glenrock in 1887 and started to build quite a large coal mining camp.

Upon becoming of age in 1899, I filed upon a 160 acre homestead joining Father's lands that he had filed on in 1883, also on a 160 acre desert claim and a little later bought 120 acres of the old coal land on the south, giving me about 440 acres of Wyoming lands, most of it good for



stock grazing only.

Along about this time I met a little school teacher by the name of Jennie Austin, whose parents moved on the E. S. Ranch five miles southwest on Little Box Elder. On November 18, 1902 we were married and the following spring we started hauling lumber from the mountains to build a little three room cottage on my homestead.

My first real sorrow came when in March 1911, Father passed away and all the cares of the ranch fell on me. We had always worked closely together and I always looked to him for advice in everything I did. His passing away was very hard.

Our first child, Fern, was born in our little cottage at Inez in 1904. I forgot to mention that our little coal camp and Post Office at Inez got its name from DeForest Richards' daughter, Inez, he being one of the main promoters to get the coal mine started and also the first banker in the new town of Douglas in 1886.

Fern is now, and has for the past 35 years, lived at Everett, Washington.

Our second child, Ruth, was born in 1907 and for the past 20 years has lived in the Canal Zone. The third child, our only boy, John, was born in 1912 and lives in Wenatchee, Washington. He has lived there for 29 years. Eva, our last child was born in 1918 and lives in Worland.

In 1913 we left the ranch and moved to Douglas. I took a flyer in the garage and auto business and helped build the two story brick building across from the LaBonte Hotel. The First World War broke me and broke up the garage venture.

I went into politics in 1915 and was elected County Assessor for four years, from 1915 through 1918.

In 1925 I went to work for the Woodruff Seed Company for 30 years. Now, as I look back on my life, I think my mistake was made when I left the ranch. Work in the raising of livestock, plowing and tilling the soil, with all the freedom you have, while the work was hard and the hours were long made me very happy, and I was healthy.

Our little family was finally broken up when on February 6, 1948, my wife, Jennie, passed on to her reward.

After living alone and trying to batch and eat restaurant hash for two and one half years. On August 5, 1950 I talked Myrtle Jones into sharing my lot, the balance of my allotted time here on earth.

Jesse E. Slichter

October 4, 1962 began the same as any other day for Jesse. He got up at the usual time, spent the morning at Charlie's place and after lunch went to town. Later in the afternoon he chopped wood for the stove because winter was approaching. Becoming tired, he sat on his bench to rest and that is where Myrtle found him in the evening. His brother Masons laid him to rest beside his mother on October 8, 1962.

Sarah moved to Douglas where she died on July 19, 1934. Charles, Florence (Young) and his family moved to their own place a few miles south. Mary married Joe Reynolds and they moved to a ranch north of Douglas. Mary is still on her ranch. Ida, her husband, John Burks, and family moved to Inez in 1926. The ranch is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Burks.

## Slonaker, Clarence and Belle Family

Believing that better business opportunities were offered in Wyoming, Clarence brought his family to Wyoming in 1902. He was born in New Kingston, Pennsylvania April 1, 1867, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Parker Slonaker.

Clarence was married to Belle Chambers November 1891 in Pennsylvania. Belle, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Urie Chambers was born July 28, 1867 in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.

A daughter, Helen Oliver, was born May 29, 1893. Three sons, Thomas Urie (July 11, 1894), Oliver Chambers (June 28, 1897), and John Parker (January 20, 1900). They were born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania before the family left the East.

Upon arriving in Wyoming, Clarence worked for the George W. Metcalf Mercantile Store, and a few years later in partnership with Ollie Chambers, brother of his wife, Belle. They operated a transfer line. He was elected County Treasurer of Converse County, serving in this capacity during the years 1909-1912.

Shortly after their arrival in Wyoming, Clarence and Belle had two daughters. Thelma, born August 17, 1903, and Victoria Jane, born June 7, 1906 and sons Charles BoDine, born March 29, 1905, and Clarence Arthur, Jr., March 14, 1908.

In 1910 Clarence purchased and took over the business of the Douglas Transfer and Fuel Company which was merged with his other transfer business under the name C. A. Slonaker. Later when son Thomas Urie "Dutch" came into the business, it was known as C. A. Slonaker and Son. John and Clarence A. "Tye" also joined the business later with John running the Conoco service station and Tye in the transfer and ice business. Dutch had ranching interests which included the "Six Mile Ranch" and later the Ben Wheelock Ranch on Lower LaPrele. The Wheelock place was sold later to Niels Rasmussen who in turn sold to Elmer Cowell.

Clarence A. Sr. died May 25, 1929 and Belle died January 25, 1952 in Douglas.

Helen married LeRoy Moore, October 11, 1919 and died August 15, 1961. They had five sons (see Moore).

John married Juanita Wilson January 17, 1922 and died November 28, 1958. An only son, Parker, was killed by an auto on March 27, 1949.

Urie married Elizabeth "Betty" White in 1921 and



C. A. Slonaker Ice Delivery Wagon.





Left to right: Captain W. H. White, Betty White Slonaker and Urie "Dutch" Slonaker.

died August 22, 1968. An only son, James, was killed in an airplane accident September 27, 1947.

Clarence A. married Florence Brady December 31, 1931 and died June 29, 1964. An only daughter, Sue (Mulvaney), lives in Cheyenne.

Oliver died August 20, 1957; Charles on January 2, 1938, and Victoria on January 28, 1958.

Dutch told the story of when he was courting his future wife-to-be, Betty White. Betty, the daughter of "Cap" White lived on upper Boxelder Creek, which was quite a winter country. Dutch had just purchased a new car and during one of his first dating trips he drove it to the Whites. A big snow storm came up while he was there and Dutch had to leave the new car at the Whites all winter until the snow melted in the spring.

John R. Pexton

## Smith, Charles and Laura Family

In 1885 three of Nelson and Melissa Frye Smith's sons and their families loaded their wagons and left Washington County, Iowa for Box Elder Park, Wyoming.

My great grandfather, Charles Smith, was one of the brothers. He was born June 20, 1859 in Iowa City, Iowa. On March 10, 1881 he was married in Mt. Ayer, Iowa to Laura Lininger, daughter of Pete and Margaret Cochran Lininger. Four years later this young couple and their two children, Roy, age three, and Hallie, age one, joined Charles' brothers, Ed and Martin, and started their trip by covered wagon west across the plains from Brighton, Iowa to Box Elder Park, Wyoming. Ed and Martin were both married and each had a small child to care for on the journey. The Smiths all homesteaded and made their homes in Converse County.

Some of the stories my grandmother, Hallie, told were of the good times when all the neighbors from miles around would meet in someone's barn for a dance. Travel was slow and time consuming so when they got together they had supper, a midnight supper and also stayed for breakfast. For one occasion, Hallie told of helping her

mother make five cakes, twelve pies and lots of baked bread. The Smiths also helped provide the music. Ed Smith played the fiddle and once won the fiddlers contest in Douglas. Charles played the fife and had a fife and drum corps. The fife was handed down to him by an uncle from Civil War days.

When they first arrived they built a one room house and lived in it for several years until they built a three room log house. Ed Smith's old one room house was used as a school for a time. Hallie rode horseback about five miles to school. The girls wore long dresses and rode side saddle. Ed Smith ran the post office at Box Elder Park. Glenrock was the closest town for supplies.

In the summer some time was also spent prospecting for copper in the mountains. Again the whole family went along and stayed in a tent. There were lots of wild game to eat. Bear fat was rendered down for grease and used instead of lard.

After living in Wyoming 15 years, Charles Smith and his family, with the exception of Roy, returned to Lenox, Iowa by train to be with his father, Nelson. Nelson and Melissa died in 1902 and 1903. Later Charles again felt the call of the west and made a second trip by covered wagon.

On this trip west my grandmother, Hallie, could remember and told many interesting tales. She told of the time they crossed the Missouri River at Nebraska City. As they started across, one of the horses became so scared he just laid down. After much coaxing, pushing and pulling they finally made it across. Then they discovered that her younger sister, Goldie, had also been so frightened she had bit on her little gold ring and bent it so badly it had to be cut from her finger.

After exploring around Colorado Springs and the Canon City area, they chose Morgan County, Colorado for their location. The town was Hillrose where they were living when it was incorporated in June 1918. Charles was active in the incorporation and was one of the first Trustees of the town. His son, Frank, was one of the first Town Marshals. Charles owned the Hillrose grocery store and butcher shop and built the first brick house in town.

Charles Smith sold his store in Hillrose and moved to Savage, Montana. His wife, Laura, died there in 1934. Charles lived alone in his little log house in his daughter Goldie's yard until a few weeks before his death. He died in 1959 a week before his 100th birthday.

Hallie married William Bailey on December 23, 1908. They homesteaded near Akron, Colorado. She died in 1973.

Margaret Ross Russell  
Phyllis Ross Kraich

## Smith, "Coyote" and Hattie

My life in Wyoming started on May 22, 1904, when I, Hattie Marie, was born on the Smith Ranch in a log house built by my parents. So it was, my early life, my family and the "Smith Ranch" became part of Glenrock history.

George Henry Smith was born in 1862, also known as "Coyote" Smith, "G. H." and "Potato" Smith. Mama



Hattie Smith

was Hattie Lydia Mitchell Smith, born in 1860. As I recall, everyone always called her Mrs. Smith.

As a photographer, my Dad traveled around Wyoming taking pictures. It was during this time he met and married Mama in Lander, Wyoming. Mama was orphaned in infancy in Columbus, Ohio. Her mother was from the "South", her father from the "North".

Leaving Wyoming, Dad and Mama went to Chicago for awhile, then from there they went to Gordon, Nebraska. It was there that their first son, George Murriel, was born in 1897. They went back to Wyoming, near Glenrock, where Ira Melvin was born in 1898. They were living in a log cabin on the George Arnold property. The cabin was washed away when the creek flooded, and they were forced to live, for a short time, in a dug out on the side of the hill a half mile from the George Arnold ranch. Harry Marion was born in the dug out in 1901. A twin sister to Ira died at birth and Georgie Frances, born in 1902, died at age two years. I was named Hattie Marie, the youngest and last born of six children. Playing a part in this drama of life was Dr. Jay Smith (no relation), who was the doctor in the area those days.

They bought sixty-five acres of land from George Arnold in 1901. This property, which became the Smith Ranch, was bordered by the Silas Mortimer property and more Arnold property (later bought by John J. Putnam). The rest was surrounded by property owned by the Tolland Company — known as the VR Ranch and some government land.

Big Deer Creek ran through the middle of Smith Ranch. There was a nice "swimming hole." Swimming and fishing were favorite pastimes for the family and visitors. A stream branched off from the creek through a meadow which provided water for their home. The log house, which was home for the next few years, was built up on higher ground away from the creek area.

In 1912 my parents built a frame house next to the log house. They didn't live in it, however, until years later. Instead it became a building for Saturday night country dances.

Ranchers, town people and people from the Parkerton oil fields would come by horseback, wagon and cars and stay all night dancing square dances, two steps, waltzes and fox trots to the music provided by the Smith family. Dad was the main musician, playing the violin, my brother Murriel and I playing the piano, and Ira playing the banjo and calling the square dances. Mama provided her popular midnight supper at fifty cents a plate. She would have roast beef; or family and visitors would go fishing, and they would have a fish supper. There were pies and cakes, too. The men, only, were charged a dollar admission to the dance. Fifty to seventy-five people would come, dancing until dawn.

In 1914, brothers Murriel and Ira left to serve in the U.S. Navy during World War I. In 1915 and 1916 Mama and I took wagon loads of vegetables to sell to people over at oil fields in Parkerton.

We would load the wagon with vegetables in large tubs of spring water covered with a tarp to keep them cool. We had radishes, green onions, lettuce, potatoes, carrots, cucumbers, squash, string beans, and peas. We sold the vegetables for five or ten cents a bunch. It was a three-mile trip over to Parkerton. We used a team of horses to pull the wagon over there. Sometimes it was Topsy and Mollie, or Blazes and Star, or Cutie and Florie.

It was productive land for the Smiths. There was always the vegetable garden, potatoes, and alfalfa for hay. Picking wild chokecherries and gooseberries was a family outing ritual in the summer. Mama raised chickens, geese and turkeys. We had milk cows, too. She took milk and eggs to town to sell or trade at the stores in Glenrock. We had horses, sheep, cattle and sometimes pigs.

My dad was known as "Potato" Smith, when he was growing extra large sized potatoes called "white elephant" and Blue Vista potatoes. He traded them in town for supplies at the Sumner Store, the George McDonald Store and the D. J. Smyth Store.

George Smith was an established photographer in Glenrock where in 1915 he built, owned and operated the Smith Studio. There are many "Smith Photos" to be found in the annals of Glenrock history. He would go to the oil field to especially take pictures of a gusher when it came in. I would help in the studio developing pictures, when my dad was on night marshal duty.

As an avid trapper, he was known as "Coyote" Smith. He trapped coyotes for the furs which he sent to the J. L. Proude Company in Chicago via the Northwestern Railroad. He trapped muskrats, beavers, wolves, coyotes and skunks. He also was a taxidermist and tanned deer hides and mounted deer heads for other people. I helped with mounting the heads. Mama made coyote and bobcat rugs mounted with heads. My dad was also Town Marshal during the war time and when the saloons were closed. He worked with Deputy Sheriff Howard Jackson.

I rode to school, on my horse Beauty, three miles from home to the VR Ranch. It was a one-room school house with a big pot-bellied stove. About ten students attended at a time. There were the seven Booker children, the Mortimers and the Smiths. Our teachers were G. S. Clayton and Anna Vreeland. One time, G. S.



George "Coyote" Smith

Clayton was chased by a pack of wolves on the way to school.

Later years, when my dad had his studio in town, I attended school in the first brick school building in Glenrock. Mabel Thayer Walkinshaw and Mrs. John Fenex were my teachers.

In about 1914, my dad bought a Rosie Rambler. The body was made of wood and it had surrey fringe on top. He towed it out to the ranch with a team of horses. He never did get it to run. I understand it has now been restored by someone in Casper.

Sharing those memories with me is my daughter Marion, who was also born in the same log house that I was, on the Smith Ranch. She and brother Harvey also attended the same brick school I did in Glenrock for a short time. They rode to town early in the morning from the ranch with John Putnam and his daughter Joan in the milk truck. They would wait across the street in the laundry until time for school to start.

As a young girl, Marion remembers her Grandad and Grandma taking her to Glenrock, when she stayed on the ranch with them. Her favorite treat was getting a chocolate ice cream cone at the Frank and Edith Morgan Confectionery Store. Her memories of the ranch were riding the old horse Brownie down to water at the slew and the other horse, Fatch. Fishing in the stream with a willow branch and safety pin on a line. A special treat in the evening was a tin cup of warm milk straight from old Debbie, the cow, as Grandad did the evening milking. Later in the evening, he would play his violin and sing for her as she danced around the room to "It's a Long, Long

Way to Tipperary," "Those Golden Slippers" and "Red Wing."

Good times were had in the kitchen with Grandma churning butter, or turning the milk separator, making snow ice cream with vanilla and sugar in the winter, feeding the chickens or giving a bum lamb a bottle of milk with a rubber nipple on it. There was fun with Uncle Harry, too, as she followed him around doing chores. Going over to the Putnam Ranch and playing school with Joan was a highlight of visits to the ranch. Sometimes Joan would come over and they would go swimming down at the "ol' swimmin hole" in Deer Creek.

The Smith Ranch was home to George and Hattie Smith until the early thirties. After their passing the ranch was bought by Ed Stevens. Mama and Dad are buried in a little family plot along with baby Frances on a knoll near the main road of the ranch.

My brother Harry and Ira lived in and around Glenrock and the Wyoming area all the years of their lives. Harry was Deputy Sheriff of Glenrock along with Sheriff Al Lass for a time. He and his wife Essie raised seven children all of whom continued to live in Wyoming. Ira and wife Bell lived in Glenrock for many years. Ira is buried in Glenrock Cemetery. Murriel and wife Viola moved to Denver, Colorado where they raised four children. Their children and grandchildren still live there. I moved to southern California with my husband Harvey and four children in 1936. My children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren all live in California.

Hattie Smith Allen

## Smith, Dave and Hattie Smith Sims

Dave Smith came to Wyoming in the early 1900's from Nebraska. He took a homestead about 12 miles east of Douglas. In addition to developing his claim, he was employed as a sheepherder for Reese and Woods on a part-time basis.

Dave's land was situated on a tributary of Shawnee Creek; his dwelling, constructed from jack pine logs, nestled among the cottonwoods. Dave was very proud of his homestead, and was often heard to say that it was the best little half-section in the state of Wyoming. Dave lived the solitary life of a bachelor for many years, eking out an existence by working for others in the vicinity. His needs were few, so his small income sufficed. As late as the year 1946, Dave could be seen making trips to town in a rough-riding lumber box wagon. He drove a team of horses — one an iron gray stallion, and one a bay mare. Dave was of the opinion that his "stud hoss" was an exceptional animal, possessing much intelligence, which proved to be true. That "stud hoss" could trot to town and back without ever tightening the traces on his single tree. The bay mare was obliged to pull the wagon, the load, and the "stud hoss".

In the late 1940's, Dave decided to sell his land and move to North Carolina. He was determined that one particular neighbor should not have it. There were three ranchers who owned land adjoining that of Dave's. They were Tom McCarty, Harry Gillespie, and Cliff Munkres. After a lot of "jawing", Dave sold to a real estate dealer in Douglas. The story goes that Dave, who was very wary

of banks, paper money, and checks, wanted to take his payment for the land in the form of silver dollars — 3200 of them. Howard Esmay, President of the Converse County Bank, and the realtor, Scott Layton, argued that the dollars would weigh too much, and that there would be a risk that Dave would be robbed of his money on the trip to North Carolina, but Dave was adamant. He engaged a freight car and left Douglas by rail, carrying his suitcase full of dollars, and riding in the freight car with his wagon, horses and other possessions. Later, Mr. Layton sold the land to the very neighbor that Dave did not want to have it.

Some years later, Dave returned to Wyoming and married a Mrs. Spellman, who was an agent for the Watkin's Products Company. They made their home in Thermopolis, Wyoming until the time of Dave's death.

Hattie Smith Sims, Dave Smith's sister, and her family came to Wyoming in 1910. Thomas and Hattie Sims were the parents of six children. Their oldest son remained in Nebraska, while the other three daughters and two sons moved to Wyoming.

After their arrival in Douglas, Thomas Sims left his family for some years. Hattie operated a rooming house. Later she decided to homestead and took land adjoining that of her brother, Dave.

The second son, Rease, worked for ranchers Reese and Woods.

Hattie's eldest daughter, Lizzie, was 16 at the time her family moved to Wyoming. She was later married to John Covington who operated a restaurant in Douglas for a time. Lizzie and John later made their home in Casper. After John's death, Lizzie married John Rose. She is now a widow, making her home in Nevada, Missouri.

The second daughter Juanita was six years old in 1910. She finished the eighth grade and attended one and one-half years of high school. She worked for Dr. Hylton and then went to Cheyenne for nurses training; but she quit and came back to Douglas and married Arthur C. Olson. The couple took a homestead 25 miles northeast of Douglas but did not prove up on it. Arthur then worked for the Ford garage. Part of the time, he drove a mail route. The Olsons had two children. Juanita lives in Wray, Colorado where she runs an apartment and rooming house.

The third daughter Jannie married John Trainer whose family had a homestead about six miles from the Sims. They had one son. Jannie later married a Mr. Johnson.

Sheridan "Sherrywood" Sims, Hattie's youngest son, died as a result of an accident at the age of ten. The boy was attempting to replace a ball bearing in the wheel of his little wagon. The lad had found a live bullet at the brick yards located at the east edge of Douglas. He decided that this would serve as a ball bearing. The bullet exploded when the boy attempted to seat the bullet in the wheel. Sherrywood lived four days after his accident and died on September 11, 1911. He is buried in the Douglas Cemetery.

Hattie Sims gave her homestead to her oldest daughter Lizzie who still owns it.

Juanita Sims Olson,  
Ruth Grant

## Smith, Edward and Eleanor Family

My mother's (Maud) parents, Edward and Eleanor Smith, left their home in Clearfield, Iowa in 1886 and by covered wagon and horseback came West to find a place to resettle.

After a difficult trip of over three months, they were camped on lower Deer Creek, near Glenrock. Their mules wandered away, looking for the good grass. Ed and his brother Mart searched for them for days, found them grazing in Boxelder Park, admired the good sense of the animals and decided to settle there. The ranch is now owned by the Fred Grants.

The following is an excerpt from a letter Eleanor Smith wrote in 1971: "The picture of the covered wagon on the letterhead reminds me of the year 1886, when we journeyed West. Only we drove a good span of mules and a better covered wagon. There were three wagons and twelve people. We left Iowa in May, 1886, arrived in Boxelder Park in August, 1886. We drove 60 head of cattle clear through, had two saddle ponies. I rode one part of the time and helped drive cattle. Maud was five years old and Jay was one year old the week after we arrived here. I never shall forget that trip and I have hated the sight of a covered wagon ever since. Dad (Ed) always drove in the lead, always good natured and kind to all. Well to make a long story short we went on a picnic for over three months. Dad and I were crazy to come West but come we did and took the bitter with the sweet. We all know there was never a better man, but why oh why did he have to leave me. I know I am blessed with daughters and grandchildren there never was better."

The first winter home of these sturdy pioneers was a house-tent. But they toughed it out, and when spring



Ed Smith - Smith Ranch on Boxelder Creek 1902



arrived they built log cabins, sheds and chicken houses. In 1902 they constructed a big red barn, which remains a landmark. Many will remember the all-night barn dances held there during the roaring twenties.

Eleanor's many friends often called her Grandmother Smith, Aunt Ell or Mrs. Ed. She was an active member of the Eastern Star and belonged to the Episcopal Church. For many years she was postmistress at Boxelder. Ell was a crack shot with a rifle or shotgun and was adept at riding a bronc with a sidesaddle. She preferred working in the hayfield and helping at branding time than doing housework. She had a loom to weave rugs from rags, made jams and jellies from the wild berries, and made pork sausage and sauerkraut. She also played the organ.

Ed was a loveable man, slow to anger and respected by all. Hugh Smyth said, "He was the only man I have ever known who had not one enemy." He was a faithful Episcopalian and belonged to no social or fraternal organizations.

Edna G. was born in Boxelder Park in 1894.

Jay Raymond Smith married Frances Garner, but died in 1918 leaving three children; Lawrence Lee, who married Catherine Clemens, retired from the oil business to El Paso, Texas; May Garnet, now Mrs. C. R. Hucker, lives in Houston; and Hazel Eleanor married Pete Wall of Longmont, Colorado and lives in Huntsville, Texas.

Ed and Eleanor sold the ranch and moved to Glenrock. The Smith Brothers opened the Glenrock Garage, a Paige-Chalmers dealership, and sold and serviced the new-fangled automobiles. During one period Ed was the Police Judge and Mart the Town Marshal.

Edna married Stanley Vaughan in 1916 and moved to Cheyenne, where he and his brother, Harold, operated the Vaughan Creamery. They produced two daughters, Enidell, now Mrs. Stanley Schmidt of Excelsior, Minnesota, and Miriam, now Mrs. Robert Kelleher of North Springfield, Virginia. Edna now lives in Excelsior, Minnesota.

Maud married David Smyth in 1898.

Ed Smith died in 1939, Eleanor died in 1955.

Orville "Pete" Smythe

## Smith, Edward and Henrietta

Edward "Mountain Home" Smith was born in 1866 to a family named Irvine in Ireland. He changed his name to Smith after he came to America. Later, after his marriage, his wife learned of his true identity and confronted him with the information. He told her that he was the youngest son in a large family and therefore would never inherit anything of the parental property. So, one day out in the hayfields, he became disgusted with working in the hot sun with no future. He thereupon slid off the stack and walked away without even a farewell to his family.

Ed's son-in-law, Bob David, describes Mr. Smith in his memoirs, "He had a terrible Irish temper and was the only man I ever knew who, when he became angry, would tear off his coat, throw it down and dance on it until he was relieved."

After arriving in America, Ed came west to Colorado

and Wyoming. He became associated with J. S. Woodruff of Shoshoni, Wyoming and helped trail some of the first sheep from Oregon.

It was in Denver, Colorado that he met and married Henrietta Mohr, the daughter of Carl and Hagelsteen Mohr. Henrietta was born in Bergen, Norway. After their marriage they moved to a place near Pineo, Colorado before coming to live north of Lost Springs where they had a small ranch with a partner named Lowry.

Two children were born, Edna (1897) and George.

The family lived in Douglas at 339 South Fourth Street where the children went to school in 1912. Shortly after, Ed and Henrietta moved west of Glenrock where he was employed by the Mountain Home Company as its manager. It was here he got his name "Mountain Home Smith." The Valentine family own part of the ranch and live in the two story house on the river in 1985.

Ed died on April 24, 1935 from injuries incurred in a car accident west of Big Muddy Oil Field. Henrietta died on June 26, 1937.

Edna married Bob David, son of E. T. and Mary David, on August 19, 1919.

John R. Pexton

## Smith, Edwin C., William James Jr., and Eleanor Elizabeth Families

Accident, or fate, established the Smith-Peyton families in what was to become Converse County, Wyoming. Edwin C. Smith, the first to arrive in the area, was born in Trenton, New Jersey, March 18, 1846, the youngest of three children including William James Jr. (known as James or Jim), and Eleanor Elizabeth. Their mother, Eleanor, died when Edwin was small. Their father, William James, was a sea captain plying chiefly between New York and Liverpool, England. The children attended private schools in New Jersey and New York and their classical education gave little suggestion that they would all three arrive in Wyoming by different paths.

When Capt. William James Smith's ship was lost at sea, Edwin and Eleanor went to live with their father's sister, Kate, in Quincy, Illinois. James remained in boarding school in New York.

Edwin finished high school in public school and learned the leather trade at night.

Eleanor Elizabeth had married Jim Bragg and moved to the new territory of Kansas. Edwin was anxious to visit his sister, and in 1863 he had an opportunity to join a large emigrant train. On the way, Edwin repaired tack and various leather. When he arrived in Kansas he found that his sister and her husband had leased their farm and gone to visit Jim Baker, a relative of Jim Bragg in Colorado. Edwin was urged to continue to Colorado with the wagon train, but when he arrived in Colorado, his sister and her husband had gone to California. Baker, a scout and messenger, has been called the last of the great Mountain Men. He trapped with Jim Bridger, fought grizzlies and Indians, and was adopted by the Shoshones.

Jim Baker was preparing to go to Fort Hall for a powwow with the Blackfeet and suggested that Edwin





Ed Smith

ride along. Edwin had good horses and his volume of Shakespeare, and the ride was his first experience with the territory that was to become Wyoming. It was the beginning of a love-affair with the land that was to last life-long. The trip was through Lemhi country, and the scouts were apprehensive about meeting the Lemhi who were enemies of the Blackfeet. Baker managed a friendly powwow and Smith had the opportunity to use his knowledge of Spanish because Washakie who was with the Lemhi understood the language.

Smith stayed with Baker for some time and made a trip to Ft. Laramie with him in 1867.

Edwin traveled with government freight trains as a repair man. In 1868 he entered the government service as a saddler. Six months later he volunteered in the 19th Kansas Cavalry in the war against the combined forces of the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians. He received his honorable discharge from the government April 19, 1869 at Fort Hays, Kansas. Ed met John Paull at Ft. Hayes; and during a short visit at Havana, Kansas, Ed fell in love with John's sister, Nancy M. Paull.

Ed visited his sister, Eleanor Bragg in Wayside, Kansas but was courting Nancy Paull. Nancy was very active in community affairs, and was a choir director in Independence, Parsons, and Wayside, Kansas. She was also training to be a medical missionary.

While in Kansas Ed bought a wagon and four horse team. Will Paull had a wagon and a team of mules and Ed persuaded him to return to Wyoming to do some freighting.

The present ranchman stock business started in the southern part of the state on or about the time that the territory was organized. Ed's friend, Joseph Carey, who was to become one of the largest owners of Hereford cattle in Wyoming often said that he was lonely and

disgusted with the barren country before he met Ed who had visited all of the old forts in this part of the country. Carey said that Edwin's descriptions of beautiful valleys with native grass growing a foot high, and wild game thriving the year around had a lot to do with his idea that a man might make a lot of money in the cattle business. Ed Smith often said that he was first attracted by the land in the lower LaPrele valley about the fall of 1869.

Edwin and his sister, Eleanor, were very close and he saw the Braggs frequently when they returned to Wyoming. However, neither Edwin nor Eleanor knew whether their brother, William James Jr., was dead or alive.

James had been urged to become a priest but his opposition to slavery led him to volunteer for the Union forces. He served all during the Civil War and went through the worst battles as a northern foot soldier. By the time the war was over, James' only knowledge of his relatives was that his father had left him an inheritance with the resident priest. James donated the money to the church and re-enlisted in the United States Army. He came to Fort Fetterman, Wyoming Territory in 1875. It was there that he met his younger brother, Edwin, whom he had not seen since 1861. The brothers became very close.

When he returned to Wyoming, Edwin had turned his team and wagon over to William Paull and had taken a job with Hiram "Hi" Kelley on Chugwater, chiefly to learn as much as possible about the stock business.

During this time Edwin and a friend were traveling through the country when they met a large band of Sioux. It had been reported that the Indians were on the warpath and the two young men hid. Suddenly Edwin spurred his horse out of his hiding place and his companion thought that he had lost his mind. An Indian boy had caught his foot in a rope and was being dragged by his frantic pony. Ed managed to catch the pony and save the boy. Fortunately the band of Indians was made up of old men, women and children following a hostile hunting party. The Indians recognized that Edwin had no way of knowing that, and from then on, the Sioux called Edwin "Strong Heart".

On or about 1874 Edwin took a temporary position as a clerk in the sutler's store at Fort Fetterman. A few months later he entered the government harness shop as a civilian repair man and held that position until the early spring of 1878.

On or about 1877 one of Edwin's friends, Samuel Slaymaker, went to the government harness shop. He had a story about a greenhorn cowman who came to the fort on the stage with his bedroll and saddle. The man wanted to rent a gentle saddle horse so that he could look over the range on the north side of the Platte River so that he could establish a site for a cow ranch. The officers at the fort told Ed Weaver that he was premature.

Sammy Slaymaker told the newcomer that the nearest livery barn was in Cheyenne, 150 miles away. Sammy said that he had managed to get into the army before he was old enough to get drafted; he had also managed to stay in the service all the way from Pennsylvania to Fetterman; but he had never had enough courage to cross the Platte to see what Sioux looked like.

A few days later Slaymaker told Edwin that Weaver

was a pretty nice fellow, but he thought Weaver needed a body guard, and he had recommended Edwin very highly for the job.

Mr. Weaver did not want to live in Wyoming at that time. He wanted a dependable man to establish a cow ranch for him and report to him regularly about the business. Time was an element with Edwin, but they talked things over and Weaver went home leaving the future plans with Smith. Edwin established the Y-Y cattle ranch on the north side of the Platte in the spring of 1878. It was the first ranch on the north side of the Platte at the site of the old Hunka Pau Pau Sioux Indian hunting ground. Edwin hired hands and brought in Texas cattle in the early spring of 1878 as manager and range foreman of the Benjamin Weaver Cattle Company.

Nancy M. Paull and Edwin C. Smith were married by the justice of the peace at Independence, Kansas, February 12, 1879, and immediately set out for Fetterman. The couple made the trip as far as Cheyenne on the Union Pacific. From Cheyenne to Fetterman they were in the Fetterman Stage in a howling Wyoming blizzard.

Nancy boarded at Ft. Fetterman until spring before going to the ranch. Nancy saw very little of Edwin during that spring because the blizzard had scattered the Y-Y cattle for many miles. In addition to this, Edwin's brother, James, who was in charge of the 9-6 saddle horses, owned by the company, was snowed in at the Sage Creek ranch about 30 miles farther north.

There was no church in Fetterman, but Nancy's medical training made it possible for her to make friends and keep busy. She did have the opportunity to visit George and Margaret Powell on their ranch on the LaPrele. She also had a chance to see a hanging during her sojourn.

Margaret Powell's sister, Kate Scogland (Rice) often said that she felt very important when she went to the Y-Y to work for Nancy in the fall of 1879. Kate also remembered the directions which the Y-Y flunky gave her for the Y-Y cow camp. They went this way: first he asked her if she knew where Table Mountain was. "Well the cow camp is about ten miles due east of Table Mountain on the east side of the Platte River. And it can't be more than 42 miles north of Laramie Peak. You ride down the Platte River for about five miles and you come to a little stream that flows west into the Platte. You cross that creek and ride south along the river until you come to the Y-Y grub wagon. You can't miss it." (Today the Wyoming State Fairgrounds replaces the Y-Y grub wagon.)

It was a relief to know that there was a doctor at Fetterman because Nancy planned to go there for a couple of weeks in December so that her son (they planned to call him "Paull") could be born with the best possible care. In late November Margaret Powell came to stay a few days. November 29, 1879 a blizzard blew out of the north and the Smiths' first daughter decided to be born. Edwin rode to Fetterman as fast as he could to get the doctor. Margaret Powell had never seen a baby born; but that baby would wait for no man and with Nancy's directions and Margaret's midwifery, little Pauline E. Smith hurried into Wyoming and always believed there could be no better place. While Ed took care of the horses, the doctor rushed to the house to be met by Margaret's query, "Why

what brings you out on such a night, doctor?"

One of the cowboys at the Y-Y was a doctor but none knew it until their little girl mascot got into difficulties with her adventurous kitten. From then on cowboy Jesurun was "Doc Four Eyes" and the little girl was "Tottie". The cowboys loved teasing Ed about his boy. The teasing culminated in a prank when the baby was a few months old.

The Smiths attended a dance and the babies were put to bed tucked into their various shawls and robes while the parents danced and finally ate breakfast. Shortly before dawn Mizzou Hines and his pals slipped up to inspect the babies. Ed Smith found his baby wrapped in Nancy's Persian shawl, and the Smiths were several miles before they discovered that they did have a boy, little Ollie Ward from Fetterman.

Nancy declared that she would not raise her baby on Eaglebrand milk. Longhorns had barely enough milk for their calves; anyway, no one volunteered to milk those animals. George and Maggie Powell had been urging Ed to take up adjoining land on LaPrele Creek. When Ed had a chance to buy three Herefords and a Jersey cow from some of the emigrants on the Oregon Trail, he decided to take up the LaPrele land which had protection for the stock.

Ed put his milk cow and Herefords on his land and went to Rock Creek for supplies, which took a week. On his way home Smith stopped by LaPrele to check on his stock. They were not in evidence but a wisp of smoke curled up from the timber. When he rode into the timber, Ed found some squaws skinning his milk cow. When he asked them why they were skinning his milk cow, they answered, "Um fat".

Rich with berries, game and grasses, that area was a favorite place for the Indians who considered it theirs. In order to secure his future, Ed dickered with the Indians for three days and many dollars. This meant bargaining with each brave for ponies, saddles, or whatever he chose to part with. After each bargain was struck, Ed made the bargain that the land was his and they would never camp there. The bargain was sealed when Ed called out, "Hear That, Great Spirit!" and the valley's echo answered. Each year the Indians came, visited the ranch, but never caused trouble nor attempted to camp on his land.

The problem of ownership in Wyoming territory was not as simple as Ed's deals with the Indians. Robert Fryer, who had been pasturing Ed's teams, complained that food was getting short because the men for whom he repaired wagons expected him to pasture their oxen until the repair work was done.

In the fall of 1880 Ed turned his horses loose near an old cabin on the LaPrele and repaired the cabin so that he would have a place to stay overnight when he went to see his stock. There were rumors of a survey that would make it possible for men to take homesteads. In 1882 he applied for the land as a homestead. He hired a man and moved to the land early in the spring of 1882 bringing with them, among things too numerous to mention, the first civilian-owned mowing machine in the lower LaPrele valley.

Jim and Eleanor Bragg had been living in Tie Siding and Laramie City for several years while Jim was freighting railroad ties for the Union Pacific Railroad. At

various times the Smiths and Paulls joined Jim Bragg in his venture. In January 1882, Nancy stayed with the Braggs while her second daughter, Stella was born.

In 1882 Ed quit the Y-Y and spent the rest of his life in activities centered around his home ranch which Bobby Fryer had named Pleasant Valley. The family was rarely alone. Edwin moved his wife and two little daughters to the ranch in the summer of 1882 where he had built an extra room on the cabin until he could get logs from the mountains to build a large nine room log house. The house with its big chimney was built by Ed and Hank Kellogg. The house was sealed with boards and finished with wall paper. The house was near the creek but high enough to be protected from the high water. The barn nestled in the "U" of the hills.

The second water right on the creek was acquired and John Paull helped Ed build Smith dam which is still in use.

Morning came early for the Smiths. Many of the cowboys appreciated the cream, butter, eggs, and fine gardens that Nancy managed. The chief crops on the ranch were hay and oats. Cattle and horses were the livestock. The horses were Morgans and Normans as well as Arabians and half Arabs with a thoroughbred sire. Ed gave Pauline a pony when she was four.

Ed often worked with his friend, Bobby Fryer, blacksmith and LaPrele poet. Fryer's place was a haven for freighters, and repairing wagons, harness, and saddles, as well as regular blacksmithing was profitable.

Fryer exerted a great influence over the community. He was eager to have a school established and Al Ayers and the other bachelors were as interested in the school as the families with children. The O'Briens, Bishops, George Powells, and Smiths had children ready for school by 1885. Ed Smith volunteered that he would provide land rent free for the school. He also served on the school board for many years and provided books and supplies as did the bachelors as well as the family men. Bishop and Kellogg built the frame school in Smith's north meadow. The school soon became the setting for a literary society, programs and entertainments, church whenever any of the clergy appeared, and the polling place for elections. As the population shifted later the school was moved to the top of the hill near the road. (When the school ceased to be used, the Wyoming Pioneer Association bought it and paid to move it to the Wyoming State Fairgrounds to be part of the Wyoming Pioneer complex. The money for this project was raised by individual contributions.)

Nancy soon found her medical knowledge much in demand. She didn't expect neighbors to pay, but usually took sugar or some other goody when she visited.

Fetterman was the post office and local shopping center. Rock Creek and Cheyenne, the supply points on the Union Pacific were both more than 150 miles. The rare visits of peddlers with fruit, candy, lace and porcelain doll heads served as a base for Christmas gifts which were usually home made.

Nancy was very conscious of sanitation and would not allow the children to bring Indian artifacts into the house. Nancy's dignity sometimes aggravated the Indian women. One day Cusha, a proud Sioux, came to the house asking for Strong Heart. When Cusha found that Ed

Wasn't home she said, "Strong Heart's squaw come quick, Hornbeek die." Nancy went.

Robert Edwin Smith was born September 7, 1886, Pleasant Valley Ranch, Albany County, Wyoming Territory, the same year as the birth of Douglas. His sister, Elvira, was born November 13, 1890 at the ranch.

The quirk of the railroad which established a new town rather than Fetterman was a surprise to the community, but the Smiths hailed the new town and were active in Douglas social life.

April 4, 1897 dawned a balmy weather-breeding day; but Ed was anxious to get a load of hay to Mike Henry at Brown Springs. Jamie, a boy who had been with the Smiths for several years, accompanied Ed. By the time they had gone halfway they were in a howling blizzard. The horses stumbled and could not see. Ed realized that they would have to wait out the storm. They unhitched the team and made a wall of hay around the wagon. Ed turned the horses loose and one of them got home two years later. The two men had blankets and a lunch so they weren't particularly worried. The blizzard lasted three days, and the second day Ed began to have terrible abdominal pains. After the storm broke, Lee Moore, Billy Irvine, and Ollie Chambers found the men and took them in to Fettermen where Lester Clelland and his wife lived. A young man started immediately for Pleasant Valley but Ed was gone before Nancy could get to him.

Ed was buried in the little graveyard north of Douglas with an Odd Fellow funeral. (His body was later moved to the Douglas cemetery).

Ed Smith was sincerely interested in preserving the history and culture of Wyoming. In the '80's and '90's he was active with the OLD TIMERS, a group from over the state who were dedicated to preserving Wyoming history and good fellowship, and believed that Wyoming artifacts should have fireproof museums. He passed his enthusiasm to his daughter, Pauline E. (Tottie or Lena). In later years the OLD TIMERS invited her to meet with them as her father's representative.

In addition to the Pleasant Valley School, the Smith children had tutoring. Pauline E. went to normal school in Independence, Kansas, and taught school for one year before she married Albert Peyton. Stella and Robert graduated from Douglas High School. Stella then graduated from Capitol City Business College in Des Moines, Iowa, and Robert from Parks Business College in Denver. Stella became a buyer for George Bolln Company before she married James Stone. Robert went into the oil business, served in France in World War I and returned to oil contracting.

Elvira was a talented musician who graduated from Lexington College, Lexington, Missouri, and graduate work at Bethany College, Topeka, Kansas. She married Bernard Peyton but was always active in teaching and directing music as well as singing in Wyoming and Montana.

After 1900 Nancy made an ill-fated marriage to Bill Powell. Nancy moved to town and spent much time in Kansas; her marriage was soon dissolved. Nancy purchased the Elk Hotel in Douglas but soon left the operations to her daughter.

Pauline Peyton

# Smith, George and Lucy Family

The Smith Ranch, on Sage Creek in north central Converse County, has seen five generations since its beginning as the wintering area of Smith-McPherson Sheep Company in 1898 with its headquarters on Cottonwood Creek, south of the Platte River. George W. Smith established the Smith-Lowry Ranch, on Lightning Creek previous to the above operation, then from 1904 to 1912 he was associated in the sheep business with Joe Lowndes, with the brand of "17" for his sheep. When George was asked why he decided to ranch in such an arid spot in the county, he replied that he liked sage chickens and that the hills about Sage Creek seemed to move with them. His wife, Lucy, was a good shot and liked them too, but later, after the sage chickens were gone, his descendants wished that he had not settled upon this sandy reach of land in the rain pattern between the Platte River and the divide to the north, especially when they could see summer rains following either. After his father's death in 1921, Bill, Senior, ran the ranch until 1940 when he bought a house in Douglas to be nearer his many interests, while young Bill, or William Jay Smith, with his new bride took over active management of the sheep company which now included cattle under the brand of L over 6, "Lg." Today the home ranch is occupied by Bill Jr.'s sons, Stephen and Fred Smith and their families with Steve's son, Mark, the fifth generation.

George Washington Smith was born Aug. 16, 1858 on a farm in Hopewell Township, Muskingum County, Ohio, the fifth son of Joshua Brown Smith and his wife, Mary Anne Poundstone. Joshua was born February 1825, the youngest child of James and Anne Smith, both of whom came into Ohio from Pennsylvania in 1810. Mary Anne's parents were Philip and Anna Poundstone of Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

After the death of James and Anne, Joshua sold his land in 1870 and moved his family of husky teenagers to Wichita, Kansas, to be on hand for the Cherokee Run into Oklahoma Territory. They went by train to the eastern border of Kansas and from there in covered wagons to Gypsum Creek, four miles south of Wichita. However, he was unsuccessful as his claim in Oklahoma Territory, was jumped by claimjumpers and a short time later the family settled in Chautauqua County, Kansas, and two years later still bought lots in the town of Sedan. Here Mary Anne lived out her life, dying in 1911 and willing her town lots to her youngest unmarried son, Edward. Joshua spent the last years of his life with his sons in Wyoming. He homesteaded and prospected for gold on Casper Mountain. He died in 1909 and was buried in Highland Cemetery, Casper, services being held in the family living quarters of the Natrona Hotel which was owned by his son, James Pierce Smith.

Shortly after arriving in Kansas James P. and George, together with two cousins, secured army contracts to freight supplies for the U.S. Army between army posts. They continued to do so until the frontier forts were discontinued, one of their main depots being Rock Creek (now Rock River) on the Laramie Plains to Fort Fetterman, and from Fort Kearney to Fort Fetterman, where George resided in 1882. In 1886 he moved to



L. to r. Bill Smith Sr., Steve Smith, Jim Smith, Bill Smith Jr. inside Williams' shearing pens on Sage Creek.

Douglas. It was while freighting the Bozeman Trail that George became acquainted with the future ranch area and decided to settle on it. His homestead, still in the family, was on "Poverty Flats" between the present stockyards and the bend of the Platte River. His partners in the freighting business between 1882 and 1886 were Abe Daniels and Harve Allen. The business used horses and mules.

George bought John Coffey's saloon on the second lot south of Second and Center Streets, backing on Harve Allen's livery stable. The family tells of the time when so-called outlaw George W. Pike scooped up the money from the till, ran out the front door, threw it upon the roof overhanging the sidewalk, doubled back through the saloon and rode out of town on his horse, which was stabled in the rear. Naturally he was "clean" when apprehended by Sheriff Malcolm Campbell! Many a down-and-outer was given food and shelter in the saloon in return for "swamping."

Lucy Garfield, born Sept. 5, 1877 came as a young woman to Wyoming from Watseka, Illinois, for her health, living with her aunt and uncle, Annetta and Nathan E. Burns, who was stationed at Fort Fetterman in Company F., Wyoming Volunteer Infantry. After abandonment of the fort they moved to Douglas where Nat was a salesman and where Lucy joined the family as a seamstress and milliner. At the time of their marriage on April 17, 1897, George and Lucy bought and enlarged the house on the corner of 5th and Walnut where they lived for over twenty-five years. A petrified tree trunk can still be seen on the side lawn which was found on the northern reaches of their ranch. Lucy later said the town was laying its water lines and she tottered on narrow planks across the deep ditch in her wedding finery, sure she would fall in.

Lucy won the hearts and thanks of the town during the flu epidemic of WWI, by organizing a Red Cross nursing unit in the Town Hall and taking care of those who were unable to take care of themselves. After George's death on Jan. 1, 1921, Lucy sold the home and moved to Casper where she lived until WWII at which time she moved to the Gilbert place on the home ranch; when in her 80s, she moved again to Douglas close to her original home. She survived her husband by forty-eight years dying on July 13, 1969. Both are buried in Douglas Park

cemetery in the Smith plot.

William Joshua, or Bill Senior, as he is known, married Nell Cook, daughter of pioneer Archie D. and Florence Hartman Cook, in Casper, January 12, 1918. A wonderful marriage that celebrated its 65th anniversary in 1983 saw all their descendants present. Bill and Nell had much in common. Children of pioneer parents they were born in the Galbraith Hospital on North Sixth Street at the turn of the century, were baptized in the Episcopal Church, went through the Douglas public schools and graduated from Douglas High School, and shared many friends. Nell worked as office nurse for Dr. Storey after graduation. The Converse County Bank was chartered in 1918 and in 1923 Bill was elected by the bank as a director. In 1973 he received a gold watch from the bank for fifty years in banking. In about 1923 he joined Ashlar Lodge, A.F. & A.M. and received his sixty-year pin in 1984. After moving to town Bill served on the vestry of Christ Episcopal Church and both have been devoted parishioners. Nell was a member of St. Mary's Auxiliary.

One of the community services of which Bill Senior is very proud was the twenty-five years spent on the Converse County Hospital Board. He remembers the hospital in the Prisoner-of-War barracks and his part in the building of the large facility on the site of the old City Park which has just recently been supplanted by yet another hospital to serve a growing community.

Republican circles know him as a faithful servant, having served in all capacities locally, being county chairman for twenty-five years, and as State Committeeman. In 1952 he was one of the Presidential Electors from Wyoming in Chicago at Eisenhower's nomination.

Being a busy rancher did not deter him from having an interest in county education and in School District 14. His children attended school in a school house located on Section 26, one and one-half miles from the ranch house. There being no teacherage for such a small school the teachers at that time stayed at the ranch house, among them Barbara Lewendowski, Ella Hobaugh, Maurine Bower and Hazel Schlichter.

During the course of a long life, Bill's community awareness spread to his state and held positions on the Wyoming Livestock and Sanitary Board; the Wyoming Board of Agriculture; and is a member of the Wyoming Stock Growers and Wool Growers Associations.

To this couple were born four children: Annetta, the oldest, now Mrs. Robert A. Walker of Casper; William Jay, of the ranch, who married Betty Cannon of Douglas; Mrs. Robert Masterson of Enterprise, Oregon; and Sandra Jane, now Mrs. Marvin W. Wilson of Douglas. While this young family was growing, so was the ranch. Between 1929 and 1934 due to drought and the great depression many homesteaders gave up farming and sold their lands, returning to their former homes. Bill was able to buy farms and return the land to range land. Some of the bigger land acquisitions were the ranch holdings of Charles and Iole Read, Frank and Grace Amspoker, Herman and Hilda Diehl, and Ed and Ida Leuenberger. The very first purchase, about 1924, was the home ranch established by Carl Williams. These buildings formed the nucleus of the ranch, with more homes and out-buildings being built over the years to accommodate the fourth generation. Within the last ten years a historic landmark,

the Williams Shearing Pens on Sage Creek, built in the late 1890's, just off the Bozeman Trail, was torn down. Some timbers carried signatures of Malcolm Campbell and other old timers and now grace the walls of the den at the ranch.

The ranch became two legal entities as it grew, the Smith Land Company with the third generation as directors and the Smith Sheep Company under Wm. Jay Smith and sons. The ranch employed two or more men from the very beginning. Some of the men were Hugh Nutt, a retainer from George's early youth; Bill Potts who came with his brother from Nebraska and homesteaded near the headwaters of Sage Creek; Harry Brewer, whose family lived at Orpha; Roy Price originally from the Shawnee area; Bruce Goldsby of Hyland Flats; Pete and Steve Hensen from Ohio; Jack Rhodes; and in later years still others who had their own families and were housed at the ranch.

These men were never known to complain about the good food put on the table for them by Nell, a wise, competent and able helpmate those many years. A hearty ranch breakfast was followed by lunches for the men, school children and teacher. The ranch grew its own meat; pork, beef, mutton and venison in season, which together with fresh or home-canned vegetables from a large garden, and home-baked bread made up a western supper. Milk cows furnished fresh milk for growing children in the past, as well as in the present, unlike many ranches of that period that got their milk from a can.

Nell belonged to the Hyland Ladies Extension Club which met once a month in homes about the community and where each tried to outdo the other by bringing in extra delicious carry-in dishes for the noon luncheon. The men drove their wives, and spent the time exchanging news or practicing baseball. Then on Sunday the Hyland Nine would travel to another Converse County community for the big game. The children enjoyed these trips immensely and excitement ran high in friendly competition. Once a month the community gathered on a Saturday night at the Vollman School House for a dance, the women bringing cake or sandwiches for the midnight supper and the men chipping in a buck for the music. Dawn would break before everyone got home. Bill Senior would always milk the cows before turning in, the better to sleep a little longer. Everyone danced at these affairs, six years and up to the grandfolds.

Although work on the early day ranch was hard and bitter in winter, summer Sundays were a day of rest at the Smith Ranch. Homemade ice cream, made with ice put up on Sage Creek the winter before and stored in a hay-lined ice house, with real cream separated the day before, eggs from the hen house and fresh fruit bought on the twice-a-month trip to town, along with fried chicken, set the scene. The afternoon was spent in visiting or reading with the children quietly playing. Sometimes a picnic luncheon was packed and the family drove many miles to the Laramie Peak area to cut Lodgepole pines for hay stackers.

Today Bill and Nell enjoy their retirement years in the same house purchased in 1940 on North Fourth Street in Douglas which has been the scene of many happy family gatherings.

Annetta Smith Walker



## Smith, LeRoy and Helen

Roy, as all of his friends called him, was born in Brighton, Iowa, May 9, 1882. He was the oldest son of Charles and Laura Bell Lininger Smith.

In 1894 the Charles Smith family left and went back to Iowa and Roy stayed with the Ed Smith family. He herded sheep and sat on a rock out in the pasture and learned to play the violin. Later on in life he fiddled for many a dance in and around Boxelder Park.

Roy was much in demand to shear sheep as he sheared around 100 a day which was a good bunch with the blades. He was also a cow puncher and worked cowboying for "Uly" Grant.

Roy took up a homestead just east of the Jim Philbrick place; he didn't have it quite proved up on when he was called for World War I. He sold his cattle and relinquished his homestead, got down to his embarkation point and the war was over.

On February 4, 1925 Roy and Helen Arvilla Grant were married.

Helen was born at Baxter, Iowa April 1, 1905, the second oldest of twelve children. She was the daughter of Ulysses S. and Gertrude Mae Chamberlin Grant. She was the only one of the twelve children that her mother had a doctor with. She was six weeks old when her mother came back to Wyoming. They lived in Glenrock where the Tex Conner place is now and ran a dairy. The older kids delivered milk to the people around town in gallon buckets, two in each hand. Helen went to school in Glenrock until she was in the ninth grade, then they moved to Boxelder Park where she worked out in the fields mowing hay and whatever else had to be done on the ranch.

When Helen was 17 her mother died leaving a tiny baby, one month old. They couldn't get any milk to agree with her so it was up to her to work with the baby and nurse her to life.

When Helen and Roy were married, Roy had a Jewett automobile, which was quite a car. They lived in Boxelder Park, moving to the Laramie Plains in the summer to look after Uly Grant's cows.

They had four children, Laura (Stephens), Jean (Barlow), Sharon (Lindsey) and one son who died in infancy.

Roy took out a homestead on Laramie Plains at the head of Deer Creek and proved up on it about 1935.

Roy and Helen moved out of the mountains because of school. They lived on different places in and around Glenrock. Then in 1941 they moved to Deer Creek on the Herman Fisch place; in 1946 they moved on up to the Barber place where Roy died in 1953. Helen Smith still lives on the ranch.

Roy always had a little bunch of Hereford cows and a horse he called "Red Wing" and a mare "May" he dearly loved.

Laura Smith Stephens



## Smith, Martin and Mildred

Martin "Mart" Smith was born on December 29, 1860 in Johnson County, Iowa, the son of Nelson and Melissa Frye Smith.

Martin entered married life in 1884 by marrying Mildred "Millie" Lininger, the daughter of Pete and Margaret Cochran Lininger. The Liningers were formerly from Pennsylvania. Millie's sister, Laura, was married to Mart's brother, Charles.

Five children were born to the Smiths: Clifford (b. October 1884 in Iowa), Aurora Bell (b. March 1887 in Converse County), Lewis (b. December 1888 in Wyoming), Minnie Olive (b. June 1891 in Wyoming) and Nelson (b. October 1893 in Wyoming).

Mart, Millie and son, Clifford, came to Wyoming in 1886 with his brothers, Ed and Charles. Mart homesteaded on upper Boxelder Creek where Lester Grant lives now.

Mart moved his family to Glenrock shortly after the turn of the century in order that his children could attend the upper grades in school.

He and his brother opened the "Smith Brothers, Glenrock Garage" on July 4, 1917 after obtaining the Paige-Chalmers auto dealership.

Mart died on July 7, 1929.

Phyllis Ross Kraich  
Margaret Ross Russell

## Smull, George and Flora

George Smull was raised near St. Charles, Iowa. He was born on February 14, 1887. George married Flora Holland in early 1908. She was the daughter of Elwin and Mary Ann Bishop Holland and was born in Madison County, Iowa on December 15, 1890.

They farmed near Larimore, Iowa, and that was where I, Burla Mary, was born December 12, 1908. They moved from there to Nebraska when I was a baby.

I must have been around four or five years old when we moved to Julesburg, Colorado. At that time Papa loaded all of our household goods in one end of a railroad stock car and the livestock in the other end. That is the way we moved.

We settled on a farm out of Julesburg and Papa raised corn, wheat, and other crops. We also raised draft horses for that was the way the farming was done in those days. Of course we raised pigs, cattle, and chickens. There were no geese; but we had ducks. As soon as it got warm we picked the duck feathers and saved them to put in the feather ticks we used on our beds. Sometimes in the summer, we would use straw ticks on our beds. Also we would use corn husks in our ticks. It was nice to sleep on a nice fresh tick.

When the corn was picked we had big bins of it. I remember Papa had a machine that took the corn off the cob. That was fun. Of course, the pigs got the cob and all. The cobs made a very good fuel to burn in our stoves.

I can remember when we would take the wagon and go out on the prairie and pick up cow chips for winter fuel. It was quite a few miles to town to buy coal, especially with a team and wagon. There was no wood in that country, just cottonwood trees along the rivers and



L. to r. George, Flora and Burla Smull at their homestead north of Douglas.

buckbrush.

One time Papa brought a man out from town with him to help with the harvest. I thought he was scary and was afraid of him. Anyway, while he was there we had a horse die. Papa had him help skin the horse. The hides at that time were always needed. That same night the man said he was quitting and going back to town. We were suspicious of him so we kept watch that night in case he came back for something or other. He was not seen again.

It was while we lived here that I started school at the age of seven. We lived three and one-quarter miles from school.

Papa got a two-wheeled cart with a shaft for one horse. Old Pet was the name of my horse, just head her down the road and she would take the middle of the road right to school on a morning and of a night straight home. There was one thing about it, my father set more gate posts at the schoolhouse than any other father, for I never could get around one without taking it out. This went on until Papa thought I could have a pony and ride to school.

He got a nice pony named Gent. I was too small to reach the stirrup so a strap had to be put in the stirrup to come down far enough for me to get my foot into and pull myself into the saddle.

There was a barn at the schoolhouse as so many of the children had long distances to come to school. There was room in the barn for hay and the farmers all put hay in for the horses. I carried a noon feeding of grain tied on the saddle horn for my horse. I also tied my lunch bucket there, you can imagine how my lunch would look after the bouncing around it had.

On my ninth birthday I went out to feed my horse at noon, and as I passed behind the horse next to mine the darn thing kicked me out of the barn. I still carry the scar over my right eye.

It was about this time that land in Wyoming was opened for homesteading. Papa drove a bunch of his cattle into Julesburg and loaded them on a train. He went to Denver with them to the stockyards there.

He had an auction sale at the farm. After that we loaded everything on a big Reo truck and went to Douglas, Wyoming.

We settled in the Hamilton Addition of Douglas. Papa

got the section lines and all straightened out on the homestead land, Section 17, T39 R 71 Pat. 6/11/1925.

I started school in the fifth grade; Mrs. Brockway was my first teacher in a town school. I went to the South Grade School which was new then.

When school was out we would load up everything we would need at the homestead for the summer. We went north out of Douglas. There were creeks and a river to cross as we went.

One time when we came to the Cheyenne River, it had more water flowing in it than usual; we went ahead to ford it any way. When we got to the middle the wagon started to settle in the sand; the horses couldn't move it. There was an old couple that lived at the crossing so we asked the mister if he would help us across the river. He brought his team and hooked on to the wagon with our team and brought the wagon right across. He asked us to come up to the house and let the horses rest awhile, so we did.

He had dug back in the hill and made a nice sized room. It was so nice and cool in there. The lady was sick and layed on a very nice bed. It was all handmade of peeled cottonwood trees about the size of a person's arm. We all enjoyed our visit then went on to our destination.

The year the Ayres Natural Bridge Park was opened, Papa was the caretaker. There was a house for the irrigation supervisor to live in and right next door was a small old building. We camped in it that summer and I had so much fun! Papa did a lot of clearing brush and building picnic tables. We had our cow in a pasture and chickens enough for our eggs. Of an evening, we would fish; there was a big beautiful trout under a big rock just below the dam. Papa would try and try for him but he was too smart to be caught.

When the new section, the gym, was built onto the high school, Papa dug the basement. He had a team and a hand-trip slip. There was another man with his team, also.

At the time the new bridge was put across the North Platte River at Douglas, Papa ran the pump that kept water out of the places where the pilings were put. He stayed there day and night. I used to worry for fear the river would break the bulwark they had built to keep the pumps in.

The homestead was eventually proved up on, and that was where I really learned to respect the cactus plants. We would lay a blanket down on the ground in the shade of the cabin in the heat of the day. It would be much cooler. Sometimes it would be fun to turn somersaults, which turned out to be the wrong thing to do; anyway I always had to learn things the hard way.

In 1928, I married Fred H. Richter.

Eventually the folks bought the Heaton place on May 2, 1930 and moved out there. They ran the swimming pool for awhile and then closed it down.

George and Flora were divorced. On January 1, 1934, Flora married Floyd Crabb in Harrison, Nebraska.

George Smull passed away February 21, 1961; Floyd Crabb passed away March 30, 1970; and Flora Smull Crabb passed away September 2, 1980. The estate has been left to my four daughters: Nola Millhouser, Georgia Smull, Betty Roberson, and Burla King.

Burla Smull Richter

## Smyth, Dave and Maud Family

My dad, David J. Smyth, was born in Portaferry, Ireland on Dec. 18, 1871. His parents were John and Mary Smyth.

Maud M. Smith, the daughter of Ed and Lany Eleanor Huss Smith, was born in Ringgold County, Iowa in 1880. She was my mother.

In 1898 my mother married David Smyth, who immigrated from Portaferry, County Down, Ireland at the age of fifteen. He had worked his way West on farms, the railroads, and in Wyoming he was a cowboy and a shepherd. He also labored at the Red Rock Stone Quarry, about eight miles from Glenrock on the Boxelder Road. Here he lived in a dugout.

My parents lived on a ranch downstream from where Ed Smiths lived for two or three years in about 1906 or 1907.

Dave and Maud Smyth went into the sheep business. Their headquarters were north of the Platte River on the old Eskew place. In 1914 they opened Smyth's General Store, the largest in town and carried an extensive line of goods, everything from caskets to cranberries, baby-chicks to bumbershoots, as Dad used to say. Dave had interests in the oil business and was one of the directors of the Glenrock State Bank. He retained his large land holdings and continued in the livestock business. He was a Justice of the Peace and a Converse County Commis-



Maud and Dave Smyth 1896

sioner. Dave was a Mason, belonged to the Odd Fellows Lodge and he and Maud were active members of the Episcopal Church.

David Smyth died February 19, 1947 in Glenrock, Wyoming. Maud died April 20, 1955, in Denver, Colorado. Both are buried in the Glenrock cemetery, as are Ed, Ell, Frances and Jay Smith.

Their first son, Hugh Raymond, was born on the Boxelder Ranch in 1899. In 1916 he was a member of the new Glenrock High School's first graduating class. He attended the University of Wyoming and served in the U.S. Army during World War I. In 1919 he married Helen Frances Fenex in Glenrock and went to work in Smyth's General Store. Their first child, Raymond Edward, was born in 1920. In 1926 the family moved to Chula Vista, California, where Hugh was associated with the Union Oil Company for many years. Another son, William David, was born in 1929. Both boys served with honors in World War II. Ray was a command pilot and served 28 years with the air force. Bill flew for the navy, including carrier duty.

In 1939 Ray married Phyllis Ousley. They are living the retirement life in Kailua Kona, Hawaii. They had three children, Nancy, Timothy and Cherie.

Bill married Diana Brulay, April 10, 1951. They live in Huntsville, Alabama, where Bill is in the oil business. Their children are William, Teresa, Jennifer and Laura.

Another son, Edward David, was born to Maud and Dave in 1905. He died in 1909 of meningitis and is buried in the Glenrock cemetery.

In 1911, I the third son, was almost born in a sheep-wagon, but Mother, by buggy power, made it through the sand hills to Glenrock in time.

Our early years in that wonderful town were happy ones. Family, friends, schools, creeks, rivers, mountains, basketball, church, picnics, girls, dances, Model T's, horses, branding, fishing, bicycles — these words retrieve golden scenes of that past.

The offer of a hashing job at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity lured me to the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1930. There I studied business, organized a dance band, met and married Peggy Simpson of Denver. After college I entered the radio and television broadcasting business, originating the show Smythe's General Store on KOA, NBC for the West. We bought a farm on the Platte River, near Littleton. Here we raised three children, Peter Jr., Brooke and Shelley.

One sentence in my father's diary brings the song "Why Oh Why Did I Ever Leave Wyoming" to mind. He wrote: "After our son's college days the glare of the city had more attraction for them than the free life we had led, so I sold our holdings and moved to town."

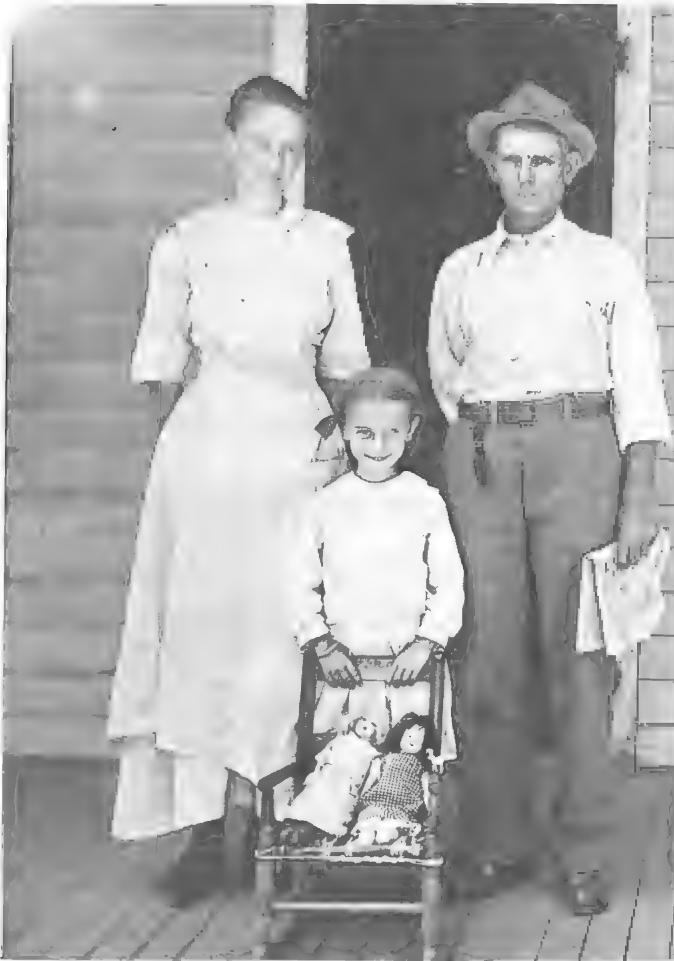
I often wonder how our lives would have been changed, had we stayed. Young folks tend to make their own beds.

Orville "Pete" Smythe



## Snyder, Charles Thomas and Elsie

"Oh! Mamma look at the beautiful wild roses," exclaimed Catherine, as she and her mother, Elsie May, were on the Burlington train which was stopped along the river near Wendover on Catherine's seventh birthday, May 31, 1914. Catherine was so excited about the roses that the conductor got off the train and picked a bouquet for her. Soon they arrived at Orin Junction where her father, Charlie Snyder, met them with a team and buckboard. He had left Kearney, Nebraska, four months



Charles T. Snyder family 1913 L. to r. Elsie, Charles and Catherine in front.

earlier to come to Wyoming to work for Jim Shaw. Jim Shaw was a former cowboy for the Snyder and Coffee outfit that trailed large herds of cattle from Texas to Wyoming in the 1880's. When Charlie was a little boy, he and his mother were on a train coming from Georgetown, Texas to Cheyenne, Wyoming in 1878. The train was stopped near Ogallala, Nebraska, to let a large herd of cattle cross the track to the river. Charlie was so excited when he saw his father with the cowboys driving the cattle that he fell out of the train window. Jim Shaw saw what was happening and rode up to catch young Charlie as he was falling.

After about two months the Snyders moved to Douglas to make their home. Jim Shaw said to Catherine as she was leaving the ranch, "You are a little girl now,

but when you grow up I might not know you, so you must always kiss me when you see me." She always did. Charlie Snyder was State Game Warden for several years. Elsie Snyder was a dress maker. She clerked for A. R. Merritt Store, Bob Gentle's Golden Rule Store, the Douglas Mercantile Store, and Kettle and Layton Store. Catherine grew up in Douglas. She married Bill Nuttall.

Charles T. Snyder died June 8, 1928 in Douglas.

Catherine Nuttall

## Snyder, George and Bessie Family

George Jacob Snyder was born in Hallsville, New York on May 15, 1878. He was baptized in the Universal Church in Victor, New York and spent his boyhood in Victor. He graduated from Boughton Hill School in Victor and attended Business College in Rochester, New York.

In 1899 he decided to go West, first going to the Pacific Coast where he worked in lumber camps. He came to the Douglas area where he engaged in the sawmill and lumbering business at Esterbrook. It was here that he met his wife, Bessie Marion French and they were married Dec. 6, 1903.

The couple made their home in Douglas and established the first steam laundry in town, which they operated until April 1906. The original sign which he had painted could still be seen just a few years ago on the building on South Second.

Their first two sons, George Johnson and Eugene E. were born in Douglas.

In 1907 he filed on government land north of Glendo and started his homestead. That land is now under Glendo Lake. During his first years in the area, he was engaged in dry farming and in the retail lumber business which later became the Foster Lumber Company.

In 1923 he was appointed postmaster in Glendo and he held that position for 22 years. While George was postmaster, mail was delivered in Glendo four times a day by train. During post office hours George took a mailbag to the depot and brought back all the incoming mail. That was in the day when postage for a postal card cost one penny — now 14 cents and that for a letter was two cents — now in 1985 it is 22 cents. A letter mailed in Glendo was delivered in Douglas in 45 minutes. In 1980 it took a day and sometimes two.

George kept the post office open six days a week and until noon on Sundays but if you found a package slip in your box on Sunday afternoon, you just drove to the Snyder home and George would return to the post office with you and give you the package with a smile. The post office stayed open late on Saturday evenings until the Sunday papers arrived and could be put into the mailboxes. This was a very real advantage for rural people who came to town on Saturday night.

George was a public spirited citizen and took an active part in the Congregational Church and social and political activities. He was Clerk of School District No. 8, from 1923 and continued doing clerical work for the school as well as for the town for many years. He was instrumental in incorporation of the town of Glendo and was its first mayor.

He was of Dutch-English descent. He liked music and dancing, home and family life. He disliked publicity and loved to garden and raise flowers. He was always thorough and painstaking in his work.

The first two of their children were born in Douglas: George Johnson, born August 21, 1904 who was married to Emma W. Bansept and Eugene Edward, born December 18, 1905 who married Margaret Kreidler. He passed away in 1974. The other three were born in Glendo. They were Lee Raymond, born August 25, 1908. He married Lula Case of Glendo. He died in 1976. Catherine Minerva was born February 27, 1910 and she married A. T. Covington. They live in Casper. Marion Elizabeth was born July 7, 1914 and she married Cleo W. Neely of Wheatland and are now living in Cheyenne.

Upon his retirement from the post office in 1944, Mr. and Mrs. Snyder made their home in Casper, where they lived until their deaths. George passed away May 19, 1951 and Bessie on August 25, 1965. Both are interred in Douglas Park Cemetery.

Emma Bansept Snyder

## Sothman, Claus and Margaret

Claus and Margaret Sothman came to the United States from Germany in the year 1880. They had two small children, Kati (Mrs. Sherd HitsheW), born in Germany in 1877 and Anna, born in Germany in 1879. They located in Clinton, Iowa where John was born in 1881 and William (Bill) in the year 1883. About 1886 they put all their belongings into a box car of the Fremont, Eklhorn and Missouri Valley Railway train and moved to Keeline, Converse County, Wyoming. Claus was section foreman for several years. The house the Sothmans lived in was probably the only house in Keeline. It was called a "Grout" house.

Rosa Sothman was born in Keeline, Converse County, Wyoming in 1889. Emma Sothman was also born in Keeline in 1891.

About 1892, the Sothmans homesteaded some land which is seven or eight miles northwest of Keeline, called the "Sodie" Ranch. They moved from the ranch in 1899 returning to Iowa.

Sothmans rented a house in Manville several winters and sent the children to school. There was no school at Keeline or near the ranch then but later a school was built between the HitsheW and Sothman ranches. It was called the Chalk Butte School. Mrs. Pray recalls there was a prairie fire at the school. The children all helped to put it out by carrying water from the well.

Her mother nearly died of erysipelas when Mrs. Pray (Emma Sothman) was six years old. She wouldn't stay out of the room so she got it too. The doctor had to come from Lusk 35 miles away. After one visit he stopped at the George HitsheW ranch and told them Emma wouldn't live through the night. Mattie HitsheW went to the Sothman place, bathed Emma with soda water and cared for her and she made it.

Mrs. Sothman's brother, Claus Holtorf, lived at Lost Springs. His wife died there and left him with a daughter, Emma, and a boy by the name of John. They lived in Lost Springs many years after the Sothmans returned to Iowa.

William (Bill) Sothman returned to Converse County, Wyoming in 1903 and homesteaded on land between the George HitsheW place and the Sherd HitsheW place. In 1925 he sold his land and moved to Meeteetse, Wyoming.

Indians used to come to our place at the Sodie ranch and demand food. They especially wanted sugar, flour and meat. They would wait until the men folks left the house and come and say, "Man gone, we want food." Mother and we kids were scared to death of them. If we saw them coming in time, we kids would run and hide under the barn and leave Mother alone in the house. They would come right in the house; and if food was cooking on the stove, they would take the lid off and see what it was.

My mother had a large dog, Prince. She would call him into the house and hold onto him or he would attack them. They wanted her to put the dog outside but she knew they would shoot the dog.

One day some black soldiers on horseback from Ft. Laramie came by. The dog ran after them and they shot and killed him. That was such a sad experience, every one of the family cried.

William (Bill) Sothman cooked for roundups ranging from Big Lightning, Twenty Mile, Douglas, Gillette and South Dakota lines. There were no fences then.

Emma Sothman Pray

## Southwick, Hub and Edna

Hulbert B. "Hub" Southwick was born in Bradford, Pennsylvania in September 1876. As a young man he played in Minor League Baseball games and was always a great fan. He and his father came to Wyoming about 1900 where they drilled for oil in the Brenning Basin. He met Edna Willox in a boarding house that was run by her folks, the James Willoxs in Douglas.

He married Edna in 1901. They had four children, Rita, Kathleen, Margaret (born 1906) and "Hub".

We lived in Orin Junction where we had a hotel and boarding house, mostly for train crewmen. The Northwestern came as far as Orin then went back. Finally the Burlington was built. The hotel was torn down to make room for the railroad. We then moved to Douglas where Dad was night watchman under old timer, Malcolm Campbell — he then became Deputy Sheriff under Mr. Messenger and was active in the search for the famous train robber, Carlisle. While Dad was Deputy Sheriff, mother cooked at the flu hospital with my sisters and I helping during the epidemic in World War I. The city hall had been converted into a hospital (many died there). Old timer Clark Coleman was a patient.

Dad then went back to the oil fields where he was a driller and tool fisher. He worked for the Ohio Oil Company for years in Parkerton, then in Lance Creek, where he was killed instantly by a falling bit on June 6, 1924.

Later Edna married Albert Burns whom she later divorced.

She and her sister, Margaret Freeman ran the LaBonte Hotel dining room, then owned by Bill Delahoyde. Later they started Tippie Inn in Glendo during the building of Glendo Dam.



Edna resided in Glendo until she went to a rest home in Wheatland, Wyoming, where she died at the age of 97.

Two children also deceased; Margaret (Feb. 26, 1933) and "Hub" Jr.

Rita Merritt resides in Boulder, Colorado and Kathleen Martindale in Torrington, Wyoming.

Kathleen Martindale

## Spaugh, Addison, Estelle and Mary

Addison Spaugh was born in Indiana in 1857. Ad's father went broke in southern Indiana, and moved his family to Kansas when Ad was a very young boy. The Spaughs moved from one miserable frontier homestead to another, dogged by poverty and hard luck. Ad's mother and two baby sisters died of "ague" in Kansas, near Topeka. A small amount of cash was brought home to the family by Ad, his older sister, Clara, and younger brother, Ollie, who worked at a boarding house some 15 miles from the family home.

By the time Ad was 11 years old, he was making a meager living for himself range-herding cattle, and working for Kansas ranchers. During the next three years many large herds of cattle were driven from Texas up the Chisholm Trail to the Kansas Pacific Railhead in Abilene. It was estimated that nearly one quarter of a million head were driven north each year.

Ad longed to be a "sure enough" cowboy, as did his brother, Ollie. In September of 1871, Ollie ran away from home to join a group of drovers who had brought a herd to Abilene, and were then returning home. Ollie was only 12 years old at the time. Clara, his older sister, felt that he was much too young for such an undertaking. Mr. Spaugh and his second wife were expecting their first child, so it fell to Ad to go after Ollie and bring him home. In the event that Ad was unable to persuade his brother to return, then Ad would be obliged to continue on to Texas

to look after his younger brother.

Ad was overjoyed at the prospect of becoming a trail hand. Ollie was determined, so winter found both boys near Wharton, Texas, some 100 miles from the Gulf, working on a ranch for \$30.00 per month.

In February 1872, the boys accompanied the owners to the Rio Grande country to buy up a trail herd. They gathered up 2,883 head of Longhorn cattle which cost an average of \$2.67 per head. Eighty-five head of horses would be needed to accommodate the 10 drovers. Ad was 15 years old, Ollie was 13.

Before the Civil War the vast territory later known as Oklahoma had been given to the five civilized Indian tribes, to be theirs permanently and irrevocably. During the war, however, most of these southern Indians had been actively sympathetic to the Confederate cause. At the end of the war, the government punished these tribes for their sympathy to the South by giving the western half of their lands to the roaming horse tribes of the high plains. Across this empire of grassland, civilization marched in two great columns — the plowmen from the east, and the cowmen from the south. They were to become enemies later and struggle bitterly for the free land, but until the late 1870s they fought against a common enemy — the Indian.

The trace, called the Chisholm Trail, began near San Antonio, ran northward across the Red River, and into Kansas. Jesse Chisholm, half breed son of a Scotchman and a Cherokee Indian woman, was a trader. His trading wagons subsequently marked this trail into the Indian Nations. The drovers eventually found the trail with its excellent creek and river crossings and watering places.

The fee to the trailherds for the privilege of crossing the Indian lands was twenty-five cents per head. The drovers grew tired of paying the toll, and later swung west into the "wild Indian country" where they could trail northward for nothing — if their luck held out. It was not uncommon for entire trail herds and the accompany-



A. A. Spaugh shearing crew

ing drovers to be attacked and annihilated by marauding war parties.

Four months later, the herd reached Abilene. The steer beef was sold to a buyer for \$22.00 per head. He was not interested in the she-stuff. A man from the Wyoming Territory, who was interested in raising his own calves, bought the females.

Ad and Ollie returned to their family home, riding up on Texas ponies, with their new clothes and jingling spurs. Ad's father, doing a bit better now, but still very poor, convinced Ad that he should remain at home to help with the farm, and attend school during the winter. Ollie, it was decided, would return to Texas to work and contribute his wages to help support the family. For two years, Ad helped his father with the farming, and together they bought a small bunch of cattle. In early July of 1874, there was a plague of grasshoppers. They ate every living thing, laying waste to the countryside. Almost as quickly as they had come, they were gone. Where only a few days before there had been green fields of corn and rich hay fields, there was nothing. Ad and his father were ruined. Ad returned to Texas to find work as a drover.

Ad helped drive herds northward three more times. The last drive made to the Platte in 1877. At the completion of the drive in September, he headed for the Wyoming Territory alone.

Lying in the great triangle made by the forks of the North Platte and running from Ogallala, Nebraska west to the rockies was a cattle heaven of free grass and open range. Since the coming of the Union Pacific Railroad in '68 it had been filling up with Texas and Oregon cattle. The rich grass country above the North Fork in Wyoming Territory had been forbidden to the white man. It had been Indian and buffalo country, but now the Sioux war was rapidly being drawn to a close and the Indians were being herded to their reservations in Nebraska and Dakota. By 1877 adventurous cattlemen were preparing to invade the north country. Ad found work near Pine Bluffs helping with a fall roundup.

The Laramie County Stock Association, later to become the powerful Wyoming Stock Growers Association, was formed in 1873. The Association roughly divided the range into two great roundup districts. The various ranches would send representatives to each of these roundups to help gather the cattle, and to bring their own back to the home range. In the entire country there was not a single rod of fence, and therefore, when the winter storms hit the herds, they would drift before the icy winds until some natural barrier stopped them.

Ranch owners pre-empted quarter sections along creeks, or homesteaded springs and living water, but the grasslands were as free as air. Customs, and the law of "Judge Colt" gave an outfit sole use of the grass that its stream or spring controlled. Squatter's rights were fully recognized legal rights in the eyes of these cowmen, who stood ready with their armed retainers to enforce them.

The spring of 1879 found Ad punching cows in the Pine Bluffs country. The spring roundup was nearly over, when a group of visitors came to the camp which was located about twelve miles north of Cheyenne. Besides Alex Swan and Joe Frank, who owned a cow outfit near Cheyenne, there were H. F. Manville and James Peck,

businessmen from Wisconsin, and a Mr. Bailey, accompanied by his daughter, Estelle. Mr. Bailey had come west in regard to mining investments, while Peck and Manville were planning to go into the ranching business. They had contracted for two thousand steers to be delivered on the Laramie Plains the end of July. They wanted to hire a foreman to go to the new range above the North Platte. This had been a red letter day for Ad. He took the job as foreman, but of greater importance was the fact that he had met his wife-to-be, Estelle Bailey.

In late August of 1880, Manville and Ad crossed the Platte at Fort Laramie. Ad urged Mr. Manville to buy a ranch in the Wyoming Territory, and subsequently he bought a ranch called the OW which belonged to O. C. Wade. Wade was a freight contractor on the Cheyenne-Black Hills line. He wintered his bull teams on the ranch on Old Woman Creek. The selling price for the outfit was \$36,900. This included 1,200 head of stock cattle, 30 horses, all the buildings, equipment and the ranch rights. Ranches in those days were priced on the inventory of cattle and horses, not by the number of acres owned by the individual.

In February of 1881, Manville and Peck had tossed their own spread into a general pot that bore the formal title of the Converse Cattle Company. A. R. Converse, president of the First National Bank of Cheyenne, was putting up the money against 3,200 head of stock belonging to Peck and Manville, and 5,000 head owned by W. C. Irvine. The directors of the new company were A. R. Converse, president; W. C. Irvine, vice president; James S. Peck, secretary-treasurer; and H. F. Manville, general manager. W. C. Irvine's range was in the Antelope Creek country north of the Platte and west of the OW range.

Spaugh bought 50 shares of stock in the company, and was hired as foreman. Among his other duties, he was to try to locate and buy other outfits, since the company planned to own no less than thirty thousand head of cattle. They hoped that eventually it would become a "million dollar" outfit.

All that late winter and into spring Ad located and appraised various outfits that might be bought. The Horseshoe Bar outfit on the head of Lance Creek, the U Bar L near the mouth of Lightning, the Wulfjen outfit, the TJ Bar in the Harney Creek-Twenty Mile area, and the V5 Bar outfit on Little Lightning were purchased by the company. Altogether these totaled close to 25,000 head of cattle scattered over a range country that stretched from the Nebraska line for 200 miles west up the Platte to Independence Rock. North to south the combined range ran for 100 miles. Not one square rod in any of the ranch properties had been surveyed and every foot was government land, held only by the might of squatters' sovereignty, and tended by some fifty or sixty cowhands carrying firearms.

Custom held that each ten-mile square of country belonged to the outfit that had built a corral in its center. Ad sent men over to Lightning Creek to build corrals, one situated where Lightning emptied into Lance Creek, the second where Twenty Mile met Lightning, and the third at the mouth of Walker Creek. This enabled him to lay claim to fifty miles of range adjacent to the creeks. Local custom also dictated that unbranded cattle found upon your range belonged to you.

Ad's tasks were monumental. He must spread his men out over the prairie and bring the 25,000 head of cattle that the company had acquired during the year to the home range for the winter. He must as well claim as many mavericks for his company as he possibly could.

The Converse Cattle Company prospered, as did the other big ranches. There was plenty of grass, and the range was still understocked. In the fall of 1883, Ad and his men drove almost 6,000 head of beeves to the railhead in Valentine, Nebraska. Prices were good, averaging \$50.00 per head. Ad reported almost 40,000 head wearing the now famous OW brand.

The winter before, stray stock had drifted southward from the newly opened ranges of Montana and the Powder River country. The problem of the spring roundup was a serious matter. The all-powerful Executive Committee of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association now divided the whole territory into 31 roundups, defining the limits of each, naming the roundup foremen and their assistants, and setting the dates for the starting of the roundups. The territorial legislature was little more than a roster of the names of the big cattlemen. The rules regarding the roundups and disposition of the mavericks were, in fact, the law of the land. It was deemed actually illegal for any rancher to undertake an unauthorized roundup. Other range customs were incorporated into territorial statutes.

Of all the thirty-one prescribed roundup districts, the most important from the standpoint of cattle numbers was 15. Following is a copy of the bulletin drawn up by the Association regarding this district:

No. 15: Commence May 15th at the head of Sage Creek; thence down Old Woman's Creek to mouth; thence to the head of Harney Creek, down Harney Creek to mouth, working Twenty Mile; work to Beaver Dam of Lightning Creek; thence to Cow Creek; thence down Snyder Creek to mouth; thence up Lodgepole Creek to head; thence down Black Thunder to Cheyenne River; thence up Cheyenne River to mouth of Antelope and tributaries to head; thence down Antelope; then work Dry Creek, Box Creek and head of Lightning Creek. Fall roundup to commence October 15th. A. A. Spough, foreman; Curtis Spough, assistant foreman to the mouth of Black Thunder. Lee Moore, foreman; J. B. Moorsee, assistant foreman, from mouth of Black Thunder to the end of roundup.

It is interesting to note that nearly all of the northern halves of present day Converse and Niobrara Counties, and the southern parts of Weston and Campbell Counties are included in this district.

There was, however, something subtle and ominous creeping over the empire of grass. As a boy on the Kansas frontier, Ad had seen railroads and homesteaders turn a free and open range into a land of barbed wire and plowed fields. He knew instinctively the power of this human tide, and was certain that nothing could stand against its mighty force. He tried to convince his directors that they should accept an offer made them by a foreign syndicate for one million dollars for their company, but his arguments went unheeded. The directors were confident that the golden years would last forever.

Ad became increasingly uneasy about the future. The

cows were drifting further and further south in search of good grass. The range was overstocked, numerous homesteaders were coming into the area, and the grasslands were being fenced.

Range managers and foremen of the big outfits were not supposed to take up their own land or own any cattle, but Ad, experiencing a constant foreboding, felt he must start his own ranch or lose his opportunity altogether. He took up a pre-emption claim of 320 acres on the head of the Niobrara (Running Water) River. He sent word to the directors of the company informing them that he had done so, and that he would remain as foreman until after the fall roundup. The claim on the Running Water was located about 10 miles from the OW. Ad took up a tree claim of 160 acres, and a desert claim of 320 acres. Succeeding Ad as foreman was John Kendrick, who later became governor of Wyoming, and still later United States Senator. Ad sold his stock in the company to Mr. Manville.

In May of 1886, Estelle Bailey and Ad were married. He took a job as a cattle detective for the Wyoming Stock Growers, inspecting all beef sold to the butcher shops and to the construction camps now building a railroad called the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley from Chadron, Nebraska to the future town of Douglas, Wyoming.

Estelle named the claim on the Niobrara River Bel Pré (beautiful prairie). Since the house was not completed, Ad and Estelle spent the first summer of their married life living in the mining town of Silver Cliff which neighbored the present city of Lusk. The winter was spent in New York, where Ad worked in the office of his father-in-law. Estelle contracted consumption in February 1887. They moved back to Wyoming in the spring, hoping that the climate might prove beneficial to her health. Estelle died in the fall of 1887. She is buried next to her mother in Elmira, New York.

Although the death of his wife was a great tragedy to Ad, he was determined to continue on with his ranching business. He acquired more and more land and cattle. In 1909 he was married for the second time to Mary Ella Kern of Wilmington, Illinois. She was born in 1869 and came to Wyoming in 1891. Mary Ella died in 1928.

In 1917, Ad became engaged in the banking business along with his livestock business. He was a stockholder in banks in Manville, Keeline, Glenrock and Cheyenne. By 1940, Ad had disposed of all his land excepting the Bel Pré and the 77 Ranch. He was 83 years old.

Ad died in 1943 at her age of 86. He is buried in the Manville cemetery next to his second wife, and only a little distance from the house he had built on Bel Pré.

This account of the life of Addison Spough in no way does him justice. His humble beginnings are the foundation for the compassion and sympathy he felt for his fellow man. He was loyal, honest, hard-working, ambitious without being greedy, and truly a man "to ride the river with".

Ruth Grant



## Spellman, George B. and Florence

I only know a very small amount about the life of Grandma and Grandpa (Florence and George Spellman).

George B. Spellman was born on Dec. 12, 1859 at Bloomington, Illinois. Florence Mable Phillips was born on July 23, 1866 at Greece, New York. They were united in marriage on March 19, 1884.

To this union were born nine children — Lucy, Lewis, Charlie, Jesse, Guy, Perley, Caroline, Marie and Alvin. The first eight were born at Emporia, Kansas and the youngest, Alvin, was born at Dunlap, Kansas.

They moved to Parry, Saskatchewan, Canada in July 1905 where they filed on a homestead. In 1911 George rented his farm to his sons and left the farm.

The family spent their winters in Los Angeles, California where George was a carpenter. In the summers George would go back to Canada to help harvest and thresh the crops from the farm.

I do not know the exact year, but in the early 1920's the family moved to the Bear Creek, Wyoming area and took out a homestead west of where the Manning boys all had their homesteads.

That must not have proved very fruitful and they moved into Douglas and bought a home at 118 No. 6th. George became ill and died at this home on March 25, 1928. Florence resided there until her death on April 3, 1933.

I know that they were devout Christians and were members of the Methodist Church.

Edith Manning Lewis

## Spellman, Henry and Annie

On our dry farm — 11 miles north of Lost Springs, Converse County, Wyoming — a new adventure and experiences began in 1914.

My father, Henry L. Spellman, wife Annie, and daughters, Dolly, Minnie and Bertha, moved from Kelso, Washington where we had lived for several years. My father filed on his homestead June 1914, on 320 acres, a half section, arriving by train, September 10-15 of 1914, living in Lost Springs a short time and moving on to our little dry farm October 1, 1914. There we camped in the big army tent until Dad finished our little log cabin of two rooms. We were so thrilled with our little log cabin — our permanent home on the prairie until Dad built another room - kitchen, moving in just before Thanksgiving. There we celebrated our first holiday with a big dinner — a venison roast. Delicious! There was great love in our family.

Our closest neighbor was one quarter mile to the north joining our little dry farm. They were friends that moved to Lost Springs, the same time that we moved, to settle on their homestead. They were from Kelso, Washington, also. They were Frank Young, wife Millie, son Edwin, daughter Alice. Their ages were the same as ours so we did have a wonderful friendship. They were great neighbors and so helpful for our community. We neighbors had to stick together as there was plenty of



Henry Spellman Family 1914.

L. to R.: Henry, Minnie, Annie, Dolly and Bertha.

unexpected trouble that arose. The cattlemen and sheepmen were very bitter to see the settlers come in, as they had miles and miles of open country to run their cattle and sheep, which meant money in their pockets.

Now the little dry farm didn't look so prosperous, just rocky hills, gulleys, sagebrush, cactus, with long thorns. If we kids fell down, we could pick cactus for days. Also timberland, wild range cattle, deer, antelope and porcupines — some ate them for meat. But not me! Rabbits were plentiful, sage chickens, coyotes, bobcats, packs of grey WOLVES, many, many rattlesnakes lived on the prairie.

For the settlers it surely was rough going.

But my father and mother were determined to stay and fight it out. AND THEY DID!

The stockmen really took advantage of the POOR settlers. The cowboys drove their cattle through our little crops, destroying everything. In the fall of the year at roundup time, they were very destructive cutting our fences, killing our dogs, by poisoning them with strychnine. Our watermelon patch was completely destroyed to bits by the cowboys riding their horses through it. As time went on more settlers came in. That surely helped us.

The sheepmen were more helpful as they had herders for their sheep of 1000 head to a band of sheep. Once in a while they would give us part of a mutton to eat, and that surely helped out, but Mother raised good gardens to keep our table. We also had chickens, pork and wild game and that was great, also finally got some milk cows for our butter and cream. We had plenty of food.

There were no schools, but finally got enough kids to start one, Dolly, Minnie and Bertha Spellman, Edwin and Alice Young, Walter and Frances Hoge. Our first teacher was Mrs. Edith Stark. A building was leased from the "Sunset Mine" which had been an active coal mine at one time. Our first school days were held there. Ed Stark and Edith were lovely and helpful neighbors to the west of us about one mile. They were also homesteaders.

Getting to school was another problem, as my father



had to take us to and from school each day. Many wild range cattle roamed the hills, and only just a cow path to follow. Finally a wild cowboy had a bright idea, that my father should buy a pony for us to ride. He said he had a perfect gentle one for kids, so Dad bought the pony. Mother put us on his back and started us to school, but the old pony had another idea, he bucked us off, saddle and all. We were pretty shook up. Dad had to keep taking us to school. Then later our next teacher was Lillie Meinzer. She was a wonderful teacher. The parents got together and got a new school house built in the northwest corner of my father's little farm. There we went to school and had only about one quarter of a mile to walk and no range cattle to look out for. There I graduated from grade school in May 1922. More families moved in having children of school age, Frank Vanderwalker, Mike and George Freeland, and Sylvia, Ralph and Audrey Young.

Friends and neighbors got together — planned to have Sunday School — a fine preacher said he would come to each home Sundays and have Sunday School which was great for the community. It was just in summer time, as winters were too cold.

My father worked for the TJ Ranch to help out. It was owned by Mr. Ad Spaugh of Manville, Wyoming. He was a big sheepman, having several bands of sheep and hired herders to look after the sheep, 1000 to a band. It surely was a terrible loss for the sheep and cattlemen when those big blizzards hit. I shall never forget the big one in 1922. It started raining in early May, filling all of the gulleys full of water. Then it turned into snow on top of that. Drifts were so deep that one could only walk by trying to find the high places where the wind had blown off the snow. This herder, Joe Martinez, was a good herder, but couldn't get to his sheep as it was drifted under with snow. He had his sheep bedded down close to his wagon. He stayed at our house until daylight, then Dad went with him to check on the sheep and to find there had been seven grey wolves there and had killed over 700 of his band of 1000 head of sheep. It surely was a sad sight. Also this storm had killed thousands of cattle and other livestock. The hills and valleys were covered with cattle that had starved and frozen to death.

After this storm the stockmen were broke. Many other snow storms were remembered for many years.

A daring wild cowboy — Henry "Sug" McGowan chased down and roped a grey wolf from his saddle horse. The wolf put up a wicked fight, but "Sug" finally shot him and sold his beautiful hide to a fur buyer. This was a very dangerous experience, as grey wolves were fast runners and vicious. Grey wolves run in packs and I had never heard of them attacking man, but would kill any livestock and horses.

At last my father bought a team of horses and wagon, which was great for we had to go to Lost Springs at least once a week for our supplies, staple foods and kerosene for our lamps. It was a twenty-three mile round trip, leaving early morning and arriving home late afternoon. The horses were tired and hungry. Dad always took good care of them putting them in the barn and giving them grain and hay and in winter kept them in the barn.

As time went on more and more settlers moved in, which was great as they were all good and helpful neighbors and friends. Most of them are gone, some pass-

ed away and moving to other states and towns.

For entertainment, barn dances were held in the fall of the year before the barns were filled with hay. The fiddlers were paid by taking up a collection and friends would bring sandwiches and pies and make coffee, which tasted delicious around midnight. Some of the new settlers would have a dance in their homes before they moved in, some served oyster suppers and school teachers also held box suppers, which was a lot of fun, too.

I married Louie Meinzer. Dad (Henry) died June 6, 1938.

Dolly Spellman Meinzer

## Spellman, Jesse and Elizabeth

When Jesse Spellman was a teenager his father, George B. Spellman, left Emporia, Kansas and moved to the prairies in Canada and settled near Parry, Saskatchewan where he (Jesse) grew up. There Jesse met Elizabeth Atkins. She was from Dunlap, Ontario, Canada. With her brother, Jim, and sister, Matilda, they settled near Pangman, Saskatchewan. She worked on the cook wagon for the threshing machine that George owned.

Jesse and Elizabeth (called Lizzy) were married in Pangman, Saskatchewan on Nov. 12, 1912. They heard of land in the Wyoming area opening for homesteading. They applied for and got a quarter section in Converse County seven miles southeast of Shawnee and eight miles southwest of Lost Springs. Both towns were thriving and growing at that time. The railroad also went through there. Jesse's uncle Henry Spellman lived fourteen miles north of Lost Springs near the timber. The two of them cut logs for Jesse's homestead house. Jesse, my father, set the logs up in the daytime and went after more logs at night. It was nineteen miles with a team and wagon. As soon as the house was finished the family moved in. They started breaking sod and built a sod barn with walls about two feet thick.

It was a large barn with a hay loft on top. There were



Duran Homestead 1916



two double horse stalls on each side of a drive through alley plus stanchions for five milk cows on one side and an oat bin on the other. This was a very warm barn and when the stock were inside it seldom froze in the winter time. He also built a garage and chicken house out of sod that was partly dug into the side of a hill. All of the rafters were made of poles and covered with tin. When I remember the house it had been sided with lumber so I didn't know until years later that it was a log house. After a few years he was able to lease additional grass land and had a start in cattle.

In the winter of 1918 Jesse and his family of his wife and five children moved to Manville, Wyoming, where he bought a truck and hauled pipe to the oil fields at Lance Creek to finance the summers on the farm. There was a terrible flu epidemic. Two children, Lyda a twin girl, aged five years, and a boy, Walter, aged four died and were buried in Prairie View Cemetery southeast of Lost Springs. In the winter of 1920 and 1921 we moved to Casper, Wyoming, where Dad worked in the Standard Refinery. There was a terrible blizzard and we moved back to the homestead to feed the cattle. I can remember the snow covered the fences and lots of the neighbor's cattle drifted into the gulleys north of our house and died there for lack of hay. Some were completely covered with snow.

Land was hard to get around there so Jesse traded for a larger place five miles west of Orin Junction. My brother, Byon, (the remaining twin) and I were ten and eight years old and drove a team of horses on a wagon following Dad on another wagon. We moved the cows by trailing them on horseback and hauled the hogs in a wagon box as well as corn to feed them. We still had the truck and hauled the feed and corn in the truck.

This was a Denby truck with hard rubber tires, an open cab with curtains covering the door, and presto gas lights. It traveled about fifteen to twenty miles an hour. Two ton was considered a good load. In wet and muddy roads we had to wrap log chains around the drive wheels to avoid slippage. This move was about fifteen to twenty miles and took considerable time.

The house wasn't as good as the log house we left but we fixed it up and made it liveable. We boys pumped water for the cows at the spring about a half mile from the house. On hot days the cows just drank and drank and we got so tired pumping we would chase the cows away but they wouldn't stay and came right back. We hauled water in a barrel on a sled pulled by one or two horses for drinking and household use. On wash days we would get two barrels of water which was dipped from the spring and pulled up with a rope on a bucket. It was quite a trick to get the bucket to hit the water so it would fill up instead of just floating around.

Dad would trade horses a lot to get finances; also he would trade one broke horse for two broncs so we were always breaking horses to the wagon. Some would kick so we had to lie on our stomachs to hitch up the horses. Some were balky, some would strike with their front feet and some would run away so it was never safe to be around them but we were very careful and were never hurt.

In 1925 we went to Douglas Grade School in a Model T truck bus which started at the Fred Duran place where they picked up George Duran, Harold Schellinger,

Wendell Clay; then to our place where they picked up Byon, Helen and me; two from the Stock place; from Irvine, Virginia and Bob Eddy; Fern, Eva and Edward Dorothy; then the Brock kids, Bill, Tom and Tootie and Bob; then Velma and Earl Silver and on to town. The snow got so deep the first winter the farmers had to pull the bus from one place to the next with four head of horses hitched to the front of the bus. This only happened a few times.

About this time the radio came on the market and we would all get in the sled under a blanket with a lantern at our feet for heat and drive over to the neighbors who had the first set in the neighborhood. We listened to jazz through ear phones, one person at a time for a few minutes each. There was a lot of static and squealing on the set but it was wonderful on the clear, cold nights.

We had a light plant that was run on carbide gas that had to be changed about every six months. We bought the granules in hundred pound drums, poured them in a hopper and filled it with water. A few granules dropped in the water chamber made a gas which raised a large bell which created pressure to feed the lights, hot plate and iron. Some of the people bought 32-volt light plants that used gasoline that charged batteries for energy and some had wind chargers that charged the batteries. Any one of these seemed wonderful when they were used for a while.

There was a drought starting in 1926 and crops were getting short. Mother wanted to be near some of her family so in the fall of 1927 we moved to Canada along the Saskatchewan-Alberta border where Mother's sister and family lived. The sister's name was Mary and she was married to Steve Weir. They had two boys and a girl about our age and we really enjoyed having cousins and family for a change. The renter on the Wyoming place wasn't going to get the crop harvested so we came back to Wyoming in 1930. The crops dried up for lack of rain and what we did raise wasn't worth much. We had one hundred fifty head of light pigs weighing about one hundred twenty-five pounds dressed. They were only worth five cents a pound dressed. We would butcher ten or twelve on an afternoon and Dad would load them on the back seat of our 1926 Chevrolet and take them to Casper and peddle the meat a few pounds at a time. We finally got them all sold but didn't have much money left. We had 800 acres of wheat and cut seven wagon loads of bundles from a low spot by the house. One year we sold four rail cars of wheat for twenty-five cents a bushel and collected three-fourths of that. We stored the rest figuring the price would have to come up. By January first the co-op wanted some money for storage so Dad told them to just keep the wheat but they said the wheat wasn't enough to cover the cost of storage.

In the fall of 1934 they had a sale and moved to Washington state. Dad always wanted to farm and intended to buy land in the Pendleton, Oregon area. But it was winter so we went over to Portland, Oregon, and bought two run-down places to repair and sell. It turned out that no one who wanted a house had any money so he couldn't sell them in time to raise a crop in the eastern Oregon country. When the defense of the coast programs started up these places finally sold. In 1936 I came back to Douglas to a dryer climate and away from all the crowds. During the war Dad worked in the shipyards out of

Portland. My brothers and sisters stayed with them and still live in that area.

On January 6, 1948, Dad married Fern Clay Duran; they lived on a farm near Winner, South Dakota. My mother passed away April 24, 1962 in Vancouver, Washington. Dad died in Winner on July 31, 1969. Fern Spellman lives in Fruita, Colorado.

Howard Spellman

## Spracklen, Frank and Ruby

Frank was born on August 29, 1890 in Glenrock to George H. and Wilmina Jane Bricker Spracklen.

After marrying Ruby Newell, daughter of Gus and Elsie Newell in 1910, Frank bought Guy Newell's ranch on the East Fork of Rutherford Creek.

Ruby and Frank's children were Mabel, Helen, Frances, Elsie, Frank, Dorothy and Ruby.

Frank worked in sawmills in the area and on the local ranches, breaking horses for several of them. In 1924 he had a shingle mill making shingles for the many homestead houses in the area.

Frank and Ruby's brand was F-5. After a few years they sold their ranch to Lisle Pexton and moved to a homestead over the mountain a mile to the west. In 1927 Frank sold this place to the Pextons and moved away. The draw where they last lived is still called Spracklen Draw.

Frank died on May 20, 1943 in Redding, California. Ruby did on March 17, 1953, also in Redding.

Audrey Bayne



L. to R.: Guy Spracklen and Slim Dunham

In a few years they moved to Chadron, Nebraska. From there he worked for the railroad as far north as Thermopolis, Wyoming. Two infants died while he was on this job.

George and Wilmina homesteaded on Upper LaPrele Creek. The homestead was east of the Sullivan Ranch on what is now called the Spracklen Draw.

The children of George and Wilmina were: John Simon (born Sept. 20, 1883 in Belle Plain, Iowa), Charles Vernon (born June 12, 1885 in Chadron, Nebraska), Frank Marques (born Aug. 29, 1890 in Glenrock, Wyoming), twins: Willard Ross and Willis Richard (born in Douglas, Wyoming on Aug. 20, 1894), Druzella (born Apr. 8, 1900 at Beaver, Wyoming), and Guy (born Nov. 15, 1898 at Beaver, Wyoming).

Wilmina died in 1901; she is buried at the Pioneer Cemetery, north of the town of Douglas.

George sold his ranch and moved to Kansas but returned to Wyoming and then moved to Montana. He remarried and had one step-daughter. He died in Glendive, Montana in 1927.

John married Gladys Braae, daughter of Andrew and Hattie Braae. They lived on a homestead on the east fork of Reid Creek. It was south of where Charles Pexton lives now. After selling to C. D. Zimmerman in the 1920s the family moved to Sandpoint, Idaho to be close to Gladys' mother. John died June 26, 1957. Gladys is living in Washington.

Charles married Hulda Olin, daughter of Erick and Birtha Olin, in 1908. Charles or Vern as he was known, worked for the Fred Anthony dray firm before they moved in 1914 to a homestead northeast of Douglas on Sand Creek not too far from Bear Creek. Their children are Charles, Marvin, Grace, Mae, Elmer and Lester. Charles

## Spracklen, George and Wilmina

This story begins in 1863. I, Patrica Magee, do not know my great grandmother's name but she lived in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Her husband, a soldier for the Union Army, had been severely wounded and died during the Civil War.

She met a lady in the post office, named Sara Bricker, and her daughter Wilmina. The Brickers later moved to Belle Plain, Iowa and bought a farm.

Mrs. Spracklen stayed in Ohio and raised three sons: George, John and Charles. In 1881 Mrs. Spracklen died and son George went to Iowa looking for work and found the Bricker family.

George and Wilmina fell in love and married in 1882.



Willis R. Spracklen and Douglas Spracklen, 1930

died Jan. 31, 1938, and Hulda May 17, 1962.

Frank married Ruby Newell. (See Frank Spracklen story).

Willard died at the age of one year and a half and is buried in the Pioneer Cemetery.

Guy married Bessie Smith on June 30, 1927 in Billings, Montana. He also homesteaded near the Charles Pexton place, later moving to Douglas where they operated a restaurant and a trucking business until moving to California where he found work in the defense factories. Three children were born to them, two were twins. They both died in Nevada. Guy on Oct. 17, 1978 in Sparks.

Druzella was put in a convent in Cheyenne when her father went to Kansas, later she lived with the Rice family in Glenrock and lived with her older brother, Charles V. and his wife for awhile before her marriage when she moved to Montana. She had a beauty shop for awhile before her death Aug. 22, 1974.

Willis married Mildred Poirot, the daughter of Emile and Nevada Poirot. Their homestead was on Indian Creek located south of where Tim Pexton lives now. Willis served in World War I while with the Fourth Company, First Battalion of the 164th D.B.

Willis and Mildred's children are: Quentin "Bud," Patricia, George, Richard, Douglas, Willis A. and Eugene.

School was held at the Mills Place nearby to the Spracklens. It was here that Quentin and Patricia were taught in the first grade by Margaret Southwick.

In about 1927 Willis and his family moved to North Horseshoe Creek west of Glendo, Wyoming. School was held in a rural school nearby. In 1934 the family moved to Glendo to let the older children go to high school. After

living there they moved to a place located on Horseshoe Creek where the county road makes the first crossing going west. It was here that two tragedies struck the family. The first was the death of Eugene who died on Feb. 29, 1935 of scarlet fever. The other tragedy happened on May 30, 1935. Pat Spracklen Magee tells about it in the following narrative:

"It had been a very rainy spring and the ground was saturated. We did not know there had been a cloud burst on Horseshoe Creek west of us. The people living on Macfarlane's ranch warned the people below by phone letting them know of the wall of water coming down the creek. As we didn't have a phone, the man living up above us didn't have time to tell us about the water before it reached us.

"The time was six or six thirty p.m. My father and mother went out to milk the cows after we ate a light supper. My brothers Richard, Douglas and Willis and I were washing the dishes. My other brothers, Quentin and George were taking the calves out to another pasture after bucket feeding them.

"All at once we heard the roaring and looked out the window toward the corral. Mother and Father were letting the milk cows out of the gate as the water was already floating the cows around inside. They rushed to the house to take care of us. The water filled the basement and the floors had raised until it was like trying to climb a dome to reach the front door. As we left the front porch, it fell off the foundation.

"We managed to reach the county road but the water was so swift it swept us off the road into the barrow pit and into the fence on the lower side. I received scratches



Spracklen family, 1929. Top row: Unknown, unknown, Lou Riddly, Chuck Bricker, unknown, Dee Bricker, unknown, Guy Spracklen, Frank Spracklen, Willis Spracklen, Ed Bricker, Allie Bricker, Vern Spracklen, Hulda Spracklen, Theron Roberts and Cecil Miller.

Middle row: Ruby Spracklen Jr., Ruby Spracklen holding Dorothy, Helen Spracklen, Elsie Spracklen, Patricia Spracklen, Mabel Spracklen, Mrs. Riddly, unknown, Grace Spracklen, Bessie Spracklen holding Guy Jr., unknown, Mildred Spracklen holding Willis A., Mina Roberts and Mae Spracklen.

Bottom row: Douglas Spracklen, Elmer Spracklen, Lester Spracklen, Frank Spracklen, 'Bud' Spracklen, Chuck Spracklen, Randall Bricker, Dick Spracklen and George Spracklen.



Artesian well on the Vern Spracklen ranch. L. to R.: Mae Spracklen, Martha Dawson, Marvin, Grace and Elmer Spracklen

on my ankles and thighs. At this point it was decided that each one of us would take one of the boys and try to get out in pairs because if we stayed all together we would all drown. I took Richard, Mother had Douglas and Father took Willis. We had no time to see what was happening to each other as we were trying to save ourselves as best we could. Richard and I were swept to the left with the water over waist deep, the current was very swift. Richard had cramps and was partly unconscious. I had lost one shoe and to keep my footing I dug the heel of the other shoe into the ground. I was holding Richard's head above water and praying for help. I was doing all I could do.

"In the meantime my two older brothers were working their way around to come in from the north to get us. They got to us in time to help us out onto drier ground and they went on to help Father and Willis who had passed out from the cramps. I pushed and pulled Richard toward our nearest neighbor, who had come to help us. By this time Richard had passed out completely. They took him in their car to their house and then came back to help Mother and Father. They worked over Willis and Richard all night to bring them back from their unconsciousness.

"It was not until daylight that I was told that Mother and Douglas had not been found. After daylight they went back to look for them and found them bound by the wire from the fence hooked to a tree. They were still together. They were buried beside my brother Eugene, in the Glendo Cemetery.

"My mother and I had decorated Eugene's grave on Memorial Day. My mother missed him very much and I have always felt she knew somehow that she would be with him sooner than any of us knew. She was so sweet and loving that day, more so than usual. She was a wonderful mother and taught me more in my first 15 years than some girls learn in a lifetime. This teaching was a great help to me as I was to manage our home until I was married in 1938 to Ray Magee."

In 1941 Willis sold the ranch to Bill Morton and moved to Douglas where he bought the Plains Motel from Clark Bishop. He also had a little grocery store where he sold groceries and gas. Willis later married Marguerite Goodwin White Roe. Willis died on Sept. 8, 1974.

Patrica Spracklen Magee

## Springer, John and Henry

After going West to Idaho in 1879 from Sullivan County, Missouri by wagon train, the Springer brothers, Henry (born 1860) and John (born 1863) decided to head east. In 1882, Henry was married to Alice Bottenburg in Green City, Missouri. They then returned to Idaho, but shortly afterwards headed back east again and came to the Laramie Peak area settling two miles east of John Newell.

Mrs. Henry Springer was a little woman weighing eighty-seven pounds and four feet eleven inches tall. The story is related by her granddaughter that "Alice was so short she had to knead her bread on a chair seat."

John Springer was married to Alice Bottenburg's sister Mary. Mary died of "Valley Fever" shortly after moving to Wyoming.

The Springer brothers were horse breeders and traders having traded with the Umatilla Indians in Idaho, then trailing them back to Nebraska where they sold them to the cavalry at a post near present-day Bridgeport. While living in Wyoming they pursued the livelihood of breeding and running horses.

In 1890 Henry, Alice and daughter, Odessa, along with John Springer, moved to the Mitchell Valley in Nebraska.

John R. Pexton

## Steffen, John and Louise Family

When the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad came through to Wyoming in 1886, J. J. Steffen came with it. J. J. had studied and served as an apprentice to a pharmacist and now was ready to set up a drug store of his own.

Towns were set up along the railroad route and Douglas and Lusk were founded the same year, 1886. J. J. set up a pharmacy in Lusk in 1886 and the next year, 1887, he set up one in Douglas where the R. D. Pharmacy now stands.

J. J. Steffen was born May 10, 1855 in France and probably came to this country as a child. He met and married Louise E. Ireland in Muscotine County, Iowa on February 21, 1878. Their first son, Murry J. Steffen was



Return from a successful hunting trip, 1910. Ben Steffen, John Orwin and A. R. Merritt.



born in Muscotine County, Iowa on January 12, 1880. He lived to the age of eleven years, two months and five days and died in Lusk, Wyoming, March 17, 1891. Other children of J. J. and Louise were Benton J., called Ben or B. J., who was born in Adair County, Iowa, September 20, 1883; Lorraine, who was born November 24, 1887 in Lusk, Wyoming and Louis Vernon, born September 12, 1894 in Douglas, Wyoming.

After J. J.'s drug store in Douglas was pretty well established, he sold the one in Lusk. He called the Douglas store, the Steffen Drug Store. Years later, when young Ben joined him, it was called J. J. Steffen and Son Drug Store. The Palace Fountain, a real fancy soda fountain was located in the basement of the Steffen Drug. It was one of the popular meeting places of the town, especially for the young folks.

J. J. Steffen took a very active part in the affairs of Douglas and the state of Wyoming. He was an officer in the Rough Riders of Wyoming. Few people realize that the Rough Riders of Teddy Roosevelt fame usurped this name from the Rough Riders of Wyoming, the Second U.S. Volunteer Cavalry that was officially organized at Fort D. A. Russell in Cheyenne in 1898 (Fort Russell is now Francis E. Warren Air Force Base). The Rough Riders were part of the Wyoming National Guard, started during the Spanish American War and organized under Colonel Jay L. Torrey, an Embar, Wyoming rancher. The Rough Riders of Wyoming were made up of "cowboys, ranchers, expert riders and ropers, hunters, miners, horseshoers." All splendid specimens of physical manhood joined the riders. It was originally organized against the Indian threat and cattle and sheep disputes.

J. J. Steffen was an officer in the Rough Riders of Wyoming group. His son, Ben, was a member also, as was Arthur Cook, a brother of Mrs. Ben Steffen.

J. J. also belonged to the Douglas Cornet Band from the time it was organized in about 1887. From the town paper of February 25, 1887, "The band boys covered themselves with glory last night at their first annual concert. It was held at Drury's Opera House and after the concert followed a ball and refreshments."

A quote from the "Budget" of February 28, 1912, "Harry Ruhl was up from Lost Springs last Thursday to help at the Band ball. Mr. Ruhl has missed but one dance out of the 21 the boys have given, and that was the year he was in Indiana. Mr. Ruhl and J. J. Steffen are the only two charter members of the Douglas Band organized shortly after the town started, that are still here."

Besides a good musician, J. J. was a great collector of western artifacts, mostly Indian artifacts. In fact he was recognized as having the finest collection of Western and Indian artifacts in the U.S.A. He finally sold his collection to a museum in Denver.

J. J. was a Mason of the 32nd degree. He was a member of four lodges, Casper, Cheyenne, Douglas and Lusk. He was also a Shriner and traveled all over to meetings.

He was mayor of Douglas in about 1910 and also served as county commissioner.

He and his family also were part owners of the Opera House on Third Street at one time. From the paper of November 28, 1900, "Mr. J. R. Slaughter yesterday sold to Messrs. A. D. Cook (who was Mrs. Benton Steffen's dad)

and J. J. Steffen, the opera house on Third Street for \$800. The new proprietors plan to make it into a modern showcase (for emodramas, plays and programs, etc.)"

J. J. and Mrs. Steffen's son, Benton J. married Ethel M. Cook. Their children were Florence Louise (who never married) and Janet L. who married Bernard Van Dine. Their children were John and Jane Van Dine. Another daughter, Beatrice C. Steffen, married Bernard's brother, Richard. Beatrice and Richard have one daughter, Janet, who married Robert Harris. Their children are Joyce, Greg, Judy, Julie and Richard Harris.

J. J. Steffen died April 24, 1914 in Douglas and his wife, Louise E., died September 29, 1923.

B. J. Steffen died June 26, 1952 in Douglas. He was a very quiet man in comparison to his father, J. J. His idea of a good time was to go to his cabin in the mountains. He wasn't much of a joiner.

Lorraine Steffen worked many years in Steffen Drug Store. She died at Douglas, March 20, 1975.

Louis Vernon Steffen, a veteran of World War I, lived in Douglas up until the time he married and moved then to Kansas where he lived until his death on October 18, 1972.

Faun D. Cole

As told by Richard Van Dine

## Steinle, Adolf and Louise Family

Gustaf Adolf Steinle was born in 1872, a year after the formation of the Second German Reich of which Otto Von Bismark was Chancellor. Adolf, as he was always called, had an older brother and two sisters. The Steinle family was considered well-to-do in Germany, and Adolf must have had a good education, for he spoke French and possibly Italian as well as his native German. Later in life, he would pick up a Swiss dialect and broken English. He was trained as a cooper, a maker of wooden barrels, and completed his compulsory military training in the German cavalry. On September 27, 1897, he married Louise Benninger. Their first business venture was in owning and operating a mountain resort, probably near Ehrenstetten, Germany. Louise prepared meals for the guests. She'd taken cooking lessons while spending time in England and when someone ordered trout, her young husband would go out and catch one with his bare hands. Later, Adolf and Louise moved to Basel, Switzerland, where he worked as a superintendent in a wine distillery. Their sons, born in Germany, were named Ernest William and Frederick Otto. Two little girls, Elisabeth Hedwig (later known as Betty) and Rose Helen, were born to them in Switzerland.

In May of 1911, Adolf, his wife, and the children said goodbye to the old country and family. Their ship was the *Chicago* and they were headed to the land of opportunity, America. The sea was rough, and Louise was seasick during much of the crossing. Ernest and Frederick, ages 12 and 11, found life on board very exciting. They discovered that they could spread their coats to the wind, set their feet and "sail" across the icy decks. They had to watch for the ship's officers, though, who tried to prevent this dangerous pastime. The boys must have been under-



foot a lot, for once a bothered seaman held Fred out over the sea by his suspenders and threatened to let go! Upon arrival in America, the Steinles stayed briefly with one of Louise's cousins in Sandusky, Ohio, then moved to Findlay, Ohio, and finally to Omaha, Nebraska. They remained there for five or six years. Adolf had immigrated with the intention of settling in the west and he was interested in both Wyoming and Montana. Wyoming won and in 1917 Adolf traveled there with Ernest, now 19. Adolf filed claim on a section of land with a small lake about two miles north of what is now Bill, Wyoming. They built a dugout on the north shore of the lake, and soon Louise, Fred and Rose joined them. Betty came later after she completed some courses she was taking at a business college in Omaha.

Louise later looked back on their times in the dugout as some of their happiest. Although it was crowded and had a dirt floor, it was cool in summer and warm in winter. Twelve year old Rose, who had been very frail, attended school a mile and a half away. Her mother said years later that the sweetest sound she ever heard was that of Rose scraping the bottom of the pan to get the last little bits of food.

They didn't stay in the dugout for long. Adolf was a man with ideas, and he had the energy and ingenuity to make them work. His first project was a nice home. It was built of sunbaked homemade adobe bricks. They tromped the mud and straw with their feet, and Adolf used a hot water heater tank with a lever-run plunger to press out the bricks. The whole family took turns providing the lever power and it must have been hard work because both girls complained about it years later. When the house was finished it had a basement, four rooms upstairs, and a porch on the south side. The place would later boast a barn, workshop and ice-house, all built of rock gathered by hand and transported by wagon. Ice was cut from their lake in winter, stored in the ice-house and used in summer to make ice cream and other treats. Since the Steinle place was a convenient day's drive from Douglas, overnight guests were very common. They found the Steinle ice especially refreshing.

The family dug their own coal from a coal mine about eight miles north, on Woody Creek. Louise kept a big garden, lots of chickens and milk cows to sell the cream. It took Adolf three days to go to town; one to get there, one to do business and let the horses rest, and one to drive home. In a pinch, the trip could be accomplished in two days. There was mail service twice a week, and the Steinles sent cream and eggs to town with the mailman.

Of course, Fred and Ernie were not young men to enjoy all work and no play. They built a boat for use on their lake, and dances and other entertainments were easy to find. They would saddle up when evening came and join the other young folk riding to where the fun was: at Dull Center, Dry Creek or String Town (six to eight miles southeast of Dry Creek). When they arrived back home at daybreak they would find their father up and organizing the day's tasks for them. Adolf didn't allow "dumbheida" (foolishness) to get in the way of work.

Inevitably, the children began to leave home. Betty soon went to Casper to make use of her secretarial skills. She had met George Boyle while at business college, and she found that he was also working for the Standard Oil

Co. where she was a secretary. He came into the office to do his paperwork and he proposed by dictating a love letter to her. They were married on June 26, 1920. She was 18 and he was 31. They moved to Mills, Wyoming where they owned a general store which Betty ran while George continued to work at the refinery.

With the homestead spruced up to their satisfaction, the Steinle men began to buy cattle. To obtain money to do this, Adolf, Ernie and Fred took turns working at the refinery in Casper. Casper was booming and jobs were always available. They stayed with Betty and George and helped in the store part time for their keep. Once during this time, Adolf walked home from Douglas through several inches of snow in order to be with his family for Christmas. It was during one of Fred's stints there that he met his future wife, Mildred Parkhurst. They met at a St. Patrick's Day dance, a meeting Fred claimed to have engineered. It seems he had watched her while hiding behind the counter of the Boyles' store and decided that she was the girl for him. Three months and ten days later, on June 27, 1923, they were married. Both Fred and Ernie had bought relinquishments on homesteads as soon as they were old enough, and Fred had obtained a leave-of-absence from his in order to earn money to improve the homestead. When that time was up, the couple moved out to the homestead four miles north of Dry Creek until they could prove up. A few months later, the Douglas bank that held their entire savings of \$170 went bankrupt and plans had to be changed. So early in 1924 they moved back to Casper where Fred would work in the refinery. A close neighbor and friend, Chris Neilson, gave them a ride to town in his one-seater, one-half windshield car. For some reason, they had a large supply of chewing gum along and, as it turned out, it was a good thing because the gas line had a leak that had to be plugged. So the young Steinles, Mildred, perched on Fred's lap, chewed madly all the way to town, stopping every few miles to replace the gum plug that the gasoline kept dissolving! While living in Casper, Mildred made the journey to the homestead alone in order to be there the week out of every month necessary to prove up on the place.

Rose was the next Steinle to leave the nest. At 18 she was working at her sister and brother-in-law's store. At 20 she married Hedrick Chromer Nelson, aged 25, at her parents' ranch. They too took up residence in Casper. Hed enjoyed hunting on the ranch and even ran some cattle.

About this time, Ernie began to court Mary Riehle, the oldest daughter of a homesteader five miles to the south. They met at an area party and Ernie was immediately impressed. That summer, Ernie spent a lot of time with the Riehle family, but Mary had two younger sisters; and it wasn't until they all spent a day at Natural Bridge (west of Douglas), that it was certain just which girl was being courted. There Ernie carefully presented a wild Mariposa lily to each young lady, a single blossom each for the two sisters and a double blossom for Mary. They were married three years later, a long wait made necessary by Ernie's determination that things were to be just right for his bride. His homestead relinquishment was six miles north of the Dry Creek Hall on the Cheyenne River. With the aid of a horse-drawn slip he dug a hole to build a basement house with thick stone walls.

He farmed a field near the river and bought a few cattle. An extra cash crop of navy beans, hulled by hand in the evenings, paid for Mary's diamond engagement ring. Mary kept busy too, working at home and in Douglas taking care of the old Aunt Lucy of Mrs. Brenner. She used the money to buy dishes, linens, and other necessities. The wedding was set for May 2, 1928, to be held at the parsonage of the Methodist Church in Douglas. It rained hard the night before, and the wedding party had great difficulty getting through the 30-some miles of mud to town and had to back over the "divide" ten miles out to accommodate the gravity fed fuel supply. They did succeed in tying the knot, and when a charivari party arrived at their place some days later and the rifles began to sound, Ernest joined in with his own rifle, just as delighted as could be.

By this time, Adolf and Louise were grandparents many times over, and their daughter, Betty, had died of blood poisoning from a boil.

In the early 30s there came a series of drought years. When Adolf's house well became too low to draw water for the livestock, (the lake having gone dry some time before) he had to drive them to Dry Creek for watering every day. Both he and Ernie had to put up thistles for hay because it was the only thing that seemed to grow. All this discouraged Adolf from remaining at the ranch, and in 1933, when the Billings, Montana, brewery reopened after prohibition and advertised for experienced help, he applied and was accepted. He soon built a large home there.

At this time Ernie and Mary were the only Steinles remaining in Converse County. They milked cows to sell the cream in town during their early years and raised crops including potatoes, beans, corn and cane. They ran cattle and managed Adolf's place for him as well. During the dry years, Ernie hauled water a quarter mile to keep a garden alive, and they survived. Bad times would come again in future grassless years, Ernie would attach a wide boom of burners to a propane tank which in turn was mounted on a trailer. Pulling it behind a tractor, he burned the spines off acres of cactus, and the cattle ate it and grew fat.

In the early '40s they were briefly joined by other members of the family. Fred's boys, Dick and John, moved to their parents' homestead. Dick had bought a bunch of old ewes to lamb in the spring, and John, still in grade school, was along to keep him company. The ewes were mountain sheep and didn't do too well, but not for lack of ingenuity on Dick's part. He fixed a saddle-like harness with a tall flag waving from it. This, tied to various ewes' backs, was intended to scare the coyotes away. His design for false teeth for the old ewes was thought worth patenting. In this he took after his grandpa. Adolf would tackle anything from building his own tractor to fixing his wife's false teeth, and succeed. Aware that he would soon be drafted, Dick sold out after a year and the Ernie Steinles were alone again.

The end of WWII enabled Ernie and Mary to buy surrounding land and the ranch grew. Adolf built his wife a retirement home in Billings. Rose was divorced from Hed Nelson and moved to Billings too. In 1949 Adolf sold his stock to Ernie. Adolf and Louise continued to love Converse County though. On a visit during the '50s they

chanced to find the fair in progress and many of their old neighbors in town. They so enjoyed renewing the old ties that they felt this was their real home and asked to be buried in Douglas. In 1957, at the age of 81, Louise Benninger Steinle died. Adolf stayed with Ernie and Mary for a short time, then with Fred and Mildred on the Bates Creek ranch they had bought in the Casper mountains. He passed away on January 14, 1960, one month to the day after his 88th birthday. Both were buried in Douglas.

In Converse County, Bill, Ernie and Mary's oldest, married Connie Whiting and soon they bought the old Rupe place just four miles east of his parents' ranch. He ranched on his own and worked for his parents. When Ernie began to fail, their younger son, Carl, moved to the ranch to help care for him. When Ernie passed away on October 8, 1979, the Steinle ranch was put into a partnership involving Mary and her three children, Bill, Carl and Betty.

Karla K. Steinle

## Stephens, Edward and Letty

Edward Joel Stephens was born March 21, 1892 in Fayette County, St. Elmo, Illinois. He was the oldest of seven children having two brothers and four sisters. His parents were Joel Julius Stephens and Edna Ross Stephens. He spent most of his early childhood around Mattoon, Illinois.

Ed's father, Joel Julius, a charter member of the brotherhood of railroads, was dragged across the Illinois Central Railroad yards by the cow catcher on a train engine. He was too badly injured to be of any use to the railroads and having no pension and no disability pay he decided to go west. So he shipped his son, Ed, cows and furniture in freight cars to Arkansas and the rest of the family went by covered wagon. From there they went to Oklahoma, where they spent a year or so. Then, due to lack of jobs and malaria being so bad, they went to Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Here they met up with the Fisch family who they discovered had also come from Oklahoma and that they too had rented land from the Indians and had lived close to where the Stephens had lived.

In 1909 they all left Steamboat Springs and came to Casper by covered wagon. They crossed the Platte River just below the Pathfinder Dam which was being constructed.

On December 25, 1912 Ed was united in marriage to Lucy Arletta Fisch, "Letty" as all her friends called her, was born at Parkensburg, West Virginia on February 3, 1895. She was the only daughter of Harriet Bennet Fisch and William Clark Fisch. She had five brothers. Her brother, Herman Fisch, had homesteaded in Deer Creek Park and has lived around here all his life. She also had two brothers who were burned in a gas explosion as young men in West Virginia.

Ed and Letty homesteaded in Deer Creek Park, where two children were born, Melvin and Helen. At this time, Ed worked in a chrome mine in Deer Creek Canyon. While he was away from home a mountain lion got up on the roof of the house where Letty was staying with her two babies. Needless to say this gave her some

anxious moments.

They moved to Casper in 1916, Ed and his father freighted one winter to the Salt Creek oil fields. After the moved to Casper, four sons were born, William Clark, Chester Joel, Wesley and Edward Daniel. Two of the sons died in childhood from diphtheria.

Ed drove a dray one winter for Townsend in Casper, then went to work for the Standard Refinery, where he worked for 23 years.

In 1934 they bought a ranch on Deer Creek where the family moved to a couple years before Ed quit the refinery and made ranching his full time occupation.

Ed and Letty did a lot of traveling; they both loved to fish. Ed liked his gardening and hunting. Letty also liked her fishing, painting and fancy work.

When Ed was a teenager he had typhoid fever. He lost all his hair and when it came back in it was pure white.

They made their home on Deer Creek where Ed was a member of the Masonic Lodge #22 and charter member of Converse County Farm Bureau, president of the board of the PMA and a census taker for the county.

Letty died in 1958 and Ed in 1963. Their son, William, died in 1972 and their daughter, Helen, in 1976.

Laura Smith Stevens

## Stevens, James and Alma

James Madison Stevens, the son of Logan and Rose Stevens, was born September 4, 1898 at Page, Nebraska. James was named after his grandfather, James M. Stevens who served in the Civil War and was with Sherman when he marched to the sea. James spent his childhood at Page and as a young boy he moved with his parents and sister to Broadwater, Nebraska where he attended grade school and high school. He moved to the Douglas area in late May, 1920 and filed on a homestead in the Dry Creek Community, north of Douglas.

Alma Copenhaver was born at Pawnee City, Nebraska, May 23, 1896. James and Alma were married on June 2, 1920 in Douglas. They lived on James' homestead for a few years and then they bought the Verse Store. After selling the store they bought a farm west of Douglas. He worked several years for the LaPrele Ditch



Alma and Jim Stevens, 1927

Company and then he worked for the County Assessor as a deputy assessor. They sold the farm and moved into Douglas in 1962.

James and Alma enjoyed fishing. They spent many hours sitting on the banks of the Glendo Reservoir waiting for the fish to bite. They also liked to hunt elk in the Dubois area. James collected John Deere cast iron trucks and tractors. In early years James threshed for neighbors. Alma was a school teacher and taught for several years, before and after she was married. She was active in club work, church, Sunday school, etc. She liked sheep and took care of bum lambs on the homestead.

James died on March 20, 1982.

Pansy Stevens Carson

## Stevenson, Lulu Valora Rhodes

My mother, Lulu Valora Rhodes Stevenson, homesteaded for 14 months, from September 10, 1918 to November 10, 1919 on 150 acres about a mile and one half west of Lost Springs, Wyoming. She was not the one who originally filed on the land and would never have heard of it if she hadn't gone to Wyoming with my sister, Athol.

In 1917, while we were living in Sholes, Nebraska, my father, Brougham Stevenson, bought a 120 acre relinquishment a few miles northeast (I believe) of Lost Springs from the station agent whose wife refused to go to Wyoming to homestead. That fall we moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa where Athol was teaching school for her second year, but not enjoying being a teacher, Papa offered her the relinquishment. She accepted it happily, took a few days off from school to go out to file on the land and when school was out in the spring, set off for Wyoming.

Mama, who was in poor health, went with her not only so that Athol wouldn't be alone but also in hopes that her health would improve in a different climate.

Papa (a landsalesman), Charlotte (my younger sister), who was in high school, and I, Emeline Stevenson, who was working for the C. E. Laustrup Music Co., stayed behind.

Shortly after they arrived, Mama heard of another relinquishment for sale. This one only about a mile and a half from town, and she persuaded Papa to buy it for her so that she could prove up on it while Athol was proving up on her land.

So now they had two homesteads, neither of which had any improvements. This was during World War I. Many men were in the service and the ones who were left were swamped with work. Although some carpenters had just come to town they had so much work ahead of them that it was August before they finished Athol's house and Mama was not able to move into hers until the tenth of September.

In the meantime they stayed with the Woodwards who lived just out of town. Mr. Woodward, manager of the lumberyard, soon went into the service. Mrs. Woodward, whose baby was less than a year old, was running the post office. Almost immediately she asked Mama to be Postmistress and she agreed. I'm not sure what arrangements they made in Washington about it but Athol wrote in her memoirs years later, "Mama loved



Lulu Stevenson and Woodward baby.

being Postmistress and as such she was loved. She knew everyone and their problems and was a friend to them all."

Mama's house 12' by 24' was not a typical homestead house, since its inside walls were plastered and its outside walls sided and painted white. But neither was it a typical middle class city house. It had two rooms with a space between them that served as a pantry at one end with a door opening into the kitchen and as a clothes closet at the other end with a door opening into the room which was a combined bedroom and sitting room.

Cooking was done on a two burner kerosene stove that had an oven that could be set on top of the burners. There was a small table in the kitchen to eat on. There was a minimum of things to work with. For example, I remember that she used a pop bottle for both a rolling pin and a potato masher.

In front of the house was a well with a pump and in back a coal shed and toilet. On wash days clothes were draped over sagebrush bushes to dry.

Athol wrote about that first fall, "The winter season had now opened and people were getting ready for cold weather. An almost steady stream of wagons taking coal home from the Onyon Mine passed along the road the other side of Mama's fence. About once a week the little train from the mine chugged into town, the tracks ran just back of Mama's house, and if we signaled they stopped and took us to town and brought us home. This

was a real favor because if we bought five pounds of wheat flour we also had to buy five pounds of rice and five pounds of cornmeal and/or five pounds of rye or barley flour. (This was a war regulation.) It also enabled us to carry home the stack of Omaha papers that had accumulated together with the very welcome letters."

People were understandably confused when one spoke about the Onyon (pronounced onion) Mine but that was the name of the mine owners.

Mama and Athol came home for Christmas and I was so thrilled by their stories of Wyoming that I would have liked to go back with them, but I didn't feel that I could afford to leave my good job at the music store. I had started out in September at \$15 a week but had two raises and was now getting \$17 a week. But later it occurred to me that since I knew a certain amount about music, perhaps if I went to Lost Springs I could work up a music class there teaching piano. Mr. Laustrup assured me that if I did go he would have a place for me to work when I returned. So late in April, on a beautiful day, I boarded the train going west.

Since it was an overnight trip there were Pullman accommodations and although Aunt Bess had packed a generous lunch for me, I chose to go to the diner for dinner. Aunt Bess had also packed a big box of food, a roast of beef, a fried chicken and a cake, as a gift for Mama and Athol, all of which was later to be most welcome.

During the night, an unexpected blizzard came up and the train stalled several miles east of Chadron, Nebraska. The diner had been taken off after the evening meal so food for the passengers was a real problem. I gladly shared what food I had but generous as Aunt Bess had been it didn't even feed those in our coach. People in the other coaches had to wait until some of the hardier men made their way through the snow to Chadron and brought back coffee and bread toward noon.

By late afternoon the railroad company had found transportation to move all of us to Chadron where we were given dinner, sleeping quarters and breakfast at their expense. We were a day late getting into Lost Springs.

As soon as I could, I set about organizing a music class and soon had a sizable one. One day a week I went by train to Manville and another day of the week, also by train, I went to Shawnee. To reach pupils on farms around Lost Springs I either borrowed a horse from William Vandegrift, whom Athol later married, or the Buick of Earl Cannon whom I was dating.

In May, as soon as her school was out, Charlotte joined us. With her came a cousin, Hazel Ayre, who was her age.

I always remember that summer as something special. We all felt the charm of Wyoming. The skies seemed bluer than Iowa skies. There was the delicious smell of sage when we brushed the bushes as we walked to town. The meadowlarks put an extra note in their little song that their eastern cousins forgot or had never known. Occasionally we'd see a coyote and always we'd hear them barking at night. Life was pleasant. There were horses to ride and picnics and weekend dances to go to. Many evenings a group of young people would gather on or around the stoop at Mama's front door and sing



"Till We Meet Again", "The Alcoholic Blues" (this was during prohibition), "Good Morning Mr. Zip, Zip, Zip" and other songs of the era. One of the boys brought a banjo to add an accompaniment.

Hazel went home in a month but Charlotte stayed on through the summer. One day Charlotte and I had an invitation to visit a friend, Elva Randa, for a week. She had a homestead about 40 miles away, near Oil City. We rode out (for a dollar a piece) with Mr. Coggeshell, a homesteader who once a week took mail in his truck past Elva's place and on to the Duell ranch.

The mail truck was a small open one, the seat was uncomfortable, the road was bumpy and we stopped at every homesteader's mailbox along the way. We were glad when we reached Elva's place but our trip was not to end there. Elva came out to the truck, said she knew the Duells well and had decided that we would all go on to their ranch and spend the night.

Unexpected as we were, the Duells gave us a warm welcome. That night we four women slept crosswise on their one bed and the men used bedrolls out in the yard.

After breakfast the next morning I took some pictures. I am enclosing one of the mail truck. This was all 64 years ago and my memory is vague about who the extra people are. Maybe the Duells had neighbors or maybe since this was the end of the mail line, the Duells had a post office of sorts and someone who came by for his mail joined us. After the pictures, the mail truck started on the trip home and we went with it.

Our stay at Elva's one room tar paper shack was interesting. We visited Oil City, not much of a place. We went sage chicken and rabbit hunting, talked over old times in Nebraska where we had once all lived and listened to worn records on her little phonograph. Her steel needles had finally worn out and she improvised by using cactus spines. It sounded all right but the music was soft. Charlotte and I went home on the next mail truck trip.

We managed surprisingly well to get along without either a horse or a car of our own. Generally we walked back and forth to town since it was only a mile and a half. Occasionally we took advantage of the little coal train but there were problems trying to use it. We never knew what day or what time of day it would make its weekly trip. When we saw or heard it coming we had to hurry outside to signal and then make our way through a long stretch of cactus and a barbed wire fence to the tracks. Then we stood in the cab to ride to town.

But in August, Papa wrote to say he had gotten a new car and would send the Maxwell to us by Charley Frey who would drive it as far as Chadron. Aunt Bess, he said, would be with him. Mama and I went by train to meet them. Charley took a train home and I was in charge of getting us back to the homestead. What a trip it was. Roads were almost non-existent in places, high centers were a constant menace and we kept getting stuck in deep sand. Often, the poor old Maxwell couldn't make it up a hill and somebody had to give it a helping hand. Mama wrote this letter to papa about it:

"Lost Springs, Wyoming  
August 20, 1919

"Dearly Beloved,  
Emeline and I went to Chadron Sunday afternoon and



Coggeshell's mailtruck. It ran north from Lost Springs.

got back to Lost Springs Tuesday night. Charley had some things to get fixed on the car and we didn't get started until 4 o'clock. We got off the road three times with only a few posts and seeming cowpaths as guides. Bess and I had to push up several hills and had two days of walking and pushing. We are awfully glad to get the car and the girls have gone over it until it shines. Seems awfully good to have it out here and if you could drop in the whole family would be complete."

Now that we had the car it was of course much easier to get from place to place but it came too late to be as useful as it would have been earlier. Charlotte went back to Council Bluffs the week after we got it and Aunt Bess left soon afterwards. Life was changing. My music class dwindled when school started; and the friends who were Charlotte's age, that we had enjoyed so much while she was there; went back to school too. People began getting ready for winter. Again there was a steady stream of wagons going by with coal from the Onyon Mine. Athol was getting ready to prove up on her place after the required 14 months.

On October 3rd Mama wrote this letter to Papa.  
"Dearly Beloved,

We are having our first snow storm, but the snow melts almost as soon as it touches the ground. We are all pretty well and tomorrow we go to Douglas and Athol proves up. Cody Shippen and Joe Wanek go as witnesses. Emeline goes south this p.m. for three music scholars and tomorrow to Shawnee for six. The new bank is nearing completion and Butterfield expects to move in Sunday. We were all there for dinner last Sunday. Mr. Bowell says this bank has already paid a dividend of 60%. Elva spent Sunday with us. She is fencing her whole place and next year expects to rent it for \$300 for pasture. She and Elsie have sold much garden truck at the oil fields."

Athol went back to Council Bluffs shortly after proving up but I stayed with Mama until after November 10 when her 14 months were over. She proved up on her place with no contest. Like Athol she paid \$1.25 an acre and the land was hers.

We were sorry to leave Wyoming. Mama's health was better there than it had been for years and we had made many friends. But it was time to go home, time for our whole family to be together again. Mama leased the land for cattle grazing, left the Maxwell with William Vandegrift who was later to be my brother-in-law and we returned to Council Bluffs by train.

Emeline Stevenson Hays



## Stevick, Harry and Agnes

In 1971, my dad, Harry Harrison Stevick, wrote a fairly complete account of his early life, and life after he and Mom (Agnes Harvey Stevick) homesteaded fifty-eight miles north of Douglas on Antelope Creek. Their two homesteads and many homesteads that they bought from others, became known as the "Antelope Creek Ranch". I have had to shorten Dad's story quite a bit, particularly of his boyhood days in Cheyenne, and around the Albin country, where he spent much time with his cousins, the Malms and Palms, because of limited space, but I have tried to include some of the highlights and many stories about the days on Antelope Creek. From here on, until 1971, is an account of Dad's (and later) Mom's life in Wyoming and Converse County.

"My first recollection, I believe, is of my mother, and that is just as it should be. As I look back, she was always a wonderful woman. We lived along side of the old Cheyenne and Northern tracks, definitely the wrong side of town. In those days my father drank heavily, as did his father before him. As I look back, I can understand my grand-dad. He had served a five year enlistment in the Civil War, part of which he spent time in a Confederate prison camp. Both Dad and Grand-dad worked in the harness and saddle shop of J. S. Collins & Co. — later Collins and Morrison, when I was a youngster.

"We lived in a so-called house on Bent Street, owned by a woman by the name of Mag Heaney. She owned numerous non-descript properties on the north side of the licensed restricted district, and many of her properties were rented by women who operated without "benefit of landlords". Mag came around regularly when the rent was due, to collect. She was a real old hag, but many times she brought a bag of "penny candy". There were



Left to right: Honey, Harry and Agnes Stevick with dog "Trinket" and 1/2 Bobcat "Hitler".

huge candy replicas of bananas, strips of licorace — likerish to us) and plugs of licorace which made ideal chewing tobacco — and we chewed and spit just like the big boys did.

"All the while my Mother was trying to make a home for my sister and me. (Dad is referring to his older sister, Hazel, mother of Dr. W. A. Hinrichs of Douglas. His younger sister Alice was not born yet.) Dad had two express wagons. In those days Cheyenne had fifty saloons, of many classes, and six retail and wholesale liquor houses. Apparently Dad took care of the deliveries for the last mentioned, and took part of his pay in drinks. There was never enough money to go around so Mother always had a little garden in the backyard. She also had a few chickens, and bought some produce in the fall such as cabbage and potatoes to store in her outdoor cave. This type of produce was hauled into Cheyenne by wagon, by farmers in the Greeley and Ft. Collins area.

"The meat came from a butcher named Adam Louck (one of the jurors who found Tom Horn guilty). Mr. Louck appreciated the hard times for us and for a fifteen cent large soup bone, would always give Mother a tongue, heart, liver and kidneys, which were considered waste in the good old days.

"The first recollection I had of any unusual activity was the summer of 1898 when Colonel Torrey's Rough Riders loaded out on the train, in back of our house, to go to the Spanish American War.

"Mother always tried to give us kids a bit of "social life" too. We had numerous tea parties. The table might be an empty box from the store, but there was always a table cloth, and the refreshments could be frightfully simple, but afforded a special occasion.

"At this point I should add that Mother had been a pastry cook in the home of Senator Warren at the time of her marriage in the late eighties. She quit when she married Dad. For a wedding gift Senator Warren gave Mother and Dad a nice set of dishes from his store, the Warren Mercantile.

"Then came time for school, and my sister and I enrolled in the Corlett School — the West Side School. There we had a fabulous first grade teacher — May Brookhart. She was the first woman with whom I fell in love. An elderly neighbor lady, Auntie Lewis (no relation) encouraged us in our school work by giving us an occasional silver dollar for particularly good work. There were many kids in our neighborhood who started school the same time as we did — Fred (Fritz) Lebhardt, Bob Hanesworth, and Frank Vaura, all of whom did very well in life. Fritz was a court reporter (until his early death) and Bob ram-rodged Frontier Days for much of his early life, later transferring to the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. He also published quite a book, "The Daddy of Them All." Vaura became quite a western artist.

"About this time Dad decided we should move to a better part of town. He bought a nice little house on East 24th Street. Dad and one of his drinking companions, Walter Stoll, decided I should become a lawyer. Stoll had been the County Prosecutor who had been instrumental in getting a conviction on Tom Horn. Incidentally my family all felt Tom Horn was framed and should never have been hung. My sister and I were there when he was hung. Well, I worked for Stoll for one summer, reading

law, to become a lawyer. It soon became apparent that this was not for me, and I had no respect for Stoll, so I found another job, in the BeeHive — a forerunner of the Five and Ten. I became the advertising manager of our high school paper, and as such, I met a pioneer manufacturing jeweler, Hugo Buechner, perhaps so fine a gentleman as I have ever known. I became his apprentice for three years.

"In the course of my school years, I got a thousand dollars together, all the money in the world, so I decided to go farther north in Wyoming to start a ranch. First I landed in Newcastle, in 1916, where I got a job at the LAK. Mr. Rinehart was managing it for the Ohio Oil Company. I made a deal for a little ranch for \$6400.00. I did not have sense enough to talk to any well-informed person, but one day the banker, Mr. Beard, called me in, and told me how wrong I was. Well sir, I did not close the deal, but came down on Antelope Creek where I found the homestead on which I filed.

"World War I was getting a good start, so I wanted to go make the world safe for the Democrats. I was in the North Sea three weeks after I joined the army, and in France very shortly thereafter. I was hospitalized about the first of November 1918, in the Aerial Gunnery Base hospital at St. Jean des Monts, Vendee. The man in charge had been a coal company doctor at Gebo, north of Thermopolis. I returned to America on the hospital ship, the Manchuria. I was one of the first thousand to be returned, and one of two to be returned to Casper.

"Now began the long, long seige of trying to regain my health. I talked with so-called specialists from New York City to Colorado Springs. Finally the Good Lord directed me to the Mayo Clinic, where the difficulty, which was acute, was eventually relieved. It is partly due to those wonderful people at the Mayo Clinic that I am alive at this time.

"About this time I began to think about the ranch which I always hoped to have, but I had to replenish my funds. Upon my return to Casper the town gave a pretentious banquet for her two returned soldiers, and at that banquet a girl presented herself to me who had known some of my Douglas friends. To make a long story short, we were married (this girl was Myrtle Reaville) and the Salt Creek Oil Field seemed the best opportunity for getting ahead. This was the beginning of the Salt Creek boom. I got work on a rig building crew, and my wife went to work in the Company Commissary.

"This marriage ended up in the Divorce Court, and I felt the sun would never shine again. In the meantime I had transferred to drilling tools and tried to work myself to death. Then I was pretty well floored. I was working on a wildcat well at Nine Mile Lake, north of Casper when I had the mishap which again sent me to Rochester and back to the army hospital, Fizsimons General.

"About this time I met Agnes Harvey, at that time penmanship supervisor in the Casper-Midwest school system. She married me June 12, 1932, right out of Fitzsimons General. I was about so big a physical wreck as one could find.

"Mama (Dad always referred to his wife Agnes as Mama) filed on a homestead before we were married and her homestead house consisted of a Midwest Oil Co. garage 10'x20' galvanized iron on 2'x4' studding. I had

boarded up my own house when I went away to war, and it had been broken in to, and the entire interior removed, including doors and windows. The day of our marriage, we went to our homesteads, where we started building the ranch, known as Antelope Creek Ranch.

"We bought nine head of cows, nine calves, five heifers and a fine bull, all purebred and registered, for the sum of eight hundred fifty dollars. These cattle were bought from Greenacres at Uva (near Wheatland) and we bought the brands from Greenacres also — the open A half box, and lazy half diamond half box.

"The Veteran's Administration had classified me as permanently and totally disabled, but when I refused to present myself for examination, I never got another check from them. We had no fences and no pastures, and it was necessary to ride every day to keep our few cattle in the country. I always had to carry a pair of crutches on the horse which I rode.

"At this time the bank with whom I dealt, the Wyoming Trust Company of Casper closed its doors and transferred my account to the First National of Casper. When I attempted to borrow money the man who headed the bank literally sneered at me when he found out how little we had. Now I was up against finding another bank who would loan us money.

"I talked with a pre-World War I friend and his wife, Willard and Emma Saul. They said for me to talk to a banker friend of theirs the next morning, who turned out to be Henry Bolln. All through those depression years he dished out money to us as though it grew on trees. All concerned felt I was a great deal better than I ever was, and that knowledge prompted me to try harder and harder to live up to their expectations. Progress was frightfully slow, but we kept gaining a little each year. There just wasn't any such thing as easy money. Mr. Bolln retired and his place was taken by Wesley Wiker, who continued to be so generous with us as Mr. Bolln had been.

"Many of the homesteaders in the country had droughted out, and left the country, offering their places at the going price of a thousand to fifteen hundred dollars a section. It happened that we were among the very few people in the country who could borrow money; therefore we kept adding a section here and a section there, as our stock required, and our needs grew. At the same time there were neighbors who were extremely jealous of our ability to borrow money, and some of them added to the many difficulties which presented. Some of the nearby homesteaders who hung on, but had nothing, ran quite a bit of stock — usually on us. We fenced and rode from daylight until dark, in an effort to keep them out. I might add that we were one of the few people in the area who hired surveyors, mainly L. C. Bishop, later State Engineer of Wyoming.

"In the course of all these happenings, we had a little boy. In the Good Lord's wisdom we could not keep him, and I felt the sun would never shine again. Mama's faith carried her through and the Good Lord helped me. Then the Honey came, the finest strongest baby girl who ever lived. Anyone who ever knew her can say she is the finest and most competent woman who ever lived.

"For the most part the time on the ranch was a particularly happy time. We never felt that we owned the land at all — only that the Good Lord allowed us a time on

it and that He expected us to leave it better than we found it. That I am sure we did. We had many antelope and many wonderful friends who came to hunt, during the season, though in later years we had to try to limit the hunting, after Highway 59 went through, so more people traveled into the country. Mama fed everybody who came along, at all hours of the day and night, and many people spent nights with us. We were never alone at the ranch. In the summer we had my sister's three kids, (Dr. Bill Hinrichs of Douglas, and his sisters, Bonnie and Catherine) my war-buddie's kids from New Jersey and others. The place was alive with wild riding kids. We did not want the Honey to grow up alone.

"All the time our cattle were increasing in number and quality. We fitted approximately twenty-five head of bulls and heifers which we took to the National Western Polled Hereford Show and Sale in Denver. We placed a pen of three to the Grand Championship and the top bull was retained by one of the best Hereford breeders in the business to mate with registered horned Herefords. The Honey was the ramrod, and since they were Grand Champion, they made the cover of the Polled Hereford World — with the Honey, of course.

"I should mention that I was a real old-fashioned boy. I felt that cars and trucks were just a passing fancy, and that there would again be a market for horses. We raised hundreds of beautiful Belgians and many fine Arabs. When I saw they were hurting a thirteen section pasture, we disposed of over two hundred Belgians at one time. We gave away sixty head of the best Belgians and sold one hundred sixty-five to one man who shipped them to France after World War II. They all left the ranch at one time. The Honey and I gathered these horses and corralled them without help — a tremendous tribute to her ability as a horseman, and I question that she was twelve years old.

"She does not remember when she was first on a horse — not a yearling, I am sure. First I would throw her up over my shoulder and she would sleep. Later she rode in front of me in the saddle. We took many a wild ride. When she was four she got her own horse, so ornery a little Shetland as ever lived. He had raised a dozen kids and knew every trick in the book. Many of our friends (Dr. E. W. Robertson, Charlie Bauman, Charlie Miller, and Mr. Engdahl, to name a few) knew we had traded for this little horse, and before we were up in the morning, the gifts started rolling in, including a new saddle, blanket, bridle, chaps, halter and boots. Many a day we would ride sixty miles and the little Shetland, Peter, would come in fresher than my second horse.

"Then the Honey was old enough to go to school, and we had no roads, bridges or schools, so Mama taught her, and without a question, Mama was the best teacher in the world. When the Honey competed with kids from the outside she was always ahead of them. All the while that Mama had school on the ranch, I'd take the Honey away from her school whenever I needed help, and that seemed to be most of the time. It wasn't long until she felt that nobody could do things like she could do them. She was an excellent horseman and a natural with all kinds of stock."

Dad goes on, in his story, relating so many interesting experiences on the Antelope Creek Ranch, but

space is lacking. Dogs were a big part of our lives — Teddy, Bobo, Tippy and Goldie being among the most important.

From 1950 or so, on, Dad had several cancer operations, and a knee and hip operation at the Mayo Clinic, always making a very good recovery until the very last one, in June 1979. Some of the fine doctors who operated on him were often guests at the ranch. Dr. Stuart W. Harrington, a senior surgeon at Mayo's was one of our favorites, and of course Sister Mary Corona, of St. Mary's Hospital. Sister Corona was a fine friend to Mom and Dad, and spent many of her vacations with them, as well as taking them under her wing when they were in Rochester. Sister Corona is just as good a friend to us, and is a frequent houseguest.

I went on to high school in Douglas, graduating in 1953. I went to the University of Wyoming for two semesters, then back to my favorite place — home on Antelope Creek. In September 1954, I married Warren Wuthier, from a ranch family near Banner, Wyoming. The following spring our son Warren Stephen (Steve) was born. We were at Antelope Creek until 1958, but it did not seem that we were to stay, much to my sadness.

About 1960 Mom and Dad sold the ranch to Bob Lloyd and his family from Casper. The neighbors, Floyd Jr. and Mathew Reno own it now. My folks moved to Douglas and built a lovely home at No. 1 Ash Drive, supervised by our old friend, and long-time helper at the ranch, Bunny (C. A. Miller). Bunny was an excellent carpenter and cabinet maker, and built many fine corrals and facilities at the ranch in the years he worked for us.

In the late 1960's Mom developed cancer, and passed away July 9, 1972 in Douglas. Dad lived at the Douglas house, and was in fairly good health, until June 1979, when he had very serious surgery at the Mayo Clinic. By this time I was near Riverton, where Dad, Steve, and I owned a small acreage, and had built a nice home. We flew Dad to Riverton in an ambulance plane, and I took care of him until his death. The last few months of his illness were very miserable, and he was more than ready to "Go Home to Mama" as he always said.

In October 1979, Jerry DeFord and I were married at the Riverton home so Dad could be present. Jerry is a Montana native who came to Wyoming to manage the ranches for the Walt Disney family, near Dubois. Dad was well enough after we were married to go up to the old Rocking Chair Ranch (the Disney headquarters), and he enjoyed being up there very much, until he got so sick. He said he wanted to die there at the ranch, with us, and he died September 16, 1980. Both Dad and Mom are buried in the Douglas cemetery, very close to the home at No. 1 Ash Drive. Their little son they lost was first buried in Casper, but was later moved to Douglas, and is buried beside them.

Jerry, Steve and I still own the Riverton place, but Jerry and I lease part of the Bill Barton ranch between Moorcroft and Upton, and Steve leases the place he grew up on between Buffalo and Sheridan. He also is helping his other grandparents, Lucile and Aime Wuthier on their places up there. On December 22, 1983, Steve followed in his grandpa's footsteps, and married a school teacher — Teri Shimogaki, who teaches in the Buffalo school system.

Honey Stevick DeFord

## Stine, George and Pearl

In August 1920, George and Pearl Stine and six month old Marion Jane, along with George's parents, Elmer and Emma Stine, left York, Nebraska and went to Wyoming.

George had filed on 640 acres 50 miles north of Douglas, Wyoming. There was a store and post office about twelve miles from us. I think it was called Bear Creek.

A few months after we were settled on our claim, Elmer Stine filed on a section bordering ours on the east.

We had a water hole not too far from the house and that water ended any constipation that we may have had. We sometimes got water for household use from Warren and Elsie Powell, who lived on the Bridle Bit Ranch west of us, until we got our well.

The friends we made while we were living there turned into lifelong friendships; Bill and Flo Vollman and Bill, Jr., Joe and Mary Reynolds and, of course, Warren and Elsie Powell and others.

After proving up on our homestead, we went back to York, Nebraska for a couple of years. George went to work for the Burlington Railroad (Burlington-Northern now) and was there 34 years. George passed away November 1959. We were living in Sheridan, Wyoming at that time. We lived in Casper nine years.

Elmer Stine passed away at the age of 75. Emma lived to be 95. She passed away in 1963.

I have lived in Fairfield, California for eleven years. I have two sons, Gene and Larry, who live here also. Marion Jane lives in Sacramento. Louise in Wauneta, Nebraska and Kenneth in Longmont, Colorado.

Pearl Stine

## Stock, August and Leona Family

August Frederick Stock, son of Charles and Ernestine Pache Stock, was born on September 18, 1891 in the family home, Marshall County, Kansas.

Charles Stock was a native of Dresden, Germany and a member of the Lutheran Church. He was from a family of five children. Ernestine P. Pache was a native of Magdeburg, Germany.

At the age of 20, August came to Converse County to homestead. While proving up on the homestead he found work on the Riverview Ranch owned by Tom Christopher. His fingers became crooked while working for Christopher because he had to milk so many cows.

August met his future wife, Leona Leonard Moss, while he was at the Riverview Ranch. She was washing clothes for the ranch while living nearby on her homestead. August could not speak or write English and only knew German at the time when he first met Leona. She proceeded to teach him English. They were married on December 17, 1917 in Douglas.

Leona Leonard was born on May 20, 1884 in Ash Grove, Iowa, daughter of Smith and Eliza Sapp Leonard.

The Sapp family were natives of Holland. Deciding to come to America, they sold their land for gold and while on the boat coming across the ocean, they slept on their trunk, with the gold in it, day and night because of their fear of being robbed.



August Stock family, 1927. L. to r.: Ora, Hazel, Vireda Moss, Melvin, Lewis and Charles.

Leona was raised and went to school near Ash Grove, Iowa. She was baptized in a creek close to Pleasant Valley Church.

Leona had previously been married to Bert Moss of Ormanville, Iowa. They were married on August 31, 1907 in Bloomfield, Iowa. Three children were born to this union: Baby Moss, Vireda and Ralph.

Bert and Leona came to Converse County in February 1911. They homesteaded south of Douglas near Irvine. They brought their furniture and animals, including two mules, with them. Two families also came with them from Iowa; Thurmond and Della Moss Day and John and Jessie Leonard Leffler. John was to be killed by a train in 1917 at the Irvine Crossing and Jessie married E. E. Tubbs. (See the E. E. Tubbs story.)

Bert contracted TB and the family moved back to Iowa where he died on December 2, 1916. Leona brought her family back to Wyoming. On December 14, 1918, shortly after the family's return, Leona's son, Ralph, died as the result of drowning in a water barrel which he had accidentally fallen into.

After Leona and August's marriage they lived on his homestead five miles south of Shawnee. It was here that one daughter was born; Hazel (b. January 25, 1919). Four more children were born after the family moved to her homestead south of Douglas; Melvin (b. December 17, 1920, d. January 3, 1932 as the result of a gun accident), Ora (b. May 17, 1922 d. March 13, 1975), Lewis (b. July 24, 1923) and Charles (b. December 30, 1924).

August died as the result of a heart attack on February 4, 1955 while visiting in Kansas; Leona died on September 30, 1970 from the effects of a stroke.

Hazel remembers being told by her father that he had to face 40 degrees below zero temperature when he went by horse and buggy to Lost Springs to get Dr. Walkins to attend Hazel's mother when Hazel was born.

Hazel attended public schools in Douglas. Traveling from the homestead to Douglas for supplies was done by horse and buggy for a few years then in the 1920s her parents bought a Ford car. Another way to come was by





Walter and Hazel York

the Northwestern Train. The cost was 16¢ one way.

One summer a storm left the chicken coop flooded. Her parents were in town and Hazel was in charge. She had half drowned chickens to revive. Building a fire and laying the chickens in the warm oven helped them to live.

During her early teens Hazel earned spending money one summer going by horseback to Orin Junction to sell vegetables. Another way to earn money was fixing ladies' hair at the "Poor Farm" on Saturdays. She and her mother also canned food for the farm.

Hazel met Walter York, son of Henry and Elizabeth York, at a Democrat rally in Orin. They were married on March 4, 1939 in Douglas. Three children were born to this union; Bonnie (Olson), Maxine (LeBar) and Henry.

Walter and Hazel lived in coal mining towns in Rock Springs and Winton during World War II and have lived in Douglas since that time.

Ora married Estol Shaffer and lived in Newcastle.

Lewis contracted polio during his freshman year in high school. It left him crippled but able to pursue his aims in life. He married Lovina Tylee on January 29, 1959. They have three children and live on the family farm south of Douglas.

Charles married Lucille Blackburn. They live in Douglas.

Hazel Stock York

## Stoddard, R.H. and Maude

My dad, Richard Henry Stoddard, was born February 20, 1885 in Omaha, Nebraska. At an early age he moved to Mason City, Nebraska where his parents took up a homestead. Here five children were born: two, Robert and Howard, passed away when very young, before they were old enough to go to school. Richard, Phil and Marcia Stoddard Dady grew up and each raised families of their own. All three are now deceased.

Dad's father died when he was nine years old. This interfered with his schooling; however, he worked on the homestead with a hired man and attended school as much as he could; being a good student, he managed to finish the eighth grade and also attended high school. He had managed to get enough education to serve him well all his life; he was always very good with figures.

On January 1, 1907 he married Maude Mabel Gates and together they began farming the homestead in partnership with his mother. They built a small home and later built a larger home. His mother and sister, Marcia, lived in a sod house for quite a while before moving to Mason City, Nebraska.

Dad was a very good farmer; he tended his crops well. He took great pride in his horses and mules; always kept them in tip top shape whether work horses, saddle horses or the team he used on the buggy. This was a beautiful spirited team. Then there was a sleek black race horse, a Kentucky Whip breed. He was Dad's pride and joy and won many races at picnics and celebrations.

He served on the school board many terms and was a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge. In those days the Odd Fellows had to help sit with and care for the sick. He gave much time to this duty.

Mother and Dad had eight children, a baby boy was still born; Paul lost his life in World War II and Betty Jean Corbett passed away in 1980. The living children are Evelyn Stoddard Grant, Glenrock, Wyoming; Wilbur A. Stoddard (Webb) and Richard Harley Stoddard (Pat) of Douglas; Ivan LeRoy Stoddard of Glenrock and Marcia Louise Stoddard Boe of Bakersfield, California.

Our mother deserves a whole story of her own, but much of Dad's is part of hers. I'll add some important things. Mother was born at Kearney, Nebraska and moved to Mason City when young. She was a very good student. She tells about taking an examination in eight subjects and getting four grades of 99 and four grades of 100. She graduated from Mason City High School in 1906. At this time, they graduated from the tenth grade. In grade school she was always at the top in cyphering and spelling contests. She could out run about everyone.

In 1939, after many hard years of drought and hail on the farm, my folks moved to Wyoming and bought the store with a Post Office at Bill, Wyoming. After buying the store, my dad stood out in front of the building and looked at the country side and said to my brother, Ivan, "Son, there has to be something underneath as there is nothing on top." The folks were faithful to the people in the area and served them with much kindness and help. They made many cherished friends here. Later they sold the store and moved to a home in Douglas where Dad bought wool for the South Dakota Wool Growers Association. Dad loved this job, and made the most money he had made in his life and this was when he was in his 70's and 80's. Mother was able to go with him many times. One day while he was at work he was hit by a car at Orin. He was never able to recover from his injuries and passed away in May 1969 at the age of 87. Mother died April 7, 1975.

Some of Dad's hobbies were hunting (he always got his game with one shot to the disgust of his grandchildren and other hunters) and fishing. He especially loved band music, loved his many friends and liked to drive Mother and her friends (his harem) around the country.

Mother's hobbies were cooking, love of family and friends, loved reading her Bible and attending church regularly at the First Baptist Church where she listened to Rev. Clyde Thompson give his wonderful messages.

Evelyn Stoddard Grant



## Stoddard, W.A. and Letha

Wilbur A. (Webb) Stoddard was born March 19, 1911 in Mason City, Nebraska. He went to school in Mason City and was graduated from Mason City High School in 1929. In August of 1934 he came to Wyoming due to drought on the family farm in Mason City.

He worked for his brother-in-law, Fred Grant, in Boxelder Canyon until the fall of 1936. At that time, he went to the oil patch and roughnecked to save losing his car and save enough money so he could marry his childhood sweetheart, Letha Harriet Chrisman; then a teacher at Powder River, Wyoming. They were married June 1, 1937. Two years later his love for ranching took him, his wife, and baby boy back to the Fred Grant Ranch to work until the fall of 1942 when he was able to lease a small ranch on Willow Creek, a tributary to Boxelder Creek. They stayed here for two and a half years, and then he took his livestock to the V R Ranch south of Glenrock where he ran them by the head; and again to earn more money, he went back to roughnecking for four years until 1948.

While working on rigs, working many double shifts to earn as much money as possible, he was able to scrape together enough money in 1948 to pay cash for his first ranch, the Bushy place east of Bill, Wyoming and then in 1948 he was able to pay cash again for the Lynch place. In the spring of 1949 he and his wife, Letha, bought the Wohlford place north of Bill. They moved their family of four there to begin ranching in earnest. Webb laughs, "I guess it was in earnest as the day we took over the ranch the ewes started lambing, and we soon learned about handling sheepherders."

In 1950 they bought the Featherston place and moved there. Over the years they were able to purchase and put together seven ranches in the eastern Converse County area. In addition to the four already mentioned, they purchased the Robertson, Frye and Rollie Sadler ranches. The Taylor place was added in Campbell County and years later four ranches were added in the Niobrara area; Larsen, Gibbs, Beardsley and Prell.

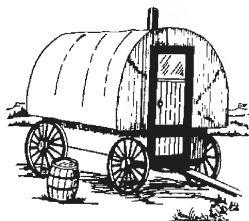
Webb is semi-retired, but his three sons, Bob, Paul and J. R. and families work to make this operation a possibility.

Letha passed away August 25, 1976 following a long struggle with cancer. She has truly been missed as she was very much a mainstay in the operation.

In addition to the three sons mentioned, a daughter, Sally Stoddard Seebaum and another son, Dickie Webb, who drowned in a dike on the Wohlford ranch in 1949, and another daughter, Nancy Lee, who died at birth, were born to this union.

Webb is known for his hard work, love of family and friends, and his love of horses.

Sally Stoddard Seebaum



## Stone, Amos and Alta

Milton "Amos" Stone (1891-1967) married Alta Hendricks Hylton in 1924. His parents were Milton Stone and Josephine Stone Huff. His mother, a brother, Harry, and Amos all had adjoining homesteads about six miles west of what is now Bill, Wyoming. Harry was killed by lightning on July 4, 1923. Several neighbors had been swimming in the Stones' big lake. It had started to cloud up and Harry and Art Scott and three daughters were leaving in a hayrack, when a bolt of lightning struck, killing the two men. The girls were riding near the back and Hazel was burned on the body and legs, Ella and Pearl had the hair burned off the sides of their heads. It knocked the horse down but didn't hit the other people. Harry Stone was not married, but Arthur Scott had a wife and nine children.

Alta had come to Wyoming to homestead in 1921 from Iowa with her two young daughters, Fayne and Wilma, ages three and four. Alta was a widow at the time, her husband having been in a drowning accident.

Her brother, Harley Hendricks, promised to help with the improvements for a portion of the land, but it was Alta's share to spend the required time living there. Harley's section was adjoining Alta's. He already had settled his required time and proved up before Alta arrived.

The trip was made from Iowa to Wyoming in a Model T Ford touring car with side curtains. Just over the Nebraska - Wyoming state line they encountered a wind storm which ripped off the top of the car.

After several bad winters and the time nearing for the girls to go to high school, the Stones decided it would be best to move back to Iowa. They all really loved Wyoming so it was a hard move to make. The decision was made easier, however, when on May 8th of 1930 they lost eight of their cattle in a three day blizzard. That fall they moved to Iowa.

Jewell Reed

## Strachota, Emil

Emil Strachota was born in Nebraska and raised on a farm and ranch north of Whitman, Nebraska.

He came to Wyoming in 1927 and homesteaded in Converse County fifty-five miles north of Douglas in Section 17, Township 39, Range 70.

He built a one-room sod house which he lived in for awhile. Later he purchased the frame house that Dr. and Mrs. H. G. Lynch lived in for a long time. The frame house still stands on the place.

Emil never married. He raised cattle and worked at odd jobs part-time. He worked at the Antelope Coal Mine, helped ranchers during lambing and shearing season, and did other jobs in the community when called on for help.

He received his homestead patent on May 28, 1936.

Emil served in the Army during World War II.

In 1957, Emil sold his place to Bill Rothleutner and returned to Mullen, Nebraska to be near his brother, Samuel. He owned property in Mullen from 1957 until August 1968. He died several years ago.

Velma Steckley

## Strock, Leonard and Hazel Family

Leonard, the son of William and Mary Strock, was born February 7, 1889 in Battle Creek, Iowa.

After living with his family in Britton, South Dakota, where he went to school and grew to manhood, Leonard came to Wyoming in 1910, where he went to work for John Marsden on Wagonhound Creek. In the spring of 1912 he went to work for Sauls on their LaBonte Livestock Company Ranch, where he rode for them for 16 years.

On December 26, 1914 he married Hazel Hammond, daughter of Milt and Clara Belle Hammond.

Their two sons and one daughter are: Charles Oliver, born November 9, 1915; James William, born September 17, 1917; and Jean Raye, born December 27, 1918.

Leonard took up a homestead in 1923, forty acres on Mill Creek, where Hazel and the three children lived for five years until the homestead was proved up. The rest of the land lay on Tatum Creek, southwest of West Fork of LaBonte Creek and was later purchased by LaBonte Livestock Company. Leonard continued riding for the Saults until 1929, at which time the family moved to the Jackson place on LaPrele, owned by Robert D. Hawley. In 1931, Leonard went to work for Dr. J. R. Hylton on LaPrele, caring for his thoroughbred mares and sires. One of the most prized studs being "Sir Barton" who stood from 1933 until his death October 30, 1937. He was buried not far from his paddock. Later his remains were moved to the Washington Park in Douglas where a statue marks his grave. "Sir Barton" was the first triple crown winner in the United States and is listed in the Racing Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, New York.

In 1941 Hazel and Leonard went to work on a ranch eight miles west of Sheridan until they found a riding job on the Pax Roberts Ranch in the Wolf Mountains on the Rosebud.

They continued in this job until her horse fell and rolled on Hazel, injuring her back. After recuperating in Sheridan they returned to Douglas where Hazel worked in the (P.O.W.) Douglas Hospital as a nurse's aide for a time, then they worked for Jim Morton on the Cheyenne River, Fiddleback and Sand Creek pastures, pulling their horses in a horse trailer behind a jeep. They were with Jim nine years. When Fritz Roush took over as foreman, he retired them and they moved to Douglas.

Leonard went to work as caretaker and ditch rider for the LaPrele Ditch Company where he worked for twelve years.

Leonard died December 7, 1972.

Hazel Strock



L. to R.: Margaret Saul, Jean, Dick and Charles Strock.

## Sundquist, William and Hilda

William Clarence Sundquist (born December 1, 1874) and Hilda Pauline Burgland Sundquist (born December 28, 1885), husband and wife, and their three sons, Leslie Eugene (born January 23, 1907), Mervin Ray (born July 13, 1916) and Rodney Kenneth (born January 27, 1921), moved to Converse County in the spring of 1926 from Brady, Nebraska. They bought one section of land ten miles north of Orpha, where they farmed and raised some livestock.

In 1934, Leslie, the oldest son, married Gertrude Amspoker, daughter of Frank Amspoker (born July 9, 1915). They lived and worked on the Frank Amspoker ranch northwest of Douglas until Leslie's death in 1960. Gertrude lived in Douglas for a time and then moved to Tucson, Arizona, where she still lives at this time.

William Sundquist died at the age of 63, in 1937. Hilda sold the farm in 1942 and moved to Douglas where she lived and worked until her death in 1962, at the age of 77.

Mervin, the middle son, married Bonita Tylee (born November 6, 1924) in 1944. They have a daughter, Katherine (born January 8, 1951) and a son, Allen (born August 7, 1953). Kathy married Carl Hildebrand (born October 26, 1943) in 1971. They have three sons, John (born August 25, 1972), Kevin (born September 1, 1975) and Mark (born October 6, 1977). Allen married Joan Bryan (born July 21, 1955). They have two daughters, Angel (born June 29, 1971) and Amy Jo (born April 12, 1973).

Rodney, the youngest son, married Maxine Carlisle (born September 2, 1925) in 1943. They have one son, David (born July 9, 1949). David married Barbara Good (born June 20, 1950) in 1968. They have one son, Joseph, (born May 8, 1972) and one daughter, Jacque (born June 1, 1981).

Rodney K. Sundquist

## Sutphin, Derrick and Clara Family

Clara was born in Berlin, Germany on November 20, 1859. She came to the United States in April 1876 along with her parents and a sister, Annie. She was married on November 21, 1880 to a Frenchman by the name of Gustav Leal in Chicago, Illinois. The Leals came west to Wyoming settling near Dana in Carbon County. A son, Leon Andrew, was born in 1881.

Gustav was killed shortly after, while working for the Union Pacific Railroad as a watchman. His death was due to an injury incurred while coming home one dark night when he fell into a mine shaft.

Clara married Derrick Richard Sutphin on May 12, 1885. Derrick had come to Wyoming in 1882 from Michigan. Dick, as he was better known, adopted Clara's son, Leon. The Sutphins operated a sawmill near Laramie Peak for several years before moving to Glenrock where they purchased a hotel and renamed it the Sutphin Hotel.

Leon met and married Myrtle Rice, daughter of Charles and Almina Rice, on November 18, 1903 at the Rice home on Upper LaPrele Creek. They moved to a ranch on Willow Creek where they made their home for

several years. Three children, Winnifred, Francis and Maudine Clare were born to them while they lived in the mountains.

Hearing that John Passick had 96 acres for sale at the foot of Deer Creek Canyon, Leon purchased it and moved his family there. Living first in a cave before building a house out of logs, the family was at home once more. A son, Melvin and a daughter, Doris were added to the family at this time.

Leon was involved in a tragic accident in November 1913. While on a routine trip checking his beaver traps above Deer Creek Canyon he was killed when his gun accidentally went off.

After Leon's death, Myrtle remained at the ranch while Francis and Winnie were sent to stay with Myrtle's sister, Anna, and her husband, Bert Sanford. They attended the Bunn School on Beaver Creek at the foot of the steep red rock cliff. Other children attending the school were: Ben LeVasseur and Eva, Claude, Mable and Charles Sanford.

The next year the children were sent to Glenrock to school while they stayed with their grandparents. The next year a school was obtained near the family home on Deer Creek. Two of the teachers were Fanny Knittle Hakalo and Adelyna Goff Smith.

After Dick Sutphin's death in 1918, Winnie was sent to

stay with her Grandma Clara to go to school.

When Winnie started high school, Myrtle sold the ranch to George and Annie Barber and moved to town to operate the Sutphin Hotel. Clara had purchased the Manhattan Rooms which was close to where the Four Aces is now. Roy and Helen Smith later bought the ranch from the Barbers. Clara Sutphin died on July 24, 1933.

Winnie married Roy Lowrie, son of Walter Lowrie, on June 15, 1924. They have two sons, Roy Jr. and Leon Sutphin. Roy Sr. worked for Standard Oil of Indiana at Glenrock and Casper before transferring to the east coast where he worked for the Atlantic Refining Co.

Francis married Irene Griffith, daughter of Verne and Helen Griffith, on April 27, 1940. They have one daughter, Connie. Francis died in Denver on September 3, 1974.

Maudine taught school before her marriage to Roy Marburger on November 7, 1931. They had two children; Donna Rae and Roy Eugene. Maudine died on August 7, 1957, Roy in 1976.

On September 17, 1943, Myrtle died.

Melvin married Henrietta Stuka on April 27, 1947. They had one son, Donald. Melvin died on March 24, 1980.

Doris married Ralph Case on March 13, 1938. They live in Basin, Wyoming. One son, Rick, was born to them.

Winnifred Sutphin Lowrie



Dick Sutphin family, 1910. L. to R.: Leon, Winnifred, Clara, Maudine, Dick Myrtle with baby Melvin and Francis.

## Swan, L. J. and Emma Family

L. J. "Lewis" Swan was born in Greene County, Pennsylvania, October 19, 1845. He was a direct descendant of Charlemagne, the Great Christian Emperor of the West, who ruled about 742 A.D.

He was the son of Jesse and Phebe Jennings Swan. The Swans were originally located in Loudoun County, Virginia. The first of that name was Joshua Swan. His son, John, had a son named Charles, who was a colonel in the Revolutionary War. Charles was born in Loudoun County in 1749. He was married to Sarah Van Meter in 1772. Charles and Sarah had a son named Jesse, who was born near the present site of Lexington where his father owned 1300 acres.

Jesse and Phebe raised seven sons and three daughters, mainly in Illinois, where they moved in the late 1840s from Pennsylvania. Jesse died there in 1857.

Lewis and two of his brothers joined the Union Army in 1862 when he was 17 years old. His brother, Thomas, enlisted in the 4th Illinois Infantry. Lewis and another brother, John, were in the 77th Illinois Infantry. Their unit joined the Army of the Cumberland at Covington, Kentucky. They took part in several major battles, including Vicksburg, Ft. Gibson, Champion Hills, and Black River Bridge. They were soundly defeated at Sabine Cross Roads, April 8, 1864. L. J. took part in the defeat of the City of Mobile and mustered out of the service in July of 1865. His brother, John, was wounded and died in a St. Louis hospital in 1862.

Lewis then returned to Illinois, remaining there until 1874 when he moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory, where he settled near some of his cousins, Alexander H., "Black Tom" and Wm. H. Swan of the Swan Land and Cattle Company, who had their headquarters where the present town of Chugwater is now. L. J. was in the Cheyenne-Chugwater area until late April of 1886, when he returned to Indianola, Iowa. There he married Emma Dyke, the daughter of Thomas and Emma Hobbs Dyke, who were natives of Gloucester, England. They were married in May of 1886.



Lewis J. Swan



Verna and Jimmy Swan

Ronald L. Swan was born January 24, 1887, and later that same year the family moved back to Cheyenne for a short time until the lure of new land in the Powder River Basin was too strong to resist. In addition, it was getting crowded around Cheyenne.

Mr. Swan took up a homestead on the head of Box Creek, where he ran around 15,000 head of sheep, utilizing part of what was left of the open range.

In 1890 the family moved to the bustling town of Douglas where they had a house built on North Fifth Street.

In 1906, Mr. Swan, along with other prominent citizens of Douglas and Converse County, established the Douglas National Bank, which had its first offices in the Temple Building. He was its first vice-president.

L. J. Swan was an immaculate dresser, a very proper gentleman, as is usual for your neighborhood banker.

Emma was a large, raw-boned woman, who was somewhat of a snob. She had a domineering personality and tried to arrange other peoples lives.

When Ronald was around seven years old, he was playing on First Street, which is now the alley between Second and the railroad tracks, and he fell into a hand-dug well and broke his collar-bone. He had to be pulled out with a rope.

At the age of nine, he was sent to an Episcopal school back east, the Swans being of the Episcopalian faith. At the age of twelve he was put on a train in Douglas and sent to a military school in Syracuse, New York. he had to change trains in Chicago and the terminals were clear across town from each other. Evidently he couldn't find a means of transportation because he ended up walking all the way across Chicago. After completing military school



he attended Simpson College in Iowa, majoring in accounting.

In 1910, Ronald Lewis Swan married Verna Mae Allen in Douglas. Verna was the eldest daughter of H. P. and Edith Allen, also early Douglas pioneers.

L. J. and Emma continued to reside in Douglas in the summers and spent their winters in Long Beach, California, where Lewis died in April of 1931 at the age of 86. Emma continued to look after her husband's banking interests until her death in April of 1943 at her son's home at the age of 83.

Verna and "Jimmy" were the parents of four children: Ann, Allen L., Mazie, and Robert. Allen and his wife, Virginia Lindmier, had six boys: Stephen P., James A., William D., Christopher R., Scott L. and Lewis A., all of whom still reside in Wyoming. Mazie and her husband, Al Wilkinson, had two boys and two girls: John A., Constance A., Jerry N., and Terry K.

Stephen Swan

## Sybrant, Bert and Maggie Family

David Oscar Sybrant and his second wife, Lucretia Amanda McFadden came to the sandhills of western Nebraska in the year 1886, to homestead in Rock County. David's first wife, Rosella, had borne him five children before she became ill and died. David had employed a neighbor girl, Lucretia, to help care for the children during his wife's illness. After her death, David married Lucretia, and to them, eight children were born. Pennsylvania was the birthplace of eleven of the children; the two youngest were born in Nebraska.

Bert Mason, the youngest of the family, was born in 1893 in Rock County. Bert received his elementary education in the Sybrant School, so named because it was started by David Sybrant, taught by his daughters and daughters-in-law, and attended by his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and today his great-great grandchildren. The post office was located in the David Sybrant home, and the address of the people of the community was Sybrant, Nebraska.

After some years of schooling, Bert worked for his father on the family farm, or helped in the Sybrant store which his brothers had started in the community.

He was united in marriage in 1915 to Maggie May Blake, born in 1895 in Chambers, Nebraska. She was educated in the elementary schools there. Bert took his bride to a place which he had obtained in a trade with his brother, Herbert. The transaction involved trading thirty head of cattle for 320 acres of land.

Eight children were born to Bert and Maggie in Nebraska. Four of the children survived. They were Orva Lavee, Grant Edward, Paul Dwight, and Vida Loraine. The three older children started their schooling in the Sybrant School which Bert had attended.

In 1928, Bert decided to go to Wyoming to take up a homestead. He filed on a claim 70 miles north of Douglas, Wyoming. He returned to Nebraska that spring to plant his farm in crops. After harvest, he and Maggie loaded their old truck with a cook stove and other household furnishings. They tied a tarp over their load, and put their four children on top. They were off to Wyoming!



Maggie and Bert Sybrant

Bert's homestead was bordered on the north by Weston County and was situated on a dry wash called Horse Creek about four miles north of the Dull Center Post Office. Bert built a small two room house, barn, chicken coop and an outhouse on his claim. The house was constructed of sheeting and boasted a tongue and groove wooden floor, a luxury which many homestead dwellings did not have. The outhouse was made of logs; the seat was made of a section of hollow log hauled from the Cheyenne River. These logs had been precut by a very large family living on the river. It seems that this family was hard-pressed at times to find sufficient food, and as a result they pursued the cottontail rabbits which would seek refuge in the hollow logs along the river. The family would chop holes in the logs so that they could remove the rabbits. These ingenious rabbit traps became an integral part of the "Outside Accommodations" for the homesteaders in the area.

The first winter in Wyoming found the three school-aged Sybrant children living with their aunt and uncle so they might attend the school at Dull Center. In the fall of 1929, however, the school district donated a frame building to the community to be used as a school. Bert skidded the building to his homestead, and attached it to his house. Besides the three Sybrant children, two children from a family named Dorothy attended this school.

In 1930, Bert bid successfully on a mail route which ran from Douglas to Bill and thence on to the Verse and Dry Creek Post Offices. For convenience, the family moved into Douglas to live, where the children continued their education.

In those days the mail carrier "carried" much more than mail. Most of the rural population supplemented their meager income by milking cows and selling cream.



The mail man hauled their cans of cream to Douglas, to be shipped. He gathered grocery lists along his way, which he would fill and return the supplies on his next trip. He hauled barrels of gasoline, freight of all sorts and sizes, and even passengers who wanted to go to or from isolated homesteads.

At the termination of his mail contract in 1934, Bert moved his family back to the homestead. He had bought a small bunch of cattle. There was no grass that year due to the severe drought. Bert wintered his stock on Russian thistles, as did so many others. Hay was selling for \$40 per ton. Cows were bringing from \$12 to \$15 per head if one could find a buyer. The government finally began buying the cattle and killing them in the owner's pasture. The government also initiated a program to provide employment for jobless persons. It was dubbed the Public Works Administration. Men were put to work in the north country, building dams to create stock water and to control the erosion caused by the severe drought. Bert worked with four head of horses and a five foot fresno building those dams. In a good day with a short haul, he could move perhaps 50 yards of dirt.

In 1936 the Homestead Act was repealed. It had become apparent that 640 acres of dry land would not provide a decent living for a family. So the government bought many of the homesteads at an average of \$1500 per section. These blocks of land were formed into a community pasture. Grazing permits were allotted to persons who owned adjoining lands. The number of cattle allowed to be grazed by an individual was in ratio to the number of acres of land owned by that individual. This particular block of land still exists today, and is called the Rosencrans Community Pasture on the Thunder Basin National Grassland. Bert, along with others, sold his homestead to the government.

The Sybrant family then moved to a ranch which Bert had purchased. It was located eleven miles north-east of Douglas. They remained there until 1956, when they decided to sell their cattle and move into Douglas. Later Bert turned this property over to his four children.

Bert and Maggie purchased the White House Rooms in Douglas, and for a time, rented rooms. In 1960 Maggie was stricken with leukemia, and after a short illness, died. Bert and his eldest daughter, Orva, live in Douglas today. Orva, who never married, lived with her parents all her life.

Grant resides in Douglas with his wife, Mary. They have three children. He looks after the ranch and tends the 150 head of steers which pasture there, and which belong to him and his brother and sisters.

Paul and Vida have both married and each has four children.

Bert was the last member of the original Sandhill Sybrants. He attained the age of 92. Bert passed away in February 1986. He and Maggie lived through drought and depression, hard times for all, but he was able to keep his sense of humor. He was a good friend and neighbor. There have to be bad times to create good times. You would not recognize the good times unless you have had the bad times to use in comparison.

Ruth Grant

## Taylor, Fred and Luella Family

The Charles P. Taylor family moved from Pennsylvania to Minnesota in 1905. In 1910 they moved to Van Tassell, Wyoming. They spoke Pennsylvania Dutch or German at home and I, Minnie Lane, always supposed they came from Germany to Pennsylvania. My father said when his mother, Louisa Wassmund Taylor, passed away on October 7, 1911 they gave the message in German so the little children could not understand. But Dad said he understood, although he spoke only a few words himself. My grandparents and two of their ten children are buried in the Pleasant Ridge Pioneer Cemetery, north of Van Tassell, in the middle of a rancher's pasture.

Fred Malin Taylor was born on August 2, 1895 at Muncy, Pennsylvania. He left home a few years after the passing of his mother, working on ranches around Van Tassell as a teenager. My dad never spent his money on liquor or gambling, so as a young single man he saved enough money to buy a livery stable in Van Tassell which he later sold. When he was old enough to file on a homestead he rode horseback to Douglas, Wyoming. In 1922 he filed on a homestead about 80 miles north on Antelope Creek.

About this time he met my mother, Luella Taylor, from Kaycee, Wyoming; they were married in Buffalo about 1922. He loved to ride and break horses and rode either in state fair rodeos or in rodeos in Douglas, Wyoming, an activity Mom talked him into giving up when I was born. Their friends gave them a big charivari at my mother's folks near Kaycee on Powder River. One old friend started the celebration by shooting off a double barreled shotgun which knocked him through the door of their house.

Luella was the daughter of Orange and Mamie Taylor. She was the second born of nine children, Arley, Luella (deceased), Bill, Viola (Toots-deceased), Velma, Wilma, Bob, Bud (died in WWII), and a baby that died in infancy.

Fred and Luella's only child was born in Buffalo in 1924. I am that daughter, Minnie C. Taylor. I attended country school at Antelope Creek School. We all walked



Fred Taylor feeding his yearlings at his Antelope Creek ranch 80 miles north of Douglas.

or rode horseback to school. My folks boarded the school teacher and he walked to school with me. It was about one and a half miles to school. The teacher was Mr. William Robertson, Jr. of Douglas. My first year in school we had 18 children, when I finished we only had three left in our school.

As a child we used to get our mail at Bear Creek Store about one mile from home. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Manning ran the store. I always looked forward to those trips and would hope, to myself, that Dad would buy me a one cent sucker, but I never asked for one as those were hard years with hot dry summers and grasshoppers. The other homesteaders had sold their land and moved away. Dad purchased some of the places to add to his ranch. The neighbors were far between, but we did get together for card games and picnics. Sometimes there were dances at a post office and hall called Turner Crest.

I boarded in town to attend high school. In 1943 I married Chester Lane of Shawnee, Wyoming. We have four children: Roberta Lynn Lane Follum (b. December 8, 1945, m. Willis A. Follum, June 7, 1965), children: Dawn Marie, 1965, Shawn Allen, 1967 and William Wade, 1970. Carol Leigh Lane Follum (b. April 11, 1949, m. James Follum, February 14, 1969), children: Christina Hazel, 1971, Shay O., 1974, Aaron James, 1978, Briana Carolyn, 1979. Lee Fredrick Lane (b. February 7, 1952, m. Nancy Ann Pellatz, July 16, 1971), children: Nathan Patrick, 1976, Nicholas Allen, 1979, Sarah Ann, 1981 and Justin Lee, 1982. Julie Luella Lane (b. September 19, 1956, m. Jeffery Lynn Blessing, January 8, 1977), children: Joy Lynn, 1977, Jaclyn Leigh, 1979 and Jessica Lane, 1982.

Fred Malin Taylor died May 10, 1979 and is buried in the Douglas, Wyoming Cemetery. He lived on his ranch north of Douglas, Wyoming until he retired in 1971 and sold his ranch to Ray Bell of Gillette, Wyoming. He lived in Douglas, tending his yard and pretty flowers until his death. He had five brothers: William Taylor (who owned a ranch near his and passed away in 1982), George (who died during WWI), Clarence (who died in the 1950s), LeRoy (who died a few days after his mother), Alva (who is still alive and lives in Buffalo, Wyoming) and is married to my mother's sister, Velma Taylor Taylor.

Two sisters, Emma Robb and Mary Nickolas, preceded him in death. Ada Heldt lives in Lisco, Nebraska and Elizabeth Swope in Centralia, Washington. Both are still living.

Minnie Taylor Lane

## Taylor, Ray and Laura Family

"Sorry son, but you just don't weigh enough even soaking wet to make our team." With this statement, Ray Taylor's dream was dashed and his whole life was changed. He loved baseball and had been approached by a scout for the Chicago White Sox, who had told him, if he was able to gain some pounds he would be put on the team, but eating as hard as he could, Ray could not pick up the necessary weight.

Raymond Rutho Taylor and his twin sister, Ethel, were the first children born to John Driscoll Taylor and Katherine Wiser on August 24, 1884 near Decatur, Illinois. Ray's father had come from Springfield, Ohio, one of the

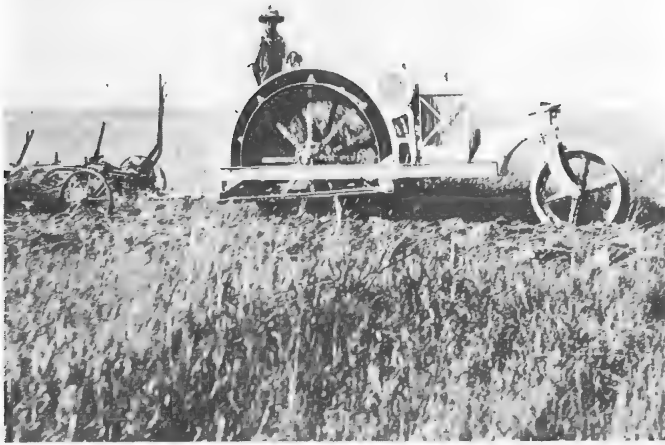


Ray and Laura Taylor

pioneering families in that area. Ray's grandfather, William and one of his brothers, had moved into Springfield from Franklin County, Pennsylvania, where the rest of the family remained. John Taylor and his wife, Polly French, moved into Franklin County in 1786, shortly after the Revolutionary War, from Custer County, Pennsylvania. Nothing has been found about the family prior to this time. Ray's father, John Driscoll broke with the rest of the family and decided to try his adventuring youth out by traveling west. He first settled in Decatur, being a farmer by trade and here he met and married Katherine Wiser. Later they moved on west and settled in Holdrege, Nebraska. Here the family grew to one more sister and four more brothers who all remained there, except Ray, who also had the wanderlust and moved further west to Glenrock, Wyoming.

The Vollmans and the Gierloffs, both German families, had also come from Cleveland, Ohio and settled in the Holdrege area. Both Rudolph Vollman and Friederike Marie Auguste Gierloff, better known to their friends as Rudolph and Rike, were born in Germany. They were married in Cleveland and then moved to Holdrege. To this union two children were born ten years apart, Laura, born on April 21, 1885 and William Robert on August 16, 1895.

Ray Taylor began courting Laura, and he used a fine team of horses to do so. It was a team that was mighty fast when the need was there, but very slow on a moon-



Ray Taylor on tractor

light night. Ray and Laura were married on February 17, 1909.

They set up housekeeping on a farm near Elm Creek, Nebraska. But then Laura's father, Rudolph, was struck by lightning while standing in a barn door watching the thunderstorm, which had suddenly blown in, killing him instantly on July 13, 1910. Laura's mother needed help with the farm, therefore Ray and Laura took over the farming operation. The place was not big enough for more than one family. Rike Vollman and her son, William, along with his wife, Flora, took up a homestead near Douglas, Wyoming and moved into the area around 1917.

The Ray Taylors had three children born to them while on the farm at Holdrege. The first baby died and several years later their second son, Kenneth Eugene, was born on June 18, 1922 and a daughter, Iola Gay, January 8, 1924. Ray and Laura were not able to make the farm in Nebraska pay out and therefore, in 1924 they held an auction, sold the Nebraska farm and filed on a homestead in the same vicinity as William Vollman.

For several years, in trying to make ends meet, Ray worked in Glenrock at the gas refinery cleaning the stills, a very hot, dirty job. Here, their third son, Darryl Dean, was born on January 5, 1926. After accumulating a little stake, the family moved onto the homestead. These were some very tough years and even the good years meant many long hours of back breaking work to even try to break even. Many a homesteader could not make it and Ray and Laura were one of the families that could not. But the family remained on the homestead until 1940, raising their family there and the children speak of this period in their lives as a very happy time.

They never went hungry and always had a roof over their heads. Kenneth tells about raising tons of potatoes and these were stored in a potato cellar. One winter the snow got so deep that it was impossible to go through the doors of the potato cellar to get to food staples stored there. Darryl, or "Tuffy" as he was known, being the smallest was placed into a bucket and lowered through the air vent into the cellar, whereupon he would quickly fill the bucket with the necessary commodities, and you can be sure there were always potatoes included. The bucket was then pulled out and this repeated until the

necessary quantity was reached. The bucket was then returned and Tuffy would scramble back into the bucket and take a fun trip back out the vent.

The house was built so as to someday be used as the granary. One big room was used as the kitchen and dining combination. This room was connected to a proposed drive through granary. The drive through was used as the front room and one room to the north was used as the bedroom. The room to the south of the alley was used to store grains that had been harvested, usually this was wheat or flax. The cow barn was connected to the grain room and about eight or ten cows were milked. The cream was sold to the creamery in Douglas. Of course, all water in the house was carried in from the well which was about 200 yards from the house and no indoor plumbing. During the dry years, water had to be packed from the well to the cows. To complete the farmstead, there was a chicken house about 200 yards from the house. Kenneth said everything was about 200 yards. Chickens were raised to sell along with eggs to help supplement the income. In order to keep the chickens laying and from freezing to death in the winter, hot ashes from the house were placed in containers in the chicken house and hot water was carried to them several times a day.

All lumber had to be hauled into the area and most of it came out of Glenrock. One time Ray Taylor and Bill Vollman loaded Ray's truck so heavy that going up Monkey Mountain Road the front wheels wanted to come up off the ground. But when Bill climbed onto the front of the truck it made just enough weight to balance the truck to get it over the top of the hill. Kenneth was sent on foot up the hill and he declares that that hill was much steeper then than it is today.

Ray always liked to have a team of horses around. Bill Vollman told the story of when Ray still lived in Nebraska, he would head the team down the corn rows and shuck corn, throwing it into the wagon without ever looking up. As long as the horses heard the corn hitting the side of the wagon they kept right on moving up and down the corn rows. When the wagon got full and the corn quit beating a staccato against the wagon the horses would stop and wait for their master to drive them off to the storage area. There was a time when Ray had three teams trained to haul the corn to town with Ray driving just one of the teams. After getting unloaded, Ray would send two of the teams and their empty wagons back home while he would load up the other wagon with needed supplies and head home several hours later. The horses never failed to do their job well. However, a team would run away once in a while, which Ray said showed they had plenty of spunk, otherwise they might not be worth having around.

When living on the homestead, to give a neighbor a helping hand was a way of life. Neighbor helping neighbor. Probably the only way they could survive through those many tough, dry, depression years of the '30s. Once, one of the neighbors, Mr. Tulley, broke his leg right at planting time. Four of his neighbors showed up one day with their tractors and took care of his farming for him. A picture shows them as they pause in a day's work. They were Ray Taylor, Mr. Fisher, Bill Vollman and the fourth gentleman is not remembered. Ray Taylor built a cab



around his tractor, probably the first cab to be built around a tractor, but the cold always bothered Ray so he took care of the problem out of necessity.

For entertainment, many dances were held in the community hall or school, a community picnic was held about every other Sunday. Sometimes this was included with a baseball game. Kenneth says he remembers those baseball games and how he hated them because it was always hot and the cheat grass filled his socks. In the summer time the baseball game was about an every Sunday event. The teams would travel to Douglas, Orpha, Walker Creek and Dry Creek. They in turn, would come to play the Hyland team for which Ray was the catcher. One summer university students were hired by the government to come out and clean up all the old abandoned homesteads. They were known as the "Posey Pickers". They formed their own baseball team and Ray joined them as their catcher. Ray had the only truck in the area so it was his truck that was rented to do the job for the "Posey Pickers".

Dances were usually an all night affair. Some of the neighbors would do the playing of the music and Ray Taylor would do the calling of square dancing. The whole family would go. One time some rowdies came out from Glenrock to the Hyland School, which was being used as a dance hall, got to drinking and started fighting in the building. The Domsalla boys took charge and would grab one up, shove him through the window where upon his brother caught him and commenced to take the fight out of them, thereby maintaining order within the school building.

Of course, many memories are built around a school house. Once, when Mr. Dugan was teaching the school near Taylors, the children started peppering the outhouse with rocks, dirt clods or whatever else they could lay their hands on while Mr. Dugan was in the building. Mr. Dugan came out of the outhouse and, needless to say, was very upset and began to reckon with the incident. The children ran as fast as they could into the school house locking the door, but Tuffy Taylor, who was the smallest child and could not keep up with the older children, got left with Mr. Dugan. He caught the brunt of Mr. Dugan's anger.

The children went to high school in Douglas and Ray and Laura finally gave up the homestead in 1940 moving to a small place west of Douglas about four miles. Ray worked for the LeBar Motor Company for a number of years as night watchman. He was known as Shorty Taylor. Laura went to work in the old seed house, which has been moved and is now known as the Douglas Livestock Exchange. Ray passed away in November of 1967 and Laura followed in May of 1968.

The eldest son, Kenneth, who lives near Douglas, married Dorothy Leman. They have five children: Kenneth, Linda, Dennis, Frank and Lois Ann. Iola lives in Casper and has three children: Barbara, Debbie and George. Darryl "Tuffy" lives in Virginia City, Montana and has two sons, Dana and Russell. Whenever the bunch gets together, the talk invariably turns to the good old homestead days.

Dorothy L. Taylor  
As told by Kenneth Taylor

## Taylor, William and Laura Family

William Guy Taylor met Laura Jane Keel while working for her father, Robert Keel, on the Keel place eight miles north of Harrison, Nebraska.

Will, as a young boy, moved with his family to Wyoming from Minnesota where Charles P. Taylor and Louisa Wassmund Taylor had farmed. But in the early 1900s when drought hit that state and the cracks in his fields were big enough to lose a large wrench, the Taylors left for Wyoming.

Taylor located on a place near Van Tassell where he opened a livery stable. During World War I Will helped his father in this business by sending Charles the army checks that he received each month. About the end of World War I Taylor's livery business folded, taking Will's service savings along with it.

On May 16, 1920 Laura Keel and William Taylor were married at her parents, Robert and Birdie Virginia



Laura and Will Taylor in their garden.

Keel's ranch home, which was located down the scenic winding Sow Belly Canyon from Harrison.

After working for a short time at the Agate Oil Field, she as camp cook and he as roustabout, they moved to Wyoming trailing Laura's cattle herd of about 20 Short-horns and Will's truck piled with their belongings. That was a wet year and Laura mentioned that there was "a swarm of mosquitoes behind every sagebrush."

On the way a calf was born and since it could not keep up it held a place in the passenger's seat of the truck. It was a brocco faced calf which they named Pet. To this day there is a brocco faced cow named Pet in the Taylor's cattle herd, and might just possibly be a descendant of that first Pet. Laura's cat rode on top of the loaded truck, but as they passed Bear Creek the cat decided to get off.

They could never persuade it to rejoin them and at last sight Tom was sitting in the middle of the road crying after them. In the Taylor family that draw is still known as "Tom Cat, Stinking Water, Hold Up Hollow" Draw!

While Will was in France guarding German prisoners during World War I, Fred, Will's brother, and

Laura and other family members had come up to Wyoming to homestead and Fred and Laura had built a shack on her land, T40, R74, Section 21. As Laura and Will approached the place where that shack should be they discussed their future. "If the shack is still there, we'll stay." They stayed for 60 years until their passing on that ranch.

About 13 years later they bought a bunkhouse from the old Salt Creek Field and had it moved to the ranch. It was cut in two and Will joined the parts, added a roof to cover it and turned the bunkhouse into a nice home for his family.

At first Laura stayed on the place and took care of the livestock, selling cream and eggs while Will trucked for local people (he hauled hogs mostly) and worked at the Salt Creek Oil Field.

Early in March 1927 Laura rode the train to Nebraska to be with her parents where with the help of Dr. Priest and a midwife, Mrs. Scott, Ella Jane was born March 16. The letter which Laura had written Will telling him of their new baby stated that the doctor had charged \$50 and Mrs. Scott, \$5. In the letter she described their new baby for him as, "the picture of you (Will)...even to the finger-nails, but not her face. She is dark skinned with lots of hair...her eyes are so dark blue they look black." She sent him a piece of baby's hair, "you be sure and put somewhere so we won't lose it."

In those homestead days there were many people in this country and each helped shape the history of the other. Bill and Henryetta Blood were Taylors' best friends and they shared many Sundays and holidays. They would visit each other at home (although they lived about ten to twelve miles apart) or meet at picnics or other gatherings. Taylors' barn came from the Blood place, and one of the chicken coops is still called "The Blood House".

"Old Charlie" (Mathers) was a single fellow and a good neighbor; and because he was single and could milk, he was hired from time to time to chore for his neighbors. One year he picked and canned many quarts of plums for the Taylors, who were gone to visit relatives in Texas. When Charlie invited you for coffee, he meant just that, as he never served anything but coffee.

A note here that many people were called "old" even though they were all about the same age. "Old Lady Cobb" was an example. Her name was never mentioned in any other way. She was known for traveling around to visit everywhere and making roads where none had existed before.

Carl Sager had grown girls, but lived alone close to Taylors' mail box. He had run a store before ranching and was in the habit of filling Ella Jane's pockets with nuts and candy whenever she and Will visited on their way to the box. Once, when she was wearing a new coat that Laura had made her (Laura sewed everything for her family from pajamas to the dressiest of clothes), he tried filling her pockets as usual, but discovered the large pockets. He only put one of his big hands full in each pocket exclaiming in his German accent "Oh, you've got big ones (pockets) in that coat!"

Mr. and Mrs. John Macken were an Irish couple from a big city. Everyone called them Jack and Maggie. The first year that they were in Wyoming they stayed with

Will and Laura and then moved up about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile south to the Brownie house, which had no well. They had one horse but carried the water from Taylor's well all the way up the hill to their house. Since they had only one horse they took turns riding it. They were an unusual sight and easily recognized from a distance. Killing chickens to be eaten and hanging them from the eaves of their house, uncleaned and unpicked until "cured", was an old world custom carried out in Wyoming. When a chicken became sick it was removed to a nearby hillside with a small supply of food and water to pass its remaining days.

Since Taylor did not have enough cattle at shipping time to fill a railroad car, this meant getting together with other ranchers at shipping time. Harold Carson and Elmer Spracklen usually made up the extra cattle for the carload. Ella Jane and Will would trail their cattle to Carsons, stay overnight and the men would leave the following day for the drive to Orpha. This drive usually took about a week as the cattle were allowed to graze along the stock trail, (left especially for this purpose), and allowed the cattle to gain as much weight as possible before being sold.

Girls were never allowed to go on this trip, but Ella Jane and Vivian and Arlone Carson always dreamed of the day that their parents would let them make the trip like Dale (Carson). The parents decided that one girl could not go and two girls would be "Too many girls!"

As Will became older he still went on the drives, driving the pickup with bedrolls and food and cooking meals for the riders. Finally this practice came to an end as everyone began trucking their livestock to markets not so far away as Sioux City, Iowa!

When children became of school age all country parents had to make plans for getting them to school somewhere. Laura and Ella Jane moved to Jess Katren's bunkhouse for Ella's first school year at North Point School. The parents took turns taking the children the mile or so to school. This left Will home alone to do chores and with only a saddle horse to travel with. Since the bunkhouse was a little drafty, Laura hung a quilt over the head bedstead and made this a cozy place for them at bed time. If anyone went to Katren's house during the news, everyone was required to be quiet enough so that he could hear the news on his radio.

Laura moved to Douglas with Ella Jane for the rest of her schooling. During the war years (WWII) Will worked in the seed house and for the Gene L. Payne Co. while Laura stayed at the ranch and took care of the feeding for the winter.

When Ella Jane was married to James Norris Odell on August 3, 1956 the wedding was held outside in the beautiful yard. Laura prepared and cooked the entire meal including the wedding cake, which was served following the ceremony.

Taylors always enjoyed taking their grandchildren, Chris, Frank and Pat Odell to the annual Farm Bureau Picnic. The Odell kids always came home with their share of the contest money to buy school supplies when school started in September.

Homemade ice cream was another fun job. Ice cream was Laura's favorite food and she made the cooked cornstarch pudding type which left lumps in the



sieve to be eaten and enjoyed. Licking the dasher was even more fun; if only the kids could get a big enough bowl to keep the ice cream from melting onto the table before they could eat it!

When Laura hurt her back February 28, 1978 Elmer Spracklen drove her to the Converse County Memorial Hospital, as the weather had already begun to get bad and some roads were impassable. It had been snowing, storm after storm, ever since Laura's birthday, November 9. After receiving a message that her mother was in the hospital, and her dad was alone, Ella Jane Odell with a blue heeler pup and necessary luggage got as far as the Sun Gas Plant by car. At the plant, Rex Edwards loaded everything into his four wheel drive and plowed through the snow to the Taylor ranch.

This was to be only a short stay and as soon as Laura got out of the hospital and the weather cleared, Ella Jane would go back to her home in Meeteetse, Wyoming. Well, about mid March the roads did clear enough that she went back to visit her children at Meeteetse. Pat and Frank were attending NWCC at Powell and Chris at Billings.

From then on Laura's health forced her to make many short stays in the hospital and on March 13, 1980 she passed away at the Converse County Hospital. Ella Jane stayed on the ranch to help Will and in September 1980 Frank and Erin Odell and Will's great granddaughter, Teresa Kay Odell, moved to a mobile home to continue the ranching operation.

After a very short illness, Will Taylor, too, passed away at the Converse County Memorial Hospital on November 24, 1982. Both he and Laura had fulfilled their lifelong dream of being able to live on their ranch to the end.

In 1984 Ella Jane Taylor Odell and her son, Frank, and wife, Erin Odell, and their children are still raising cattle on the Lazy TN Ranch as Will and Laura Taylor had before them.

Ella Jane Taylor Odell

## Teter, Everett and Blanche Family

George Everett Teter known to almost everyone as Everett, was born in Carlton, Nebraska on November 20, 1891. He came from a family of eight brothers and five sisters.

In 1916 Everett and his oldest brother, Roy, came to Douglas to file on a homestead in the Ross Road area, later known as the Bombing Range, or near Bear Creek.

He became employed by J. D. LeBar of LeBar Motors as a mechanic and worked for them until after J. D. LeBar's death, which was about 40 years. Everett and his brother, Roy, let the north homestead go and Roy moved to California. Later, twelve more of Everett's brothers and sisters moved to California.

On November 1, 1917, Everett went into the army. He was a member of the 107th Sig B.N., 32nd Inf. Div. also known as the Red Arrow Division. He saw action in several battles and was wounded in action August 31, 1918 with shrapnel in the shoulder. Being discharged in May of 1919, he returned to Douglas and his employment with LeBar Motors.

Frances Blanche Daddow, known to everyone as Blanche, was born in Loop City, Nebraska on November 26, 1900. After attending college in Kearney, Nebraska she came to the Douglas area in 1923 to teach school. She married Everett Teter on June 3, 1931. She continued to teach school for several years. Shortly after their marriage they homesteaded together in the area known as LaBonte Canyon, in Albany County. They built a cabin there and later used this as summer pasture for cows they raised until 1970 when they sold the property to Bill Canaday. In 1937 they purchased their home in the Charles Addition in Douglas where they raised their family of two boys. Joseph Everett Teter was born October 6, 1932 and Thomas William Teter was born on February 6, 1936. Everett and Blanche bought some surrounding land adjacent to their home, for back taxes, and accumulated enough land to raise milk cows and other animals, which was a hobby, until Everett retired from the Ford garage in 1956.

After Everett retired, he drove a school bus for several years. He then became interested in raising Black Angus cows which he did until about 1970 when he started to lose his health.

About 1970 the family entered Everett into the Sheridan VA Hospital, due to his poor health, and they held an auction of their household goods. Then Blanche moved into Irwin Towers where she lived until her death in July of 1976. Everett was later moved to the nursing home in Gillette, Wyoming where he lived until his death in July of 1980.

Everett and Blanche were known in the community as honest, hard working, good Christians.

Joe Teter married Dorothy Meyers of Caldwell, Idaho and later moved to Baker, Idaho, where they have a drugstore. They have two sons, Robert Everett and Stephen Arthur.

Tom Teter married Louise Kay Teets in Casper in 1964. They later moved to Douglas in 1966 where Tom was employed in ranching with his father until 1974 when he started working for Converse Lumber. He later quit and went to work at the Converse County School District as maintenance in the Douglas Middle School where he is employed at this time. They have three children: Murial Beth, who married Randy Roby of Newcastle, Wyoming. They have two children, Nikolas Delos, age two and Katherine Louise, age one.

Tom's oldest son, Michael Allen Teter, is presently a student at Casper College, and the youngest son, Martin Fred Teter, is in Middle School.

Thomas Teter

## Thayer, Walter and Rosa

Walter Thayer was born in Beloit, Wisconsin, September 12, 1861. His parents moved to Michigan where they were in the grocery business. He studied for diplomatic service at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

After finishing college he got the urge to "go west, young man, go west." About 1890 he filed on a homestead eight miles southeast of Glenrock, Wyoming. Later his father, mother and a sister came from Michigan and filed

on adjoining land.

He had several hundred head of cattle and 50 or 60 horses and was at one time involved in sheep.

A log house of four rooms was built where he lived for several years before returning to Ionia, Michigan, to get his bride-to-be, Rosa Wilkins. They were married in Chicago on December 27, 1898.

Mrs. Thayer (Rosa Amelia Judson Butterworth Wilkins) was born in Pouleshot-near-Devises, England, August 15, 1871. At 14 years of age she accompanied an older sister, Alice Wilkins Underwood, to Michigan where she lived until she married Walter Thayer and came to Wyoming.

The Thayer cattle brand was a "cannon" and the name of the ranch was Cannondale.

The Thayers had three daughters; Minnie, Mabel and Alys. Mabel, Alys, two grandchildren and five great grandchildren survive.

Ill health made it necessary for Mr. Thayer to return to the lower altitude of Ionia, Michigan. He died September 23, 1915. Rosa Thayer died at Casper, Wyoming, January 22, 1974 at the age of 103.

Mabel Thayer Walkinshaw

## Thomas, Henry and Esther

Henry Thomas was born in Missouri on November 9, 1880, the fourth in a family of five children. His parents, Sam and Addie Thomas, came in a covered wagon to Sioux County, Nebraska when Henry was nine years old. They settled 17 miles north of Harrison, Nebraska. At first they lived in the covered wagon until a home was built.

Esther Hamlin Thomas was born July 2, 1888 in Iowa, the fourth child in a family of ten. Her parents, Burton and Emma Hamlin, came west and settled in Harrison, Nebraska. Burton was a carpenter.

Henry and Esther Thomas were married on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1914 at Esther's family home in Harrison, Nebraska. They lived at the Sam



Esther and Henry Thomas, 1955.

Thomas 33 Ranch for the first twelve years of their marriage and Henry worked for his father. Two children were born to Henry and Esther, Flora Lugena Thomas on October 8, 1918 and Sydney Burton Thomas on April 8, 1923.

In 1926 Henry Thomas moved his wife and children to a home on Antelope Creek which he had purchased from Mr. Moore of the Ogalalla Ranch. Henry's ranch was about one half mile west of the old Antelope Coal Mine. This was sixty-five miles north of Douglas, Wyoming and there mailing address was Verse, Wyoming. Jack Lindsey built the house and other buildings on the ranch and I, Flora Rash, have no idea how Mr. Moore came to purchase or sell it.

The thing that stands out in my memory of the time we lived on that ranch was June 1, 1929. We went to bed early for my father had just arrived home from lambing camp and we were all tired. About midnight my father heard something that woke him up and when he got out of bed, he put his feet in water on the floor. He knew immediately what had happened so he told my mother he would take some blankets and take them to the red shed and then come back and take the rest of us up there. He never could get back to us because the water was too high by then. My Aunt Ferna, Mother, Brother, and I sat on top of the piano and I held a kerosene lamp on my lap until daylight. While we sat on top of the piano we thought the water might come higher and drown us or that the house might wash away. I sat there shivering as we watched the wallboard being pushed toward us and the water gushing through. Trees went by on both sides of the house and the house would have been hit by one of them if our root cellar hadn't been just where it was and it kept the trees going to one side or the other. Because those trees went between my father and the house, he was afraid the house had gone but he couldn't do anything about it because of the rushing water. My father came at daylight to rescue us when the water receded.

We lived in the red shed the following winter while Happy Lewis built our house up on the hill using the logs from the house we had on the flat.

After we moved to this ranch I went to school in a school house right in the yard until after the flood of 1929. Then I went to the Koch School for one winter and to the school a mile and a half from home for two years. This school was for the Gladson children and my brother and me. The Gladson children were Forrest, Lucille and Ruth. When I was in the seventh and eighth grade we went to the consolidated school at Verse. Gladys Hanlin was our teacher.

My brother and I went to Converse County High School. I graduated in 1937 and he graduated in 1942.

Henry Thomas welcomed all the new settlers and helped them in any way he could to get started. This was a wonderful community where neighbor helped neighbor when they needed help, in case of sickness or accidents. In my father's lifetime his family always came first.

Even though the families in the community had to work hard, we also had fun. We had card parties, picnics, parlor games, and dances with the whole community including the children taking part. Card parties were at the homes, first one and then the other and I'll never forget the wonderful times we had.

In 1941 Henry Thomas sold the ranch to Jim Morton and moved to Miles City, Montana. He could get no more land where he was and moved to increase acreage and livestock. He bought the Hog and Miller Ranch ten miles south of Miles City, Montana. He operated this ranch until he passed away August 12, 1955.

With my brother helping her, my mother sold the ranch and moved to Billings the next year. She later moved to Bozeman and bought the Range Hotel which my brother ran for her. She died September 4, 1979.

My brother Sydney, now lives in Townsend, Montana. I live in Harlowton, Montana.

Flora Thomas Rash

## Thomson, Rod "Zip" and Catherine

John F. Thomson, Roderick's father, was born in Scotland. He came with his family to Nebraska in 1883 to homestead, locating on the land where the city of Chadron now stands. He is credited with having built the first houses in Chadron, Crawford and Harrison. John was a carpenter, dairy farmer, and rancher during his lifetime and also operated a freight line from Valentine, Nebraska to the Black Hills of South Dakota, using oxen to pull his cumbersome wagons.

Agnes Landles Thomson, also born in Scotland, came to Pennsylvania with her parents when she was a young girl. It is probable that both the Thomson and Landles families migrated into Iowa, since John and Agnes were married in Boone, Iowa and evidently lived there for several years.

Five children were born to this union, Jim, John, Mae, Clara and Roderick David. Roderick, the youngest, had the distinction of being the first white boy born in Chadron, Nebraska, on the fourth of December in 1885.

By the time Roderick "Zip" was four years old, he was sent with his older brother, John, to help herd milk cows on the open prairie near their home. One cold December day while the boys were tending the stock, a cow became mired down in a bog. They were trying to get the cow out of the mud when they caught sight of riders coming in their direction. Since there were many Indians in the vicinity at that time, the frightened boys ran to hide in a thicket of willows.

As the riders neared, it became apparent that they were soldiers, not Indians, and so the boys came from their hiding place to watch the column pass. At the head came a group of mounted soldiers, then foot soldiers, and in the rear, the supply wagons. The mounted vanguard of the "all-Negro" regiment passed the boys without so much as a glance in their direction. The foot soldiers, however, stopped to help the boys, laughing and joking over their predicament. One soldier went to a supply wagon and returned with a rope which he put on the cow. Then several big, husky soldiers pulled with all their might, trying to free the animal. All at once, the rope broke, letting the Negroes fall like a row of ten-pins. This mishap caused the rest of the company to howl with laughter, hooting and pointing at their muddy companions. The men doubled the rope, placed it once more on the cow, and this time were successful in dragging her from the bog. The column, which had been dispatched

from Fort Robinson to quell the Indian uprising at Wounded Knee, then continued their return trip.

The three brothers were riding horseback one day in 1890, when they met several mounted men, who stopped to talk with them. The men told the boys that they were going to visit a sheep camp a short distance away and asked if the boys would like to ride along. Having nothing better to do, and being curious, the boys agreed to go. Upon their arrival at the sheep wagon, the boys witnessed a brutal murder.

A man named Eckman, who was inside the wagon, came out to stand on the wagon tongue. He and one of the mounted men had a heated argument, the end of which came when the rider drew his pistol and shot Eckman. He fell off the wagon tongue, dead. Eckman and his murderer had been associated with one another in the sheep business and it was thought that the murder was the result of a dispute between the two men over the management of the land and livestock. It was a terrifying experience for the boys, and one which Zip remembered vividly.

Zip, born only nine years after the Battle of the Little Big Horn, spent the early years of his life in close association with the Sioux. 15 years later, the white settlers were still apprehensive and distrustful. The townspeople of Chadron, in an attempt to convince the Indians of their peaceful intentions, invited Red Cloud and a few of his warriors to a Fourth of July Celebration. Red Cloud came and brought with him two thousand warriors. The settlers, fearing that the visit might develop into warfare, hurriedly slaughtered more beeves to feed their guests, hoping to avoid a confrontation in which they would be hopelessly outnumbered.

Zip remembered Red Cloud as a proud, intelligent man. While it was true that by the white man's standards, the Indians were a savage people, Zip did not entirely agree with this point of view. Red Cloud, when inside his tepee, went about naked, throwing a blanket over his body when he was summoned outside. The living habits of the Sioux were vastly different from those of the settlers and unacceptable to them. Zip, who spoke the Sioux tongue, knew Red Cloud and had talked with him a few times, and though Zip thought that the invasion of the Indian lands by the white men was inevitable, he also believed that the Indians had been treated unfairly in many cases. He was firmly convinced that he would have fought to protect his home and his land as the Indians had done.

During his teenage years, Zip worked for Jules Sandoz as a chain man when Sandoz was surveying in Nebraska. Sandoz told him that if he found some land to his liking, they would survey it out, and Zip could file a claim. Zip, however, was not of age at the time and refused to file illegally.

Though he attended the Buffalo Bill Cody Wild West Show a couple of times, Zip did not hold Cody in high regard. Part of the performance was an exhibition of Cody's expert marksmanship. After one show, Zip and his brothers picked up some of the empty cartridges, among them, one which had not been fired. They discovered it to be filled with birdshot, which explained Cody's unerring accuracy.

For a time, Zip was employed by the Spade outfit,

trailing cattle into Casper, Wyoming. He happened to be there when the railroad was finished into that town. He also spent time working in a roundhouse for the railroad.

When Zip became of age, he and his brother, John, took homestead claims near Ardmore, South Dakota. They were engaged in raising horses, for which there was a good demand. A large number of their animals were sold to the United States Government to be used in the cavalry and the light horse artillery. In addition, some stock was sold to the Mexican government for use in their military operations.

About this time, the government issued wagons to Indians for their use on their land in the reservation. One particular Indian, feeling he had no use for his wagon, sold it to Zip, who used it on his homestead.

By 1914, the open land near Ardmore was becoming thickly populated as settlers filed their claims. The Thomson brothers' operation was experiencing difficulties. There was less open land upon which to run their horse herds and since each settler fenced his property with fences of jack pine posts and barbed wire, many of the animals suffered varying degrees of wire cuts. The Thomsons decided to look for land which was less crowded, and therefore, they sold their claims in South Dakota. They moved into Wyoming where they had bought relinquishments on Big Lightning Creek, northeast of Douglas, in 1916. At that time, they owned about 500 head of horses and were acquiring some cattle as well.

When the homesteaders began to file on land in the Big Lightning area, Zip and his brother seriously considered moving on once more, but finally decided against it.

After their arrival in Wyoming, John Thomson married and became the father of two daughters, Ruth and Irene. In 1926 a school was established for the girls. Catherine Gentry, aged 16, was employed as the teacher. It was there that she became acquainted with Zip, whom she married April 20, 1928 in Douglas, Wyoming.

Catherine Gentry Thomson was born in 1910 in O'Neil, Nebraska, one of a family of seven children. Her father, William George Gentry, was born in Weeping Water, Nebraska in 1880. Her mother, Ina Miller Gentry, was born in Pender, Nebraska. William and Ina were married in 1908 and made their home in Nebraska for five years, after which they moved to Manville, Wyoming where they had traded for a ranch. In 1917 they homesteaded north of Lance Creek, Wyoming. Ina served as postmistress at Lance Creek for some years.

Catherine received her common and high school education in Denver, Colorado, later attending normal training courses at the University of Wyoming. Catherine and Zip were the parents of three children, Maybel, Genevieve, and David Ray. These children were educated in the rural schools, completing their studies in the high school in Douglas.

Though the Thomsons bought an automobile around 1928, Zip never completely trusted the modern "tin-lizzy." He much preferred to do his traveling on horseback or by horse-drawn wagon. That way, he said, you'd be sure to get where you wanted to go.

Then came the years of drought and depression. Zip sold his starving cattle to the government along with the other sheep and cattlemen. For 600 head of cattle, he

received around \$6,000. The government sent their agents to slaughter the livestock. Zip filled his corral with cattle and the agent went into the corral where they began to kill the stock with sledge hammers, hitting the animals between the ears. This was not an effective method of slaughter, since many of the animals were not killed by the first blow and staggered, stunned, around the corral. When he could stand it no longer, Zip provided a rifle and shells so that the animals could be mercifully shot. After it was over, it was up to Zip to drag the carcasses of the animals out of the corral.

When the agents came for the second time, Zip had driven his remaining stock into a sort of box canyon some distance from his house, where the slaughter took place. The big, two-year-old steers tried to climb out of the trap, up the steep walls of the canyon, but could not. After this killing, Zip did not bother to gather the dozen or so strays which had escaped. He decided that it would be less cruel to let them try to live through the coming winter. Perhaps they would survive, perhaps not.

Zip hitched his team to the wagon he had bought years before from the Sioux Indian, and departed for Chadron, Nebraska, where he still had an interest in some land, to spend the winter of 1934-1935. When he returned to Lightning Creek about a year later, he found that the cattle had survived wintering on the dead cottonwood leaves which lay around the bases of the trees.

The land in Converse County upon which the last skirmish with the Indians occurred is a part of the Thomson ranch. In 1936 a party of Indians came to Wyoming from the reservation to ask Zip for permission to visit the site for the purpose of removing the remains of their tribesmen who had perished there. It was in this battle that Billy Miller and Louis Falkenburg lost their lives along with several members of the Sioux tribe.

Zip accompanied the braves to the battleground, and watched in awe as the Indians located their dead. The Indians would locate a certain cottonwood tree, or a shallow depression where a tree had once stood, converse with one another, and when they came to an agreement, they would pace off a certain number of steps from that point and there they would dig, each time uncovering human bones. Four graves were located in this manner, the bones exhumed, and taken back to the reservation for re-burial. It is hard to believe that those Indians were able to come and locate the graves 33 years after the battle occurred.

One grave, that of a warrior who was severely wounded in the battle, remains on the Thomson ranch. This brave was too ill to be moved, and after the others had been returned to the reservation, his squaw came to care for him. For some reason, the squaw moved her husband off the battleground, and after his death, buried him. Thus, when the Indians came to move their dead, they had no way of determining just where the grave was located.

John Thomson sold his property in the late 1930s and moved his family to Denver to make their home. Zip and Catherine remained on their ranch, operating it together until their son, David, became old enough to be associated with them in the operation. At the age of 81, Zip was still riding horseback, taking an active part in the ranch management.

He was a member of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, a devoted husband and father. Catherine was a member of the Zonta Club, Cow-Belles and a life member of the Wyoming Pioneer Association. She was a kind and gentle lady. Zip died in May of 1973, Catherine on November 4, 1984. Both are buried in the Douglas cemetery.

It must be said of Zip Thomson that he was one of the most colorful and most interesting pioneers in Converse County.

Maybel, now Mrs. William Hitschew, had three children: Genevieve, wife of Darvel Funk (deceased) has two children, and David Ray, who married Rose Lee Robertson, has three children. David and his family operate the Thomson ranch on Big Lightning Creek today.

Ruth Grant

## Tillard, Andrew and Emma Family

Andrew Tillard came to the Douglas area in 1904. Andy was born in Albany, Oregon on December 19, 1859. He married Miss Emma L. Rhea at Albany in 1891. Emma was born in Heppner, Oregon in 1869.

Andy grew to manhood in Oregon and for a number of years was engaged in the sheep business in and around Heppner, Oregon. Two of his three children, Rhea and Faye, were born in Oregon. The youngest daughter, Mildred, was born in Douglas.

In the late 1890s, during the Cattlemen Sheepmen War in Oregon, all of Tillard's sheep were killed. Andy was wiped out and dead broke. Being a man of strong will, he didn't let that defeat him. In 1898 Andy loaded his family in a covered wagon and migrated east. Andy had

heard about Douglas, Wyoming from Dr. J. M. Wilson of McKinley. Dr. Wilson was in Oregon buying sheep to trail back to Wyoming. That is how Douglas came to be Andy's ultimate destination.

It was a long, hard trek for the young family. Rhea was only six at the time and Faye was four years old. Rhea rode horseback all the way. It's an interesting story of Rhea's horse. When he was born, a neighbor, Mr. Nelson, told Andy if he would name the boy after him, he would give the baby a horse. He got the horse, but by golly, he turned out to be a one eyed horse. But he was a pretty good horse, anyway. He got Rhea all the way to Wyoming.

Rhea loved to tell the story about his mother, Emma. She kept all the family money in an onion sack for safety during their trip. At night she kept the onion sack close by while they slept. One day she discovered the onion sack missing. They had to go clear back to where they had camped the night before. Sure enough, there the sack was under the tree. Nobody had bothered looking in an old onion sack, so the money was safe.

The Tillards first stop was in Dillon, Montana where Andy ran a sheep outfit for a few years. From there they went to Lander. They rode the stage from Lander to Brenning Basin. Brenning Basin is just twelve miles west of Douglas. They were on one of the last stagecoach runs from Lander to the Douglas area.

In 1904 they moved to Douglas where they made their home. They built a big two story house on South 4th Street where the old Safeway Store now stands. They felt they didn't have enough capital to finish off the top floor, so they rented it to the W. C. Irvine family. They moved in and finished the top floor.

In 1904 Andy bought half interest in the Smith Bar from George W. Smith. Mr. Smith was wanting to have



Smith Saloon 1907. L. to R.: Guy Hazlett, Pete Esmay, unknown, George Smith and Andrew Tillard.



more time to spend in the country, so it worked out great for both of them. The bar was located on Center Street, just east of the old Livery Stable (where the Kwik Print Shop now stands). It was a good location because there was so much activity around the railroad and livery stable.

Andy and George owned the bar for 15 years. But they could see the handwriting on the wall and sold out about a year before prohibition came in.

In 1918 Andy went into partnership with his son, Rhea and Mart Madsen. They formed the Mart Madsen Sheep Company. They ran their sheep on the Cheyenne River, in northern Converse County.

Andy passed away on October 31, 1931. Emma died in 1942. The three Tillard children grew up and were educated in Douglas.

Faye was born on October 27, 1898 in Portland, Oregon. She married William Kenneth Edwards at Douglas in 1922. They moved to Ridgewood, New Jersey, where Faye lived out the rest of her life. She had three daughters, twins, Joan and Susan, and the youngest being Patricia. Susan died at age two. Joan and Patricia have remained in the east.

Mildred was born in 1905 in Douglas. She took her higher education at Northwestern. She married Herbert Fowler. They owned and operated the Fowler Peth Lumber Company in Cheyenne for many years, until the death of Mr. Fowler. Mildred is now living in Denver.

Rhea remained in Douglas. Rhea Nelson Tillard was born in Heppner, Oregon on March 27, 1893. As a young lad, Rhea had quite the reputation of being a fast runner. When a new guy would come to town and thought he was fast, somebody would match Rhea against him. They would go get Rhea off the dray wagon, as he was working for Slonaker at the time. There would be a foot race right down Second Street. There was a lot of money won on Rhea.

Rhea loved all types of sports. He was a member of the first football, basketball and baseball teams organized in Douglas. Other team mates were Nealy Moore, Jesse Morsch, Howard Esmay, Frank Schmidt, Claude McDermott, Les Logan, Merritt S. Covington, F. Anthony, D. Grimes, J. McCrillis, F. Houghton, and Y. Slaus. They had a great football classic against Casper on Thanksgiving Day. A special train carried Casper fans to Douglas. It was a three hour trip.

In 1914, Rhea homesteaded 320 acres north of Douglas on the Cheyenne River, where the present ranch headquarters are today.

As a young man, Rhea worked for various outfits, including the "M. S. Bar," Lee Moore, Jim Shaw and the Keeline outfits.

Rhea served in the U. S. Navy during World War I and was discharged in 1919. During that time his father, Andy, assisted in the operation of the ranch.

Rhea married Angeline O'Leary, September 9, 1919. She was the daughter of James and Mary O'Leary. Angie, as she was fondly known, was a teacher. She taught in Iowa and later in Wyoming, teaching the first country school in District 17. It was the first school erected in that area. The school was called the O'Leary School, named in her honor. It was located about 31 miles north of Douglas on Highway 59 on the west side of the

road. Several of Angie's former students still live in and around the Douglas area.

Rhea and Angie worked hard at their ranching business and continually added land to the original tract of 320 acres. They raised Rambouillet sheep of a commercial grade. They also ran Hereford cattle with registered bulls.

In 1935 Rhea bought half interest in the College Inn from L. V. Jones. He sold out to Jones a few years later.

The Tillards were very active in the community. Rhea was President of the Thunder Basin Grazing Association from the time it was formed in 1936 until his death in 1959. He was a County Commissioner from 1938 to 1942. He served on the American Legion Rodeo Board. The legion put on the Douglas Rodeo during the war years. Rhea was their arena director. He was an Executive Commissioner of the Wyoming Wool Growers and a member of the Wyoming Stock Growers.

Rhea and Angie loved the sport of rodeo and attended many to watch their son, Bud, compete. They had a host of rodeo cowboy friends.

Rhea didn't have many hobbies, except for his race horse, Ed Heller. He purchased him in 1949. Ed Heller was an outstanding quarter horse. He set four world records and numerous track records. He was Champion Two Year Old Quarter Horse of 1949. The Quarter Horse Association sent the Tillards a Certificate of Supreme, which is a very coveted award.

Angie was very active in her own right. She was past President of the American Legion Auxiliary. It was under her direction that the fireplace in the Legion Hall was built. She acquired a rock from every state in the union to be laid on it, which made the fireplace very unique. In the early '30s Angie taught an acrobatic class. A lot of the pupils in her class live in the Douglas area today and will fondly remember the many programs put on.

In 1963 Angie founded the local Gray Ladies Chapter and was President of that organization for eleven years.

One of Angie's proudest accomplishments was founding the Converse County Cancer Fund in 1953. She served as President of the Board when ill health forced her to retire. She felt very close to this organization as it was designed to help cancer victims of Converse County. She would be very pleased to know that the Converse County Cancer Fund is still going strong and that her son, Bud, is President of the Board.

Angie's fun hobbies were canasta playing and dancing. She won many card games I understand. She won many awards for her dancing. Angie was a fun, full of life, person. She passed away June 24, 1980.

The Tillards had two children, Helen and Bud, Helen was born in 1921. She graduated from high school in Douglas and took her higher education at Colorado University in Boulder, Colorado. After completing school she worked in Washington D.C. for Senator Frank Barrett. She married Dean Merritt. They owned and operated a western store in Cheyenne for many years. They had five children: Frank, Jim, Candice, Cindy Lou, and Melissa.

Helen is an accomplished interior decorator and has done many jobs throughout the state. She was the decorator for the Governor's Mansion in Wyoming. Helen is married to Dales Oakes of Cheyenne, where they make their home.

Helen's oldest son, Dr. Frank Merritt, D.V.M., died in 1982 as a result of a roping related accident. Frank was an outstanding veterinarian in the Seattle area, renowned for his work with horses.

Helen has three grandchildren, Frank's son, Justin, of California, and Jim's daughters, Cami and Stacy, of Cheyenne.

Their son, Rhea A. "Bud" Tillard was born July 28, 1923 in Douglas, Wyoming. He was raised and educated in Douglas and attended the University of Wyoming. He married Bette Jean Turner of Douglas, June 25, 1947. They have three sons, Andrew, Martin, and Timothy.

Bud's early life was spent in learning the ranching business. He has great love for the old west. One of his time consuming hobbies is rebuilding old sheep wagons, grain wagons and trap wagons that were used on the ranch by his forefathers.

Bud still lives at the ranch headquarters and is engaged in the ranching business with his three sons, all co-owners of the Mart Madsen Sheep Company, raising sheep, cattle, and quarter horses. In 1983, the Tillard brothers, with their father, acquired the "55" Ranch Company, north of Glenrock.

Bud and all three sons take a keen interest in rodeos and participating in steer roping throughout the state of Wyoming and adjoining states. They have put on many ropings at the home ranch. Bud qualified for the National Finals Rodeo in 1968 and 1969. His son, Mart, qualified in 1980, some eleven years later.

Andrew and his wife, Barbara Burgland Tillard have two children, Tara Lyn and Tyler Andrew. Andy and his family live in the original house on the ranch, making five generations having lived in that home.

Martin with his wife, Billie Laird Tillard, have two children, Casey Rhea and Kelly Jean. Mart and his family live on the "55" Ranch.

Timothy and his wife, Debbie King Tillard, have two sons, Troy Nelson and Timothy King. Their home is located near the ranch headquarters on the Cheyenne River.

With all of this heritage for the six grandchildren, it looks like there will be Tillards living in Converse County for many years to come.

Bette Tillard

## Trenholm, Leo and Eva

Leo Trenholm and Eva Dorothy Trenholm, daughter of Roy and Carrie Dunivan Dorothy, were married in 1937. That same year they built the Riverside Service Station on the Platte River at Orin. They owned and operated the business until Leo's death in 1953. He was injured in a car accident on the Bosler cutoff between Wheatland and Laramie on the way to a basketball game. He died of injuries two weeks later.

Eva sold the business and went to work as a Secretary for the Atomic Energy Commission which had just established an office in Douglas for the exploration of uranium. The office was later moved to Casper where Eva now resides.

Eva Trenholm

## Tubbs, Ernest and Jessie

On June 15, 1922 the headlines of a Douglas newspaper read: "THREE DEAD IN ORIN TRAGEDY Tubbs and Wife Riddled With Bullets and Seth S. Magnussen Innocent Victim of Insane Attack—McPherson and Graham Wounded."

Ernest Tubbs was born in 1882, coming with his wife to Converse County about 1917. He was employed for a short time as a blacksmith by W. H. Athens. Later he moved to Casper where his wife died and a short while afterward he returned to Converse County to the Irvine neighborhood.

Jessie M. Leffler, a widow with two children aged five and two, was living on her homestead near Irvine at that time. Mrs. Leffler, born January 4, 1889 in Iowa, was the daughter of Smith Leonard. Her husband John had been killed at the Irvine Crossing when the wagon in which he was riding was struck by a Northwestern passenger train on November 19, 1917.

Upon his arrival in the community, Ernest Tubbs met the widow and the two were married two weeks after their first encounter. Tubbs took charge of the farm and the widow's affairs but from the very beginning there was friction between the neighbors and Tubbs, resulting from Tubbs' attitude towards the others of the community and the underhanded way he dealt with them. For instance, a neighboring farmer had put out the spring crops on the Leffler farm as a gesture of friendship and pity for the widow. Tubbs took over the crop and refused to compensate the neighbor for his seed and labor. Others in the community tried to be friendly to the newcomer at first but were rebuffed.

Tubbs' brutal treatment of his wife and nine year old stepson was resented by the entire community who felt pity for the woman and her children. Bennie, the stepson, left home because of the cruel treatment which he had received from his stepfather. It was in February of 1922. He was caught in a severe snowstorm and when he was finally found, he was in a pitiable condition. His feet were frozen so badly that the greater portions of them had to be amputated. He recovered, however, and in several weeks he was taken to the State Home for Children at Lander.

Evidently, Mrs. Tubbs was a weak minded, meek individual, for she followed blindly after her husband, not crossing him even to protect her child. Although court action against Tubbs was threatened after Bennie's tragedy, no action was taken. However, the neighbors, feeling that some punishment was due the man, waylaid him one day as he was returning from Douglas and gave him a whipping that confined him to his bed for several days. Tubbs then attempted to have those neighbors prosecuted, but no action was taken.

After these events occurred, the Tubbs lived a life of isolation on their homestead, having no intercourse with the neighbors. Through the abuse of his wife and stepson and his method of dealing, he forfeited the friendship of his neighbors and was ostracized by the entire community. Mrs. Tubbs' sister, Leona, who was married to a man by the name of Stock, lived near the Tubbs, but even the Stock family had no use for Tubbs. Tubbs and Mr. Stock were bitter enemies. The Tubbs lived in solitude,

brooding over fancied wrongs and the weird hallucinations of a couple who believed that a mob of masked men were persecuting them. On June 13, 1922, Mrs. Tubbs went to Irvine, two miles west of the homestead and flagged the Northwestern westbound passenger train. She told the conductor a story of persecution on the part of a mob that had held them prisoners, asking that the conductor notify the sheriff when he reached Douglas so that protection could be given the Tubbs family. The conductor sent word to the Sheriff's office upon his arrival in Douglas. The undersheriff, McPherson, consulted with the Acting County Attorney Showalter regarding Mrs. Tubbs' request.

In the meantime Mrs. Tubbs returned to the homestead where she and her husband made preparations to start for Orin Junction with their three children. They loaded a box and suitcase filled with clothing in the wagon, in addition to firearms for protection against the imaginary masked mob. During their trip to Orin they evidently stopped at some farm having a telephone, for Mrs. Tubbs made a call to the Sheriff's office in Douglas, begging for protection. McPherson left immediately for the Tubbs' homestead, and upon arriving there, found the place deserted. He interviewed some of the neighbors only to find that there was no basis for the woman's statements and that the "mob" existed only in the weak, confused minds of the Tubbs!

When the Tubbs arrived in Orin, they went to Henry Hern's Mercantile Store, carrying their weapons inside with them. Shortly afterward, McPherson arrived, and leaving his gun in the car, entered the Hern Mercantile. Tubbs was sitting on a box, holding his infant child. Henry told Tubbs that McPherson was the man for whom he and his wife had sent. Tubbs, convinced that McPherson was part of the mob, drew a .45 Colt and fired at McPherson who was standing about 15 feet away. The pistol failed to fire the first time but a second attempt was successful. The bullet struck the officer in the right thigh, passing completely through the fleshy part of his leg. McPherson escaped through the door and Hern, who had been standing behind the counter, tackled Tubbs, wrestling the gun away from him and smashing Tubbs over the head with it. Tubbs fell to his knees and Hern turned to see Mrs. Tubbs aiming a .22 rifle at him. He knocked the gun aside trying to pull it from her hands but then he noticed that Tubbs had regained his feet and was apparently reaching for another weapon. Hern escaped from the building.

After he had left the store, McPherson telephoned the Douglas Sheriff's office to report and was told that a posse was being formed to come to Orin to capture the Tubbs who were holed up in the Hern Mercantile. Residents of Orin were soon on the scene, armed to engage in battle with the insane pair. They fired at anyone who appeared outside the store. In this way, S. S. Magnussen, agent for the Northwestern at Orin, met his death. He had come from his office in the depot when he heard the shots and had walked within 100 feet of the store. He was shot in the left side and in the shoulder and fell to the ground. A clerk, J. A. Graham, who worked at the Mercantile, ran to rescue a young child from the line of fire, and in doing so, was struck in the cheek by a bullet. Henry Hern at the rear of the building and George Howe in the front kept

firing into the building. It gradually became evident that the battle was over for there were no answering shots. Cautiously they entered the store to find Mrs. Tubbs lying in the front part, her four month old baby beneath her. The infant was uninjured but crying loudly. Mrs. Tubbs had been shot five times. Tubbs was lying further back in the room with gaping wounds in his head and back. Both Tubbs were dead.

Acting County Attorney Showalter had called Doctors Hylton and Sunderland when he was first notified of the shooting. They immediately left for Orin where they ministered to the wounded Magnussen, McPherson and Graham. Magnussen died on the following day, the bullet in his left side having passed through his liver. Both Graham and McPherson recovered from their wounds.

An inquest was held shortly afterward with H. P. Allen, E. R. Romine and C. E. Clark composing the coroner's jury. It was evident that both the Tubbs were mentally unbalanced. The mob which the Tubbs thought to be a threat to them was actually a crew working for the Mountain States Telephone Company. They had come to repair the lines after a storm had damaged them.

Ruth Graham

## Turner, Elmer and Marymond

Elmer Elijah Turner was born in April 1865 at Knox, Indiana and his wife, Marymond "Mate" Smiley Turner, on March 8, 1871. They were married there on June 26, 1892, later moving to Argos, Indiana where they lived for a time and where their four sons were born. Their first and second born sons, Paul and Robert, died as young children and are buried at Argos. Elsworth E. "Babe", was 9, and Harry D., 5 months, when the parents arrived at Lost Springs, Wyoming on March 10, 1910 to make their home. A house was built in town, leaving one room in front, later to become a butcher shop.

Soon thereafter Elmer filed on a homestead about three miles south of town. Others filing on homesteads in the same area were: Clyde Howell, Ed Kamp, Whites, Art Croco, Omer Moore, Wm. Miller and W. J. Donnelly, all had one thing in common—leaving Argos, Indiana to make their new homes in the vicinity of Lost Springs. The road on which most of these homesteaders lived, south of Lost Springs, was called Hoosier Avenue.

A butcher shop was opened to supply meat for the Rosin Coal Mine north of Lost Springs. Mr. Turner also put up an ice house and delivered ice and also used ice in the cooler at the butcher shop where the two or three beeves and also pork were hung to cool out after they were butchered each week. When someone wanted a piece of meat, a quarter was brought from the cooler; and the piece ordered was cut from it, and the rest returned to the cooler, much different from the pre-packaged meat we buy nowadays. The butcher shop was continued until the closure of the mine in the spring of 1912. During the operation of the shop, the homestead was contested because of insufficient time spent on it. This led to the filing of another homestead approximately three miles northeast of Lost Springs. Elmer farmed and raised some cattle on this land; and his spare time was used to pick up

freight from the railroad and deliver it to the various merchants in the town or anyone else who wanted freight delivered.

Dr. Watkins and family moved to Lost Springs just prior to World War I and proved to be quite an asset to the community and especially so during the influenza epidemic of 1918. He also took a homestead two miles west of town. There were three children in the family; an older daughter, Leah, son Fred and daughter Evannah.

The Turners opened a cafe in the old saloon building at the beginning of prohibition in about 1920 and operated it for two or three years. Since there was no plumbing in the cafe it was Harry's job to carry water from a well into the building for use in cooking and for washing dishes and also for the various other needs of the cafe. While Mrs. Turner ran the cafe, Mr. Turner operated the farm, did butchering for neighbors, operated the dray business and did grading for the town. The Lost Springs town books show that on June 4, 1919 E. E. Turner was paid \$4 for grading the streets and Mrs. M. M. Turner \$3 for serving on the town election board; and at a special meeting in July 1919, Mr. Turner was not allowed \$3 for grading the streets. After this Mr. Turner worked in the oil fields at Lance Creek until failing health overtook him and he retired in 1930 living in the home at Lost Springs until his death on October 5, 1936. His remains were returned to Argos, Indiana to be interred beside his two young sons. Mrs. Turner continued making her home at Lost Springs until returning to Indiana the fall of 1942 where she passed away on February 7, 1943 and is buried there.

Elsworth E. "Babe" attended school at Lost Springs and later became a cowboy working on ranches in and around the area. He married Gladys Decker of Lost Springs in July of 1920 at Douglas, Wyoming and they lived on the H. B. Card ranch south of Lost Springs where their daughter, Bette, was born on December 5, 1921. Later they lived on the 77 Ranch north of Lance Creek where Babe broke horses for A. A. Spaugh and himself. Babe and Gladys' son, Edson E., was born here on September 3, 1926. Harry recalls that Babe received \$5 per head for breaking some 30 horses and it took most of the summer to do it, also that the first one they roped stood up on its hind legs and came at them. Most of the horses were mavericks about 7 to 8 years old, so really didn't pan out as good saddle horses gentle enough for anyone to ride. When on their way to deliver the horses one of them bucked Marshall Kamp off and also the saddle and bridle. Babe and family returned to Lost Springs and lived on the Manorgan place where he raised some cattle and sheep and also worked as a cowboy for ranchers in the area. Daughter, Mary Lou, was born here on July 2, 1928. From the Manorgan place they moved to the Salt Creek and Midwest area where Babe drove a truck between there and Casper for a time. Later they moved to Roby, Indiana in the early 1930s to operate a riding stable and it was there that he and Gladys separated. Babe returned to Wyoming in about 1940 and operated a service station at Kemmerer for a few years before running an irrigated ranch for Harry at Boulder, Wyoming. When Harry sold the ranch in 1947 Babe returned to Gillette where he lived until his death in an automobile accident in 1963. He is buried at Gillette. His children continued to make their homes in Indiana and Illinois.

Harry attended school from first through twelfth grades at Lost Springs, graduating in 1928. During the summers, while in high school, he worked for A. D. Brink doing farm work, wrangling horses at sunup, running a 4-horse fresno building reservoirs during the day and milking cows after dark for 50¢ per day. The third summer he was paid 75¢ per day.

Harry remembers that Mrs. Sadie Fenton could roll a Bull Durham cigarette faster than any cowboy in the vicinity and she could also handle a bullwhip as well as any bullwhacker and recalls her chasing Mrs. Watkins home with the bullwhip one time. He also remembers the finding of the body of a man in the railroad water tank and of skipping school to watch it being removed from the tank. It was said the man was murdered as the result of a high stakes poker game.

He also recalls that the Citizens State Bank of Lost Springs was the first bank in the State of Wyoming to go under and then the first one to pay out dollar for dollar. Harry participated in the rabbit drives during a winter in the early 1930's. On Sundays the ladies of the community would take lunches to a church in the area where the men would come in at noon for dinner. A section of land would be surrounded in all four sides by the hunters and the drive started winding up near the center of the section. On one Sunday over 2500 rabbits were shot. They were shipped to Omaha. Niobrara County gave one gun shell for every pair of rabbit ears brought in. Edward Hale of the Lost Springs community was a good shot, starting the season with a box of shells and finishing it with only 10 shells less than the full box.

Harry attended Chillicothe, Missouri Business College for one year, coming back to Wyoming where he went to work at Lance Creek in July 1929 and worked there until he went to work for the State of Wyoming in November of 1933 at Lusk for the Wyoming Employment Service, remaining with them at Buffalo, Gillette, Kemmerer and Rock Springs until 1946 when he returned to Gillette where he operated a livestock auction market for a number of years and later owning and operating the Stockman's Bar and Cafe there, retiring in 1974.

Harry and Frances Henrichsen were married at Deadwood, South Dakota May 16, 1932. A son, Douglas R., was born at Lusk on February 4, 1933, and a daughter, Vee, at Lance Creek on June 27, 1934. Douglas graduated from high school at Gillette and was in business with his father at the Stockman's Bar and Cafe until he became a real estate broker in 1972. Douglas and wife, Isabelle, have four children; Debbie Nuss of Worland, Vee McKim and Douglas R. "Beaver" of Gillette, and Roy Douglas "Ricky" of Denver, Colorado.

Daughter Vee and husband, Sonny Bjornsted, make their home at Sheridan and her children are: Billy Percifeld of Buffalo, Donald Percifeld, and also daughter, Toni Kell of Gillette, and son, Kelly McKim, who is a welder there.

Harry and wife, Carol, live at Buffalo and spend their winters in Arizona. They are the proud grandparents of eight lovely grandchildren.

Harry D. Turner

## Turner, Thomas and Eva Family

Floyd Turner and brother Clarence came to Converse County in 1917 and took up homesteads 32 miles north on the Ross Road in the vicinity of the 88 ranch. They returned back to Iowa in the fall and with brother Glenn enlisted in the first world war, serving together in the Army Air Corp. in England, and at the end of the war in 1918 were among the first troops to return to the states. They spent the winter in Iowa with their folks and together they returned in the spring of 1919 to the homesteads.

Sister Nellie and husband Jim Carpenter came to Converse County in 1920 and took up a homestead on the Bill Henry ranch, later moving to Douglas and going into the dairy business. Their two children, Dorothy and James, were born in Douglas and later moved to California.

Sister Bessie spent her summers with the brothers, then she filed on a homestead on the Cheyenne River and in 1927 married Dick Hornbuckle. They had three children; Dick Jr., Evelyn and Elaine.

Brother Glenn also proved up on a homestead.

Brother Earl and Helen, with family, moved from Iowa to Douglas. They had six children, Lorraine, Bud, Floyd, Virginia, Bette and Gordon.

Then the Turners' parents, Thomas and Eva Turner moved to Douglas to live.

In 1928 Floyd Turner and Beryl Hornbeck were married and had three children; Eva, Edna and Larry, who were all born in Douglas. The Brown Springs school was three miles farther north, and that is where Eva went to school for three years and Edna attended for one year.

In 1935 Floyd had surgery and was in the V.A. Hospital for three months and could not work for a year, so we moved to Douglas in 1936. Eva, Edna and Larry went to the North Grade and High Schools. Floyd then worked for the Government Rodent Control, was Deputy Sheriff with Clyde Ivester, and the Douglas Police with Lem Carmin, then twelve years at the LaBonte Hotel for Roy and Dee Ball; he then retired. Floyd was Commander of the American Legion at the time that the present building was bought, which was in 1945.

Beryl worked as a clerk at the Modern Store, Golden Rule, Peyton Bolln's, the Frontier Drug for about ten years and as nurses aide for 13½ years at the Converse County Hospital; then she retired. Beryl was Past President and District President of the American Legion Auxiliary.



Floyd Turner Homestead

Eva married Don Cook and they have three children: daughter Cheryl who married Roger Boespflug, and they have two children; daughter Chris married Michael Smith and they have two children; and son Kelly is married to Jeanette and they also have two children.

Edna married Bill Stevens and they have two boys, Zack and Greg.

Larry Turner and wife Yvonne have four children; Rory, Ted, Drew and Melanie. Melanie is married to Artie Bullock and they have two children.

Beryl Hornbeck Turner

## Urban, Albert and Sophia

The province of Hanover, Germany was one of several small areas which together constituted the country of Prussia in the early 1800s. Each province had a king who ruled over the citizens. During the period from 1806 to 1862 there was political unrest and upheaval in the country. Austria and Prussia struggled to unite. Finally in 1862 Prussia demanded German unity with a liberal government. Shortly afterward, the Prussian King appointed Prince Otto von Bismarck to a powerful position and Bismarck finally succeeded in uniting Germany in 1871. The small provinces were absorbed into the German Empire at that time and all were under the rule of the first Kaiser, Wilhelm I.

Julius J. Urban and his wife, Minna, were natives of Hanover. Julius was the royal weaver for the King of Hanover. After Germany was united he became discontented with his life and immigrated to the United States in 1872. He settled his family in New York City where he engaged in the weaving business.

Albert Urban was born on March 26, 1865 in Walstrode Province, Hanover, Germany. When his family moved to the United States, Albert was seven years old. He began working in his father's weaving shop as a boy, attending school at night to obtain his degree in engineering. Having finished his education he migrated to Wyoming in 1890 where he was first employed as a surveyor on Morton's ditch near Douglas. He later served as County Surveyor over a period of years. Sometime during the decade from 1890 to 1900, Albert filed a homestead claim on LaPrele Creek south of Douglas where he raised Shorthorn cattle.

Albert and a friend took a trip to Yellowstone National Park before the turn of the century. They made the trip, which took two months to complete, by team and wagon.

Albert returned to the east to be united in marriage with Sophia M. Rumpleton of New Jersey in 1899. Sophia was born there on March 26, 1873 and received her education in the New Jersey schools. Upon the completion of her studies she was employed as a secretary in New York City. She continued to live in New Jersey, commuting to her job.

After their marriage, Albert and Sophia returned to Wyoming to make their home. Sophia's first years on the homestead were filled with learning how to cook and keep house. She had always worked after she finished school



and had learned none of the arts of homemaking. There were two neighboring homesteads, each about two miles from the Urbans. One of the ladies, Mrs. Gore, taught Sophia how to bake bread.

Sophia had not learned to ride horseback so if she decided to visit with her neighbors, she had to make the journey afoot. Tales of marauding Indians and ferocious wild animals prevented her from doing this, however. As the years passed, Sophia gained confidence, learning to enjoy her new home and surroundings.

Albert, who had always traveled by team and wagon, or on horseback, bought his first automobile from Tom Virden. It was a second-hand Buick. He had never driven a car, so Mr. Virden obligingly gave Albert instructions for about 20 minutes, leaving much for Albert to learn for himself by trial and error. He managed to drive the vehicle home, about a mile and a half, and when he arrived there, he felt he had had enough experience to take his daughter, Minna, for a ride. Off they went up the meadow at the incredible speed of 20 miles per hour.

After the death of his first wife in 1922, Albert married for a second time to Dora C. Potter, a widow with a family of her own. He died on the fifth of March in 1946 and is buried in the Douglas Park Cemetery.

Minna Urban Cross was born on December 31, 1901. She received her common schooling in the rural schools of the LaPrele community. She was united in marriage to Alexander "Sandy" Cross on October 16, 1929. Sandy had a ranch in the LaPrele area and was engaged in raising Shorthorn cattle. He was the son of George H. Cross and Lea LeVasseur Cross, who had come to Converse County in 1874, among the first of the settlers of the LaPrele area. Sandy was born on June 8, 1894 at the home ranch in Converse County. To this union four daughters were born, Dorothy L., Elsie, Margaret and Frances. Sandy is now deceased, but Minna continues to make her home at the ranch.

Minna remembers that during the last illness of her father, Albert, when he was sure that the end was near, said to her, "I don't mind going because I don't owe anybody anything. I am happy!" It seemed a wonderful thing that his life ended with no debts left unsettled.

Ruth Grant

## Valdez and Gurule Families

The Gurules came to Converse County from Colorado in 1934. Miguel Antonio Gurule was born in France around 1870, and immigrated to the United States when he was about two years old with his grandmother. His parents were presumably killed in the Franco-Prussian conflict before he left France.

Miguel and his grandmother moved to New Mexico. His grandmother's name was Juanita Cortez. She worked in a grocery store in Rancho De Taos, New Mexico. She is described as being a very pretty woman with red hair and green eyes. She died in 1925.

After Miguel grew up he worked as a ranch hand and miner when he could get the work. His first wife died after the birth of their first child who was raised by relatives. She now lives in Denver, Colorado. Her name is Julia Quintana.

Miguel later married Lazara Vigil Maestas. She was born in Talpa, New Mexico in 1866. Her parents presumably passed away as a result of Mexican/American conflicts, or possibly an Indian/white conflict. Before she married Gurule, she had previously been married to a man with the last name of Maestas. He died of black lung from working in the coal mines. Lazara and Maestas had eight children, six of whom survived. (One of these children, Saveda, had 22 children.)

After marrying Gurule, Lazara had six children, two who are presently living in Douglas, Elidia Valdez and Mary Lueras.

Miguel and Lazara moved with their family back and forth from Colorado to New Mexico, wherever work could be found. He played the fiddle and guitar for dances in between jobs or for entertainment. But mainly he worked as a miner near Leadville, Colorado.

During the depression years, they decided to move to Douglas as work was hard to come by. Also Miguel had developed a serious heart condition as a direct result of poisons the ranchers used to spray grasshoppers with. They decided to move to Douglas, Wyoming for the financial and morale support of his wife's son, Andy Maestas, who worked for rancher Bill Smith. They arrived in 1934, and Miguel died in 1935. Lazara continued to live in Douglas with their two daughters, Elidia and Mary, until her death in 1937. Before she passed away, her daughter, Elidia, married Pete Valdez in 1936.

Pete was born in a little village near Des Moines, New Mexico where he lived for 12 years with his grandmother, Marina Aveta. She was a full blooded Apache Indian. Her husband had been murdered by Indians while his family, Marina and their two daughters, Sara and Maria (Pete's mother) witnessed his death.

After Pete's birth, his mother, Maria Valdez, moved to Colorado and worked as a cook for ranchers who employed migrant farm workers. Nothing is known of Pete's father. As was mentioned earlier Pete was raised by his grandmother.

Eventually Maria found her way north, and settled in Torrington, Wyoming. Pete went to live with her there, attended school in Torrington, and later worked for ranchers in the area.

After school, Pete moved to Sacramento, California. At this time his mother moved to Douglas, Wyoming in 1934. Marina moved here to live with her daughter and resided with her until her death in 1954. Pete moved back to Douglas in 1935 where he met and married Elidia Gurule in 1936. Together, they had eight children, seven who survived. These are; Mike 1937, Ray 1939, Maria 1942, Nick 1944, Vicki 1945, Richard 1948 and Cisco 1953.

Pete worked for RH Fulton Construction, Union Pacific Railroad as foreman, Knisely Moore Construction, Gilpatrick's in Riverton, and had a mail route to Casper in later years. These are just a few of his jobs.

Pete passed away after a lengthy illness on February 22, 1971. He was survived by his wife, Elidia, and their children, and his mother who passed away in May of 1981. His wife and two sons, Richard and Cisco, presently live and work in Douglas; Mike lives in Salem, Oregon; Ray in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Marie in Rock Springs, Wyoming; Nick in Riverton, Wyoming; and Vicki in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Elidia Valdez

## Valentine, William and Lula Family

William "Bill" and Lula Valentine came to Converse County, Wyoming from Beaver County, Oklahoma, June 19, 1919. They homesteaded 17 miles northwest of the town of Glenrock, Wyoming. Bill worked in the oilfields at Big Muddy and Tea Pot Dome to earn enough money to "prove up" their homestead and support the family, and Lula stayed on the homestead. She raised chickens, turkeys and milked cows and sold cream, butter, eggs and turkeys to the people in Parkerton and Glenrock. After they received title to the homestead land in 1925, Bill left the oilfields and worked for a neighbor, who was a sheep rancher. They raised orphan lambs and bought old ewes and cows to stock their 640 acre homestead. A humble beginning which has expanded to 70,000 acres and is still managed by their two sons.

William Noble Valentine, the eldest son of Elam and Laura Valentine was born in Squire Station, Arkansas on August 13, 1889. After he completed the fourth grade he went with his father to Texas where they ran race horses. In later years he joined the cattle drives north through Dodge City, Kansas and into Montana.

On November 29, 1916 he married Lula O'Neal, a school teacher at Ivanhoe, Oklahoma. She was the eldest child of James and Mary O'Neal. She was born in No Mans Land, Oklahoma on November 29, 1894.

After their marriage they lived in Beaver County, Oklahoma on the family farm with his parents and brothers, Louie, Aaron, Floyd, Otis and a sister, Mary.

On September 16, 1917 at Madison, Oklahoma, Lula gave birth to their first child, a daughter, Avis Marie.

The family farm could no longer financially support them so in the summer of 1918 Bill and Lula joined a wheat harvesting crew in Kansas. This crew was managed by Mr. Harlow, whose son had filed a homestead claim northwest of Glenrock, Wyoming. They harvested wheat north into Colorado and Nebraska.

In the fall, after the wheat harvest was over, Bill left Lula and Avis in Ft. Collins, Colorado and went to investigate the available homestead sites at Craig and Baggs,

Colorado and Glenrock, Wyoming. His choice was Section 17, Township 35 North, Range 76 West, Converse County, Wyoming, 17 miles northwest of Glenrock, Wyoming. In October 1918 he boarded a freight train to Cheyenne, Wyoming and filed his claim on this tract of land. He then returned to Ft. Collins, Colorado where his second child, a son, Aaron Noble, was born on October 21, 1918.

Immediately following Noble's birth, the family moved to Scottsbluff, Nebraska where Bill shod horses and earned enough money to buy a covered wagon and a team of horses to move the family to the homestead in Wyoming. They loaded all their belongings on the wagon and set out along the Platte River. On June 19, 1919 they arrived at Parkerton where they crossed the river and headed north to complete the final ten miles of their journey to their new home.

Parkerton, Wyoming was located seven miles west of Glenrock. It was an oil boom town with a post office, grocery store, gasoline station and a high school. (The old teacherage for the high school is still occupied as a dwelling on the Valentine ranch.) There were several oil company camps in Parkerton, i.e., Ohio, Texas, Sinclair and Continental.

As they crossed the river bridge, Lula admired the big white house to the west, which was occupied by the Ed Smiths. He was the foreman for the Mountain Home Company. The fact this house would someday be her home would have seemed an impossibility to her.

After they reached the homestead, they set up their tents near Edith Lake. There were also some seeps nearby to provide some water. They became acquainted with their neighbors to the west, the Frank Whortons. Bill left Lula and the children to satisfy the occupancy requirement of the government and returned to Nebraska to work on the farms and harvest beets.

In early fall 1919 Bill again boarded a freight train toward Glenrock with enough money to buy material for a cabin. He got off the train at the Cole Creek Road at Parkerton and walked the ten miles to his home. During this fall they built a cabin, horsebarn, root cellar, drilled a well and erected a windmill. All the material for the buildings and windmill had to be hauled by team and wagon from Glenrock. He bargained with the superintendent of the Freepo Oil Company, who was drilling for oil to the northeast of the homestead, to drill their water well. It was 180 feet deep and produced good water for domestic use and drinking. The water was pumped into an underground tank and piped to the cabin from the tank.

The next spring and summer of 1920 they cleared, plowed and planted oats and wheat on 100 acres of the land. This provided feed for the chickens, turkeys, horses, cows and made good cereal to cook for breakfast for the family.

Bill and Mr. Whorton used their teams to haul poles for fence posts and corrals from Deer Creek Park south of Glenrock, Wyoming. As they descended Negro Hill with their loaded wagons the brakes failed on Mr. Whorton's wagon and ran into Bill's wagon causing the team to run away. He almost lost his team and his own life. His childhood years in Kansas and Oklahoma had not instilled a love for the mountains in him, even though he recognized



William and Lula Valentine, 1917.

their advantages of timber and water. This incident squelched any doubts he had about his decision to homestead in the flat sandhills. He felt he would rather work in the oilfields and earn the money he needed for poles.

In the spring of 1922 he went to Tea Pot Dome with his team to ride pipeline and haul supplies in the oilfields. The oil companies had a mess hall and cooked for the employees but didn't have any provisions for housing. The men slept in tents near the camp. Lula stayed on the homestead and milked cows and sold milk, cream and butter to the people in Parkerton and Glenrock. She also raised chickens and turkeys. She sold eggs the year round and sold turkeys for the holidays.

On August 13, 1922 Noble became very ill. Mrs. Whorton went by horseback to Glenrock to get Dr. Herbert Harvey but they did not return in time to save his life. The cause of his death was never determined but was believed to have been food poisoning.

Dr. Harvey felt Lula should not remain on the homestead for the winter. She was pregnant with their third child. They leased the homestead to Pat and Elma Leach, employees of the Freepo Oil Company. Lula moved to Glenrock and gave birth to Fay on February 2, 1923.

By the spring of 1923 the oil companies at Tea Pot Dome had built houses for their employees. Lula and the children moved there in May. They lived at Tea Pot Dome until the spring of 1924 when Bill quit, and they returned to the homestead to continue their business of building a sheep ranch. He had now earned enough money to buy posts and wire to fence the outside perimeter of the land.

In the fall of 1924 Bill and a neighbor, Robert Smith, formed a partnership and went into the sheep business in a big way. They borrowed enough money from the Glenrock State Bank to buy 1000 head of ewes at \$13.50 per head. They used only the sheep for collateral.

On October 11, 1924 their fourth child was born, a daughter, Lena Lois. She was born in Glenrock, Wyoming.

During 1924, 1925 and 1926, the Big Muddy Oilfield boomed and the sheep business prospered. On January

24, 1925 they received title to their homestead from the United States of America.

On September 10, 1926 their fifth child was born, a son, Herbert Jack. He was born at Glenrock, Wyoming.

Avis had attained school age and had gone to live with the Whortons who had moved to Glenrock to work at the Continental Oil Company refinery. She attended school in Glenrock until 1929 when the school building on Sand Creek was moved near the homestead and became the Lone Tree School. There were seven children to attend this school: three of the Valentines, two of the Sayles and two of the Warrens.

In 1929 the Glenrock State Bank had financial problems and went out of business. They had to declare all their outstanding loans due including the loan for the sheep. The price of sheep had dropped drastically over the years so Bill had to sell all his livestock including the chickens, turkeys and milk cows to pay off his loan. This set them back to the beginning with only the land in their possession. Bill started working for another neighbor, Pete Nicolaysen, who was a sheep rancher. Bill used his horses to tend camp for Mr. Nicolaysen.

On July 8, 1929 their sixth child was born, a daughter, Vera Florence. She was born in Glenrock, Wyoming.

During the next several years Bill and Lula gradually built up another herd of sheep by feeding orphan lambs and buying old ewes and old cows.

On August 28, 1933 their last child was born, a son, Dale Lee. He was born at Casper, Wyoming.

In 1936 Bill was stricken with tick fever and was hospitalized in Casper which created serious financial hardships for the family. But again they stuck together and endured and prospered.

By the year 1938 they had acquired enough equity to buy more land. During the next two years they bought the homesteads of Hamlin, Henderson, Phillips, Wiley, Ford and Melberg. These tracts were all in the same general area of the homestead. In 1939 they purchased the Mountain Home Company land along the North Platte River. During World War II period they bought the ranches of Spencer and Smith in the north country and Hawkes and Cromwell south of the river in the Big Muddy oilfield. By this time, the town of Parkerton no longer existed and the high school had been torn down and moved to Glenrock.

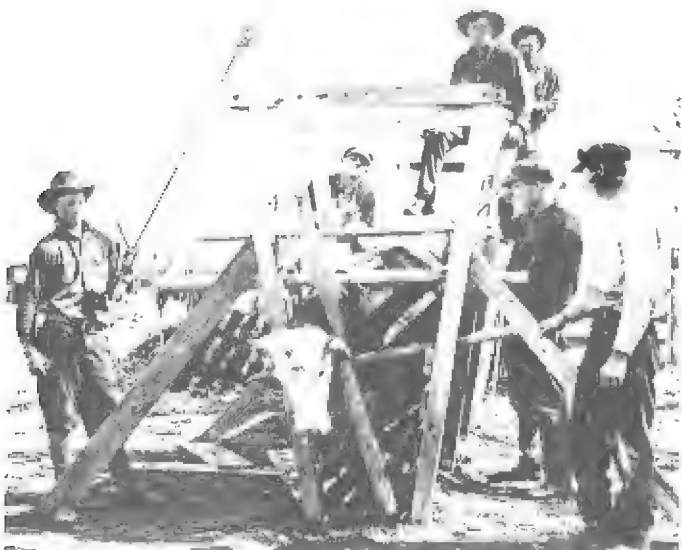
In the fall of 1946 Lula moved into the big white house of the Mountain Home Company which she had admired while crossing the river bridge some 25 years earlier.

During the 1950s they purchased the ranches of Kothe, Lennox and Beck in the north country near the homestead and the Kron, Cornell and Goff property south of the river. During this time they also bought the farmland along the Platte River from the Crosswait brothers. This farm was formerly the Glenrock Sheep Company.

On July 10, 1961 Bill and Lula transferred all their holdings, land and livestock into a family corporation, William Valentine and Sons, Inc. All the children received stock in this corporation.

There has only been one major purchase of land since the business was incorporated and that was the Robert Hiser place on Boxelder Creek south of Glenrock on August 1, 1980.

All the Valentine children attended schools in Glenrock and graduated from Glenrock-Parkerton High



Valentines working cattle.

School, except Avis who graduated from Natrona County High School in Casper in 1937.

All the children married except Herbert. Avis married Charles Nicholas Carlon on June 17, 1953 at Carson City, Nevada. They had two children, Margi and John. Fay married Mary Martha Wagner on February 19, 1955 at Glenrock, Wyoming. They had three children, Mary Ann, William Frederick and Jim Fay. Lena to John Robert Blackwell on May 12, 1956 at Thermopolis, Wyoming. They had one child, Reva Jo. Florence married Alva Harlen Baughman on December 26, 1948 at Colorado Springs, Colorado. They had five children, Bertha Lena, Albert Gene, Roy William, Beverly Ann and Lu Eva Lee. Dale married Verna Lee Boyd on July 20, 1958 at Oakwood, Virginia. They had three children, C.B., Lesa Lois and Terry Lee.

Fay died at Casper, Wyoming on July 9, 1967. Bill died on April 10, 1968, also in Casper. Lula died in a nursing home in Ft. Collins, Colorado on September 16, 1973.

All the sons have worked and lived on the ranch continuously except for four years from 1963 through 1967 when Dale worked on a ranch for Harold Josendal southwest of Casper, Wyoming and Herb worked at the Billings Livestock Auction in Billings, Montana.

At the present time the ranch corporation controls approximately 70,000 acres of land, 32,000 acres of this land is deeded. It extends 50 miles from the sandhills north of Glenrock, Wyoming to the Medicine Bow Forest south of Glenrock, Wyoming and is stocked with 3,600 head of sheep and 500 head of cattle. The livestock are trailed from the north range to the Hiser place and the Medicine Bow Forest for pasture during the summer months. The trailing is conducted in the same manner as it was 65 years ago; on horseback and sheep wagon, although the sheep wagon is pulled behind a diesel powered pickup truck instead of a team of horses. Gathering techniques have been modernized with two way radios, motorcycles and or snowmobiles and an airplane.

The ranch business is managed by Dale and Herb. the third generation is actively involved in the management. C.B., Dale's son, supervises all the work involving the sheep and cattle. He and his family also live on the ranch property.

Verna Boyd Valentine

## Vandegrift, William and Athol

William C. Vandegrift's ancestors came from Holland originally. William was born in Austin, Minnesota in 1886.

William was raised by his uncle, Thomas Hart Benton Vandegrift, who adopted him after the death of his mother. He was raised in Egan, South Dakota and received his common school education there. He attended the Agricultural College at Brookings, South Dakota, as well as being a student at the Art Institute of Minneapolis and at the Chicago Art Institute.

Vandegrift came to Wyoming to establish a grain elevator and potato cellar called the Lost Springs Co-Op. William's father had operated a grain elevator in South Dakota.

Athol Stevenson was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa in 1896. Her parents were Brougham and Lulu Rhodes Stevenson. When Athol was a young girl the family moved to Omaha, Nebraska. Athol's father purchased a 120 acre relinquishment northeast of Lost Springs in 1917. He offered it to Athol and she accepted it happily. When school was out in the spring where she was teaching, she set off for Wyoming to file and prove up on her homestead.

Athol's father accompanied Athol and her mother to Lost Springs. He found lodging for them with the Horace Woodward family. Mr. Woodward ran the local lumberyard, while Mrs. Woodward was employed as postmistress. Athol and her mother lived with the Woodwards until their own homestead houses were completed. Mr. Stevenson then returned to Omaha.

Miss Stevenson was employed by the local banker, Mr. Butterfield, to act as cashier on a temporary basis until his permanent cashier, Mabel Buffington, recovered from injuries she had sustained in a runaway accident. Mrs. Stevenson found employment in the post office.

Business in the community was booming. Mr. Butterfield loaned money on short term notes of 90 days at the rate of 10% interest. Aspiring ranchers and farmers with dreams of immediate wealth patronized the bank and readily accepted the banker's terms.

The town in 1918 was bisected by the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, running from the east to the west. The depot and water tower were located beside the tracks on the east side of the main street which was laid out at right angles to the railroad. North of the depot on the same side were located a hotel, restaurant, pool hall, post office and a blacksmith shop. On the west side, a scale house next to the railroad, Freeland's Hotel, Cheap John's Meat Market, a garage, the Butterfield Bank, and the Bee Hive Apartment House, which also housed the printing presses of the local weekly newspaper called the "Bee Hive." At the extreme northern end of the street stood the two room school house. Southeast of the school the modern home of Charlie and Lillian Hitsheew was located. Besides being the local midwife, Mrs. Hitsheew ran a dairy.

Paralleling the railroad at right angles to the main street was a street along which were located a second grocery store, another pool hall and a garage. Across the tracks to the south were the Woodward Lumberyard, Turner's Meat Market and Pennington's Livery Stable.

The entire population of the area turned out July 4, 1918 to celebrate Independence Day. In the morning a grand parade was to be held, the route commencing at the school house and proceeding south along main street to the railroad. The town rented two costumes for the parade at the cost of \$5.00 each. One costume made of red, white and blue satin, clothed Miss Columbia portrayed by Alaska, the beautiful daughter of the local Doctor Watkins. The second costume was one made of mail which clanked and rattled, and was worn by a local girl, aged twelve, portraying Joan d' Arc. She was to ride horseback arrayed in her armor.

Joe Ladgin, the blacksmith, owned the only phonograph in town. The master of ceremonies, leading the parade, carried the phonograph to provide music. The





L. to R.: William Vandegrift and Earl Cannon.

flag-bearers followed the master of ceremonies, and were in turn followed by a group of children carrying small American flags. Next came a dray wagon carrying Uncle Sam, in a homemade costume, Miss Columbia in her glorious satin, and the Goddess of Liberty resplendent in a homemade robe of cheesecloth. The Goddess of Liberty was portrayed by Miss Athol Stevenson. Following the dray wagon were three horsemen, Cody Shippen, Ellis Coggeshell, and Babe Turner. Another dray wagon owned by the Pennington Livery and driven by Les and Roy Pennington completed the parade. Joan d'Arc was missing!

The directors of the parade had feared that the horse Joan was to ride might become unmanageable as a result of all the noise and excitement, and that the beast might also object to the strange garb of its rider. Therefore, Joan's mount, with Joan astride, was tied in the safety of the Posey Stable to wait for the parade to begin.

The parade was all over when Jo Posey remembered the hapless Joan sitting in her brother's stable. The townsfolk must see the costume for which they had paid a rental! Jo grabbed a flag from one of the bearers and raced to the stable. She emerged leading a drooping Joan, but poor Joan could not see the people as the visor of her helmet had dropped down, obscuring her vision.

When Athol's dwelling was completed on her claim, she left Woodward's and moved in. The house was 8' x 20' with a 4' x 8' space partitioned off for a kitchen. She named her home "Castle View Ranch." Mrs. Stevenson's dwelling was much more elaborate, having two rooms. Each measured 12' x 12'. Both houses were painted on the outside, plastered on the inside and shingled. Athol and her mother spent the weekends at Castle View and the weekdays at Mrs. Stevenson's.

Among the "elite" of Lost Springs were the Howard family and the two Cannon families. Pertinent to this account is the family of Earl Cannon, since he "kept company" with Athol for a time after his divorce from his first wife was final. Earl was the son of Mrs. Widdie Cannon. He owned the only threshing machine in the area. After the harvest season, he invested his money in a big open Buick automobile in which he came courting Athol.

Though money was not easy to come by, the laborers in Lost Springs were selective about the type of work which they would take. William Vandegrift had no trouble finding workmen for the building of his elevator, but

when it came to digging his potato cellar, not many were interested. Therefore, the cellar took several months to complete.

William came into Butterfield's bank to deposit money for the co-op. It was there that he first met Athol. Later he asked Mrs. Stevenson if Athol could help him with his accounting. He became a regular visitor at the Stevenson home, though actually he needed no help with his bookkeeping.

One day, a professional gambler came to town. He set up poker games which were played at Turner's restaurant and which took up the men's evenings. The gambler allowed the townsmen to win at first, but little by little the gambler began to win, and the stakes rose. One evening most of the local men were involved and the stakes became worthwhile. Bets were eventually backed by IOU's. Ted Posey and Mr. Cannon, Widdie's husband, were doing some mighty heavy betting. Mrs. Posey walked in, laid her "shooting iron" on the table and stood over her husband to watch the proceedings. This dampened the enthusiasm of the players considerably. The game broke up. Mrs. Posey had convinced all of them that she meant business. Posey's IOUs amounted to several hundred dollars, as did those of Mr. Cannon. The next morning at a very early hour, Mrs. Cannon routed Mr. Butterfield out of bed, drew all the money from the Cannon account and marched out of the bank. The account was not depleted further by Mr. Cannon nor was he seen in town for a long time.

Oil fever infected the population in 1918 and 1919. Ohio Oil Company had capped a well about four miles from town. A gusher was struck at Lance Creek to the north. Everyone was sure that he or she would become a millionaire in no time at all. The Lance Creek field was a success, but the homesteaders in the vicinity of Lost Springs were obliged to make their living in other ways.

Athol Stevenson finished proving up on her claim in September 1920 and returned to Council Bluffs to care for her father and her sister, Charlotte. She enrolled in Van Sant Business College, an exclusive college for girls and women. She married William Vandegrift in 1921, after which the couple returned to Lost Springs, Wyoming to make their home. Shortly afterwards they moved to Casper where three of the children were born.

There were five children born to this union. They were William Brougham, Robert Arthur, Virginia Valora, Donald Richard and Elizabeth Lu. All of the children grew to adulthood with the exception of Donald Richard who died at the age of ten.

William died in 1957 and Athol in 1974.

Athol Valora Stevenson Vandegrift

## Vanderwalker, Fred and Olive

Vanderwalkers came to Wyoming to homestead in 1916 or 1917. They came from near Kansas City, Missouri. The family consisted of Fredrick "Fred" (b. 1869), his wife, Olive Harriet (b. 1868), a daughter, Florence Susan (b. 1900), and a son, Frank Olivia. Their homestead was on Twenty Mile Creek north of Lost Springs.

I. Mildred Howell, don't remember much about them



until my high school years. My parents, Clyde and Lindie Bowell, had the garage and hotel in Lost Springs. I can remember Fred coming to town with a wagon and team for supplies. He would stay overnight at the hotel and when the weather was cold, my mother would wrap a hot sadiron and give it to him so he could get warm. He was a tall thin man and talked very little.

Florence was married to Howard Smith, October 3, 1922. They also had a homestead near the Vanderwalkers. Howard and Florence had two children. Beatrice was born on November 15, 1923. Beatrice started to school at Lance Creek but most of her school years were in California. Beatrice married and lived at National City near San Diego. She had four children and they live close to that area now.

Jack was born December 22, 1924. He married a nurse at National City. They had two boys and two girls. This family is now in Colorado.

Frank Vanderwalker was born December 8, 1905 at Kansas City, Missouri. He would have been about twelve years old when the family came to Wyoming. He enjoyed horses. He and his dad did some farming and raised cattle, horses, hogs and chickens.

Olive, Fred's wife, was a big woman. She would always smile and she lived a very quiet life, partly because Twenty Mile life had so little to offer. She could make the best bread. Even though her last years were spent in a chair she was always able to smile. She enjoyed Florence's children so much when they were small. She was a very active woman doing the chores, etc. until she injured her back. The cows suffered after this because Fred did not like to milk.

Frank was married to Mildred Bowell April 30, 1928. In 1930 they went to California. Their first child, Betty was born January 1, 1932. Their second child, Donald, was born February 26, 1934. The third child, Richard, was born November 17, 1935. Frank worked for the U.S. Forest Service three years and then obtained a star mail route which he had until his death on February 28, 1949.

About 1930 Fred and Olive sold the homestead home and moved to Douglas. Olive died June 16, 1932. Fred didn't stay too long alone in Douglas. He moved to California to be with Frank but lived most of his life with or near Florence in National City. He passed away March 21, 1955 at the age of 86.

Mildred Bowell Vanderwalker Tomlin

## Van Dine, William and Pearl Family

Richard Van Dine's father, William, the oldest of six children, came to Wyoming from Ohio in 1910. He met Pearl Burkhart, the oldest of the four daughters of John William and Cora Bell Scott Burkhart who had come to Douglas from Van Tassell, Wyoming. William Van Dine and Pearl Burkhart were married in Douglas on February 15, 1911.

William Van Dine bought 160 acres near Lost Springs for \$1.00 per acre from the government and also had the coal and mineral rights. It was located north of Lost Springs with the east boundary right on the line between Converse and Niobrara Counties. (Richard Van Dine still owns this place today and leases it out.)

William and Pearl's oldest son, Bernard, was born here in 1912.

William Van Dine was in the construction trade and took the team and wagon to Lusk to earn his living as a carpenter. He worked there during the week and came home on weekends.

Pearl Van Dine was a very independent person. One time when her husband was working in Lusk, a skunk got under their house in Lost Springs. Pearl loaded up a double-barrel shot gun and shot the skunk. Then she and her sisters carried dirt for a week trying to cover up the smell before William came home for the weekend.

The family moved then to Douglas and rented a little house in the alley in back of the old Mecum house between 5th and 6th Streets in the 400 block. (The house is not there anymore.) Richard Van Dine was born August 30, 1915 in this house. His sister, Dorothy Van Dine (Widick) was born July 8, 1920. She lives in Napa, California and is a widow now.

The Van Dines lived in this small house on the alley while their dad, William, was building a house at 527 South Sixth Street. He built the house himself and Richard still owns it today.

William Van Dine was a foreman for Ed Reavil who built the LaBonte Hotel and did all the bridge building and most of the construction in the county. He was a hard driving foreman and one time when he told his crew to get busy and get things done, one of the men hollered, "Oh, hell, Bill, why rush? Rome wasn't built in one day, you know!" Bill replied, "Maybe not, but I wasn't foreman on that job either."

When Bill Van Dine's crew was building bridges on the LaBonte, Ed Reavil would come out with his buggy and team to see how they were doing. He would often stay overnight. He needn't have worried though because Bill and his crew had a reputation for good quality workmanship.

Richard graduated from the old Douglas High School and then worked along with his dad and learned the building trade. Later he did construction work in army camps around Ogden, Utah, Camp Hale near Leadville, Colorado and the air base at Rapid City as well as around Douglas.

He married Beatrice Steffen, the daughter of Benton J. and Ethel M. Cook Steffen in November 1935.

His wife, Beatrice, took normal training and was a teacher at Pleasant Valley School. One of her pupils was Alvah Ayres and she said, "He was one of the smartest kids I ever taught."

Richard and Beatrice's daughter, Janet, was born in a house in Douglas, 214 North Fourth on June 7, 1936. She was a premature baby weighing less than four pounds and had to be left in the hospital quite a long time. Beatrice had gone coyote hunting with him shortly before Janet was born and Richard wondered if this was why she was premature. Anyway, she grew up to be a strong and healthy girl. She married Robert Harris and they have five children: Joyce, Greg, Julie, Judith and Richard (Richie).

William died December 11, 1947 and Pearl in 1981.

Richard and Beatrice (Bea) enjoyed life together a great deal. They always shared everything. For instance, every time Richard tried to make the fire in the coal

stove, he would put it out with too much coal. Bea always made the fires then and Richard often did some of the other household tasks.

Beatrice had a birth defect of her hip and could not walk very well, but Richard designed the house to make things as easy for her as possible. She became ill and died July 14, 1982 and it's been pretty lonely since then for Richard.

He has many hobbies and collections. He makes beautiful wooden clocks and has at least one in every room. He also has refinished antique furniture. His home is beautiful and very well kept. He has a real good sense of humor and is a very liable person.

Faun Cole

As told by Richard Van Dine

## Van Pelt, John and Olive

Olive Shelden, fourth child of Rueben and Phoebe, married John Van Pelt in Ringgold County, Iowa. Olive had started to learn to teach but was soon married. Both Olive and John were from farm families so after their marriage they moved to Artesian, South Dakota and started their own farm. Phoebe and sister, Nora, visited the South Dakota farm.

With relatives, two brothers, Leonard and Roy Shelden in Wyoming, Olive and John, with new hopes, moved from South Dakota to Converse County in 1920. They settled near the other Sheldens about 30 miles north of Douglas and twelve miles west of the present Highway 59.

They were some of the best farmers around. John raised wheat, barley and oats. John's large barn is the only building remaining on the homesteads.

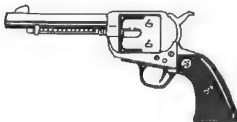
Radios came out and John and Olive had the first one in the area. All the neighbor kids came to listen. It was equipped with one headphone so there was only one listener at a time. You could listen until Uncle John came home, then it was his turn.

All the homestead houses were close. Even if you lived close to your family you still didn't have to like each other. Rosie, Leonard's wife, would walk past Aunt Olive's house to get the mail and Olive would sic the dog on her, which made Rosie's trip go faster!

They had three children born in South Dakota, two boys and one girl, Roy, Owen and Lily. During the drought John worked as the foreman on the Fleming Ranch. The homestead was sold in 1937 to Manning. They moved to California and John worked in an airplane factory during the war.

Olive and John lived in California until their deaths. Roy died in California too. Owen and Lily, with their families, still live in California.

C.L. "Buck" Shelden  
Beverly Shelden Reed



## Vetter, Jim and Nina Family

James William "Jim" Vetter was born in Stanton, Iowa on February 20, 1891. His father was Adam Vetter, an immigrant from Germany. His mother, Sarah Jennings Vetter, was born in Ohio of immigrants from England.

Nina Erickson Vetter was born in Stanton, Iowa. Her father, John Erickson, had immigrated from Sweden. Her mother, Amelia Anderson Erickson, was born in Indiana of immigrants from Sweden.

Jim and Nina were married in 1915. At that time the railroad had been extended to Douglas and there were many advertisements for people to go to Wyoming, obtain free land and settle the area. Jim and Nina had grown up on farms and thought homesteading would be a challenge and an adventure. After Maurice was born in 1916, Jim went to Wyoming and settled on land 35 miles north of Douglas. In 1917, Nina and Maurice arrived by train to join him. He was not at the train to meet them. A very apprehensive Nina finally went to a boarding house and found lodging for the night. Jim appeared the next day. The mud had been so deep he could not get to town. They travelled out to the homestead in a wagon. It was a year and a half before Nina got to town again.

Jim took whatever work he could find to earn money while they were proving up on the homestead. He worked at Lance Creek and Big Muddy Oil Fields and for ranchers. He was often gone from home for extended periods of time. Jim had worked for the phone company in Iowa and brought three telephones to Wyoming. He hooked up battery powered phones between their house and two other homesteads by running the lines along the fence posts. The women felt less isolated when their husbands were gone, knowing they had a means of calling for help if



necessary.

It was often a lonely and hard life, but the neighbors all helped each other. They socialized at community parties and picnics and at church services and Sunday School. Chester and Mary Jane were both born on the homestead. One of the homesteaders was Dr. Lynch, another was a midwife, Helen Keefe. They helped with births and illnesses.

They moved into Douglas in 1922. They lived in a house owned by the Fiddleback Ranch, where the cowboys could sleep and corral their horses when they made the long trip into town. They became active in the Methodist Church, Eastern Star and Jim in the Masonic Lodge. Donald was born September 27, 1923, the day of a big flood that destroyed the railroad bridge. Richard was born in 1927 and Russell in 1929.

Jim was a rural mail carrier for 25 years on the Orpha route. He also had a filling station and a Culligan service. All six children graduated from high school in Douglas. Maurice, Chester, Donald and Richard were in the navy during World War II, and Mary Jane in the Army Nurse Corps.

Jim was the first curator of the Pioneer Museum and worked there several years.

Russell, known as Dutch, died in 1951. Jim died in 1964 and Maurice in 1980.

Nina is the only family member remaining in Douglas. She is 89 and lives at Irwin Towers.

Mary Jane Vetter Lucas

## Virden, Frank, Sallie and Hannah

One of the early sheriffs of Converse County as well as a respected rancher, Frank H. Virden was born in Harbenson, Delaware on February 22, 1864, to Joseph B. and Elizabeth F. Rust Virden. Being of adventurous spirit he drifted to Wyoming when 22 years old and worked on the SO Ranch operated by J. M. Carey, who he had known in Delaware. Later he homesteaded on what later was known as the Speas Ranch at Bessemer Bend of the North Platte River and built the first bridge across that stream. In 1891 he sold his homestead to Speas and bought an interest in the GR outfit 18 miles south of Glenrock. His water rights on Virden Creek were granted in 1886.

Bob David, son of E. T. David, in his memoirs tells about Frank Virden.

"Frank Virden was a good friend of the family. He had been a cowpuncher for the CY in the old days before he saved up enough to buy a fine ranch on LaPrele. I heard him telling Father one day about the true story of the "changing of the babies" that became so well known from Owen Wister's book, 'The Virginian'.

"He said that he was one of the cowboys who attended the dance at the old Goose Egg Ranch and that he decided to slip into the bedroom where the babies were lying side by side on the bed, and change their clothes so that the mothers would have a difficult time in identifying their offspring.

"However, the first baby he touched bawled so loudly that several mothers rushed in, discovered his attempt



Cornelia "Jimmie" White and Thomas Virden

and kicked him out without ceremony.

"His effort fell flat, but when Owen Wister heard about his idea a few months later he built it up into an episode in his book."

He served as Converse County Sheriff from 1892 to 1896. During that time he was credited with the delivery of more cattle thieves at the state penitentiary than any other sheriff in the state. On one occasion, he followed two horse thieves 400 miles, at last capturing them in Montana, returning along with them, and making the trip of 800 miles in seven days and nights.

In 1896 he was married to Sallie Black of Delaware. They had one son, Thomas, who was later associated with his father on the lands now owned by Rory Cross at the foot of Virden Hill on LaPrele Creek and also at Green Valley Ranch on Little Boxelder.

By 1901 he had sold his holdings on Virden Creek to John E. Higgins and moved to the Charles George Ranch on Upper LaPrele Creek which is now owned by Bill Cross. Part of the purchased land lies under the LaPrele Reservoir.

Sallie Virden died on May 20, 1913 in Douglas. Frank married Hannah Brown Johnstone in 1916. Hannah was born on April 9, 1864 in Frelton, Ontario, Canada, coming to Douglas as a manager of the Douglas hospital run by her sister, Mary Brown, and Grace Galbraith in 1908.

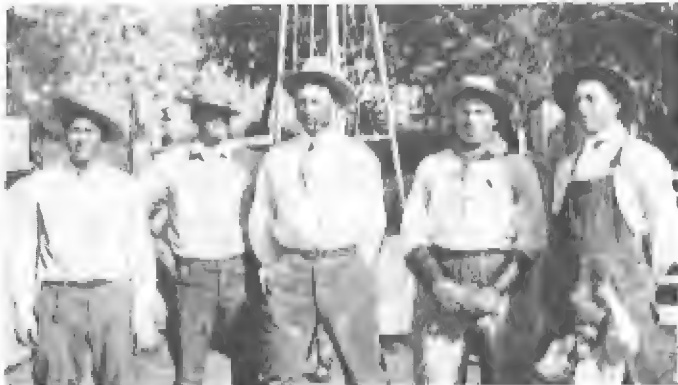
Frank and Hannah operated the LaPrele Ranch until 1919 when he moved to Douglas and worked in the First National Bank as a loan inspector. He gave this up in 1923 to become an officer of the Converse County Bank. Mr. Virden died on November 17, 1928 in Denver, Colorado and Hannah on July 1, 1940. Thomas died in 1972 in Montana.

John Pexton

## Virden, Peter R. Family

Peter "Pete" Rust Virden was born in Wilmington, Delaware on May 15, 1859, the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Rust Virden.

Pete, a widower, came to Wyoming on December 25, 1897 from Lewes, Delaware. He went to work for Joseph Carey's SO Ranch on Boxelder Creek. He returned to



L. to R.: Leonard Bartshe, Tracy Bartshe, Ed Virden, unknown and Alvah Brubaker, 1914.

Delaware the next year bringing back with him his son, Edward W. They settled on Upper Boxelder Creek which was near his brother, Frank Virden, and his sister, Elizabeth Virden White, and her husband, Capt. Willard White.

Edward W. was born on March 24, 1884 in Milton, Delaware. He was married to Margaret Hiser, daughter of Elias and Mary Hiser, on January 7, 1925. Two sons, Raymond and James Edward, were born to them.

Edward died on June 17, 1930. Pete moved to Douglas upon his son's death and lived until October 20, 1948 when he passed away. Margaret died on August 25, 1967.

John R. Pexton

## Vitek, Tony and Sophie Family

Anton Vitek Jr. "Tony" as he was better known, was born in Uctorlitze, Bohemia on January 9, 1882. The oldest boy of Anton Sr. and Frances Vitek. He had a sister, Tessie, older than he was; a sister, Anna, and two brothers, John and Frank, who were also born in Bohemia.

Being the oldest boy he had to go to the fields with his father when only five years old and carry a long whip, using it to keep the horses going while his father plowed the fields on their farm.

Tony's sister, Tessie, came to America with an aunt in 1890, going to central Kansas, settling in Ellsworth County. Anton Vitek Sr. and his family immigrated from Bohemia, which is now a part of Austria, to Hamburg, Germany and embarked to the United States on March 11, 1892 landing in New York, New York on March 20th. From New York they went by train to Ellsworth, Kansas and settled on a farm close to Kanopolis, Kansas. This farm had been in the family until eight years ago, when it was sold to settle an estate.

In 1894 another son, Ralph, was born. He still lives in Kanopolis, never married and was a U.S. mail carrier for many years.

Tony, my father, (I am Ruby Vitek Burks), was ten years old when he enrolled in school to learn English and the basic reading, writing and arithmetic. He completed the fifth grade when his father needed him to help with the farm work so that ended his education. His other brothers went on to school. One became a County Clerk for a number of years and then became Probate Judge of Ellsworth. His brother, John, stayed on the farm.

Dad became restless and went to Colorado in 1898. He enlisted in the army, as the Spanish American War was on. He lied about his age saying he was two years older than he was so they would take him. After basic training in Troop C of the 1st Regiment of the Cavalry, he was sent to the Phillippine Islands on October 9, 1901 and was released from active service on November 11, 1902. He had gotten dysentery and had also received a bullet wound through the hand while he was in the Philippines. He spent several weeks in the army hospital at Presidio, Monterey, California. This was before he became a citizen of the U.S.

After being released from the hospital he returned to Kansas. He had saved most of his army pay so he bought horses and machinery, rented a farm and went to work for himself. He would buy broncs and mules and work them with his gentle horses and then sell them for a good profit. He told us that one time he bought a horse sight unseen and when he got the horse home it was blind in one eye. He finally broke him but could never walk up to him on the blind side. He always had to be hitched on the wagon with his blind eye next to the horse he was being worked with. Along with farming his rented place, he would break up and farm ground for some of the neighbors. He would go to sales, a great distance from home to buy horses and machinery.

It was on one of these trips when he was in Ellis, Kansas in 1912 that he met my mother, Josephine Mary Kutina. Mother always went by the name of Sophie after she started to school, as there were already two other Josephines in the school and also a Mary. She got to pick the name she wanted to be called.

Mother was one of eleven children of John and Barbara Kutina. Her father had died when she was eleven years old and her mother died six years later. Since she was the oldest girl still at home and needed to take care of her younger brothers and sisters and a niece,



Tony Vitek with his crew working on pipeline.



LaRea Rountree, she gave up her ambition to be a school teacher. By the time she met Dad, all of the family was away from home except her youngest sister. On July 3, 1913 they were married at Wilson, Kansas.

They moved to the farm between Kanopolis and Ordway, Kansas and it was while they lived here that their two oldest daughters were born, Virginia in 1914 and Frances in 1915. They prospered in wheat farming, but Dad got to playing the stock market and in the crash of 1917, lost \$35,000 in one night. He wanted to get away from Kansas so Mother said, "You still have me and the girls, we'll go wherever you want to." He borrowed \$1,000 from his brother, Frank, and took his horses and wagons and a hired man and headed for Glenrock, Wyoming. Mother, my two sisters and Mother's sister, Margaret Lamoree, came to Glenrock several days later by train. Aunt Margaret's husband had just died recently from the flu.

One of the first things they did was file on a homestead not far from Ft. Fetterman. After putting up a tent to live in they went to Glenrock to get their steamer trunk that had come on the train. A sad disappointment was in store for them when they got the steamer. Someone had broken the lock and stolen their silver, a saber, and a gun that Dad had brought back from the Philippines. Mother always said Dad felt worse about that than he did losing the money in the stock market.

They built a small house there so Mother and my aunt wouldn't have to stay in the tent. They had to get their water from the LaPrele Creek, carrying it in barrels, until they got the well dug. After the women were settled in the house, Dad went to work for the Illinois Pipeline, freighting. In the fall of 1917 another daughter, Ruby, was born.

Times were pretty hard that first year they were on the homestead and Mother's sister was always sending after crochet thread when Dad went for supplies, even if she didn't need it. Of course, Mother had never told her until years later that they were broke when they came to Wyoming. Anyway, we girls had dresses with a lot of crocheting on them, even our slips had a big border of crocheted lace.

After my aunt went back to Kansas, Mother followed wherever Dad was working on the pipeline. She would either stay in a town that was close by or go out on the line and stay in a tent with Dad and cook for some of the crew. Some of the places they stayed at were Newcastle, Osage, Lusk, Salt Creek, Casper, Manville, and in Glenrock. Each year they spent some time on the homestead. In the late spring of 1919 Dad bought a house in Manville and that fall my oldest sister, Virginia, started to school. Mildren Wollin was her first teacher.

Mother and Dad had talked Bohemian a great deal when they were alone and my sister could talk better Bohemian than she could English. The other kids at school made fun of her so she told Mother and Dad she wasn't going to school. Mother told her to just talk English. My parents quit speaking any Bohemian except when they wanted to say something and they didn't want us to know what they were talking about. After that first year of school she forgot all of the Bohemian she ever knew.

On May 15, 1920 a daughter, Dorothy, was born in Manville. Mother always took us to church and Sunday

school if we were anywhere near a church. While we were in Manville there was some kind of services being conducted from a tent. The folks had taken us one evening and the next day my little sister was sick so Mother let us three girls go by ourselves. I got scared in the tent so my sister, Frances, started to take me home and I told her I could find the way so she went back. I ended up along the railroad tracks where one of the section men found me. He knew who I was as he had seen my sister, with a pink dress with crocheting on it, with my father, and he took me home. Did my sisters ever catch it from Mother when they returned.

In 1921 they moved to Glenrock where Dad was freighting. It was while living in Glenrock that Dad filed his petition for naturalization on March 19, 1921. He took the oath of allegiance on May 11 and received the order of the court admitting petitioner on November 26, 1921. It is signed by Judge P. W. Metz.

When the freighting out of Glenrock stopped, he rented a farm near Kiowa, Colorado where he raised beans, potatoes, corn and also some pigs. He had such a good crop that year that the man he rented from decided to farm the place himself.

We came back to Wyoming and Dad sold his homestead to Tom Fleming. It now belongs to Catherine Fleming Strock. Dad bought a place from C. Bishop on Alkali Creek across the road from Ben Wheelock. He moved the shack from the homestead to this place and we lived in it one fall while he was finishing the house. The old highway separated our place from the Wheelock place and since it was a dirt road, with very little gravel on it, Dad spent a great deal of time in snowy and rainy weather pulling cars through the snow and mud.

One of the memorable Christmases for a little girl of seven was being invited with the family to Ben and Maggie Wheelock's home for Christmas dinner. After Virginia, Frances, and I spoke our pieces and sang the songs that Mildred Blomquist Reed and Perney Block had taught us for the Christmas program, we were served a delicious dinner by Maggie's Negro servant on very fine silver. But the highlight was the flaming Christmas pudding. Then each one of us girls got a bright red sweater. She may have been a madam but she was real good to our family and I heard years later that she loaned money to lots of the Douglas people during hard times. If we were real sick and she heard about it she would send the doctor out and we'd never get a bill. However, my mother fixed many a meal for Ben and Mike Bear, his hired man. Dad always took Ben to town with him as he never had a car. He also put up the hay on Ben's place while we lived there and in 1927 they had a band of sheep on partnership. Dad didn't like the sheep business so it was a one year project for him. He did put up a lot of hay at the Pea Green, on the Slichter Ranch, and the Sandell and Kirwin place for Jesse Erwin.

Sophia Louise was born on this farm on May 4, 1927. She was exposed to whooping cough a couple days after she was born as Virginia came down with it. We had to take turns holding her on a feather pillow and every time she would start to cough we would run for Mother and she would put cold water on her throat and wipe the inside of her throat with a pongee cloth. The doctor said she would never live but Mother vowed she would save her and after



a few weeks she began to improve. But she didn't quit having coughing spells until we went for a visit to Kansas in August.

It was when we were living on this place that Dad, Albert Sims, and Robert Lux got gold fever. They were sure there was gold at the bottom of the fall on Wagon-hound Creek. They built a wooden flume to divert the water around the falls and the hole below it. Then they tried to pump the hole dry but were unable to because of the seepage from above them and they probably didn't have big enough pumps.

In 1929, before the depression began, he decided our farm was too small to make enough money to put five girls through school. Dad bought a herd of dairy cows from Frank Spracklen and rented a dairy farm from Dr. H. R. Lathrop, at the foot of Casper Mountain. They had a real big dairy barn and the herd was increased to 90 head, a chore that kept the whole family busy. Ben Sherrill moved to Casper with us to help with the milking. The first winter there was a lot of snow and wind and it was hard to get the milk to the Yellowstone Dairy in town for bottling. When the lease was up at the end of the year, we moved to the M. P. Wheeler place on the river, where there was less snow and not as much wind. Dad bought a truck so he could haul the hay and cake for the cows and he also trucked for the Cowen and Nolan Feed Store.

In 1936 he got arthritis in his hands so bad he couldn't use them. The doctor sent him to Thermopolis for hot mud and steam baths and told him to slow down. The swelling went down but the fingers on his left hand remained stiff. They sold the dairy cattle and moved to Arizona where they bought a cafe.

My two older sisters were married and I started teaching school that year. Dorothy spent the year with my sister, Virginia, who was living in Douglas, and finished her last year of high school there.

Mother and Dad didn't like city life that well and wanted to get out in the country again so they sold the cafe and bought a small farm at Fountain, Colorado. After being there two summers his hands began bothering him again so he sold out and went back to Phoenix, Arizona and rented a cafe.

He became acquainted with Judge Speakman and Dr. Larson. They had a gold placer machine and needed a foreman out on the desert, so they hired Dad to manage the crew and Mother to cook for them. He enjoyed the heat of the desert and worked at placer mining until the spring of 1940. He had been renting his farm on Alkali all these years and the meadows had never been farmed since he planted them in 1925. Moving back to Douglas, he got the meadows back into production and sold the farm in 1943.

He moved to San Diego, California and went to work for Consolidated Aircraft. He never missed a days work until the plant closed after the end of World War II. He received a trophy from the plant as he had never been late to work either. The folks had sold the place but they had to take it back in 1947. It was then sold to T. J. O'Mara, who later sold it to Jesse McKibben. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Geho.

Liking the California climate, they bought an acre of land on the outskirts of Escondido. Here they built four houses, one of which they lived in, doing all of the work

themselves except the plumbing and electrical work which had to be done by licensed contractors. On the one half acre in back of their house they planted pears, peaches, grapes, a big strawberry bed and also a garden which they shared with all of their neighbors. Mother took great pride in all the roses she had in her front yard. They continued to live in California the remaining years of their lives and were laid to rest in the Highland Cemetery at Casper, Wyoming, Tony in 1959 and Sophie in 1954.

Ruby Vitek Burks

## Vogel and Hooper Families

Slowly moving north out the Ross Route, at eight years old was an exciting adventure for me, Elberta Vogel, to perch on the seat of a canvas-covered wagon between my mother and her brother, my Uncle Ellsworth Hooper. My durable mother was Nettie Hooper Vogel. My father, Conrad, H. Vogel, stayed in Douglas to finance this serious adventure by working at the plumbing trade and my brother, Victor Hugh Vogel, stayed with him. Acquiring land by homesteading was part of family tradition. My Vogel grandparents, who were Swiss immigrants, had homesteaded in northern Oklahoma where my Hooper grandparents from the south had settled.

Pulled by a sturdy team of horses, our wagon was heavily loaded with homestead necessities including a crate of protesting chickens tied on behind and pulling farther behind, a reluctant cow. That summer of 1918 we were historically not true pioneers as my grandparents had been, but like those earlier, land-hungry homesteaders, we had our own role in settling Wyoming.

At that time, Uncle Ellsworth had already built a small shack in a sheltered spot near the dry creek that traversed his claim. This served as primitive shelter for the three of us until he and my father built a simple tarpaper covered house on the adjoining Vogel homestead where my mother and I lived the required time to claim the land. We were located in parts of Sections 19, 20 and 21 of Converse County between the Eskew "55" sheep ranch and the Henry "88" cattle ranch. Two cousins of the Vogel family joined us as neighbors: Albert Strickler adjoining on the south and Charles Strickler with wife Jessie, east of Albert's place.

With marriage to Marion Pryor of western Colorado and permanent residence in mind, Ellsworth built himself an unusually sturdy two room house which still stands, although now unoccupied except by wild creatures. Together, those two labored long days and full years to establish a livelihood and home there working both homesteads but were economically defeated by limited natural resources of the land and climate, although financed by the Vogel half of the partnership based in Glenrock where my father established a plumbing business and built a comfortable home.

With absolutely no living conveniences at our homestead shack, my mother's summers there with me meant hardship for her. For me, those sunburned summers meant delicious freedom to pursue my childhood interest: riding horses (sometimes to get the mail) and falling

off them into cactus beds; trapping ground squirrels in the garden for a penny each; perching on the wagon running gear to go for logs in the hills to the west; drinking fresh warm cow's milk; picking green beans in Cousin Albert's garden; going for a wagonload of the soft dusty coal exposed in seams for the taking; learning about wild flowers; birds and animals but avoiding ticks, rattlesnakes and badgers; luxuriously swimming in Uncle Ellsworth's perpetual waterhole where salamanders hid in the water plants and a curious seepage of oil glazed the surface; munching WWI hardtack; and jumping on it to pack the wool in big suspended burlap bags at sheep shearing time.

Ellsworth Hooper died in 1962 in Colorado. Conrad Vogel died in 1960 in Colorado and Nettie Vogel in 1971 in California.

Elberta L. Vogel Spencer

## Vollman, William and Flora Family

William R. Vollman was born August 16, 1895 at Holdrege, Nebraska, the son of German immigrants. Rudolph Vollman and Fredricka Gierlof Vollman. His dad was killed by lightning when he was ten. Fredricka leased their places until William grew up. They moved to Lincoln where Bill was in business school and later worked as an electrician. In May 1917, at age 21, he married Flora Brown, also 21. Flora was the daughter of Sherman and Sarah Brown of Lyndon, Vermont. She attended Lincoln School of Business. The next month they came to Wyoming and homesteaded northwest of Douglas in the Hyland community, also known as Williams Flats. Bill's mother, Fredricka, also homesteaded about one half mile north of the couple. Fredricka moved in with Bill and Flora after proving up her homestead and helped with the household duties until her death in 1947.

They shipped their household goods, machines, horses and livestock by emigrant car and unloaded at Orpha. By fall they built a rock house and a small homestead shack for Bill's mother. They had an old Model T car. It was converted to a pickup but most of the supplies had to be hauled by team and wagon from Douglas or Glenrock, which was a two day trek.



William and Flora Vollman: Unloading their belongings from an emigrant railroad car at Orpha.

When they first homesteaded, there was still quite a bit of open range. They saw quite a few roundups of cattle. One of the homesteaders was under suspicion for rustling cattle. Flo and Bill boarded a range detective of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association to catch the guy but all he found was some stolen wire under a hay stack. The man under suspicion was requested to leave or face prosecution. He left.

One late fall trip to Glenrock for supplies, with team and wagon, Bill found a den of rattlesnakes that had come out to sun themselves. He killed 13 with a halter from one of the horses. There were plenty more but he had to get to Glenrock by sundown so he moved on.

In 1921 a son, Bill Jr., was born. He attended rural school and then graduated from Converse County High School. He went one year to the University of Wyoming. He then worked for Lockheed Aircraft until he was drafted into the navy during World War II. He served aboard an Attack Troop Transport in the South Pacific Theater of operations.

About 1928 Bill bought a threshing machine, after a wooden one owned by Albert Spillman burned. He and Dan Reeder spent about two months each fall threshing for neighbors as far away as 25 miles.

In 1932 they acquired the Kurtz place where they moved because the water was much better. In 1939 they bought the Spillman place. The Martz place and the Ridgeway place were acquired later.

Mr. Vollman served as Converse County Commissioner for four years and was a past member of the County ASC Committee. He raised sheep and cattle and farmed oats, wheat and barley.

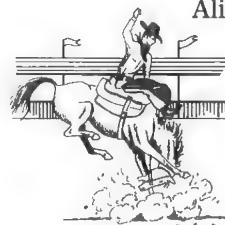
Mrs. Vollman taught school for 17 years in Wyoming while attending the University of Wyoming. In 1933 District 17 ruled that married women couldn't teach if their husband was employed. Her job, at \$85.00 per month, was lost but she found a job in District 14 which was at the Smith School and later at the Tank Farm, near Carey, for \$120.00 per month.

In June 1947, Bill Jr. married Alice Leeling, daughter of Joe and Rachel Taule Leeling of Manville. Their first child, Vicki, was born in October of 1948. She was just a baby during the blizzard of '49. On January 15, 1949, Bill and Alice went to Casper for a crib. The wind came up but luckily we met Fred Domsalla going back to the Badger Coal Mine. He broke the road open and we followed in the car. The rest of the way we followed the ridge road, with a lot of detours.

Robert was born in 1952 and Lori in 1958. Robert married Christie Anderson and live on the Doc Robertson place on the Platte River. They have two sons, Brady and Jared. Lori married David Cole, son of the Stanley Coles.

Mr. Vollman retired in 1965 and later died in 1967. Mrs. Vollman and Vicki, a daughter of Bill Jr., were killed in an auto accident in March 1968.

Alice Leeling Vollman



## Von Appen, Henry

Henry "Dutch" Von Appen was born in Halstenbek, Holstein in West Germany on April 11, 1866 to Friedrich and Dortha Von Appen.

His father died early in life and his mother wanted to remarry but Henry resented it so much she put him, a twelve year old boy, on a boat for America to her cousin in New York.

Fascinated by the stories of the West and Indians, he started out for new frontiers, arriving in Chadron,



"Dutch Henry" Von Appen, 1949.

Nebraska in 1879. A German family took him on his arrival there and educated him.

He was 17 years old when he set out with a group of men driving 111 head of horses to Powder River. It was March of 1885 and the party had reached the site where Dutch later settled on the North Platte River four miles northwest of present day Douglas. A severe blizzard comparable to the 1949 storm struck the group. Abandoning the horses, the men made their way to Fort Fetterman where they stayed until the storm abated. Upon their return to gather the horses they found them all alive and well. After working in the Buffalo area, Dutch returned to the spot on the Platte River where he lived until his death.

Dutch lived on his ranch alone for over 50 years except for a brief time in 1925-26 when a nephew, Henry H. Sielck, came to live and work for him.

Dutch died on May 22, 1949.

John R. Pexton  
from notes of Henry H. Sielck



## Walkinshaw, George and Sarah

George Walkinshaw was born in Carlups, Peebleshire, Scotland, May 5, 1856. He left Scotland as a young man and went to Canada in 1879 with an uncle.

He was a "quoit pitcher," a game much like "horse-shoes," and he was the champion of Scotland.

The quoit is a round iron ring quite a bit heavier than a horseshoe and it is pitched at a stake in a pit of mud. The game was played during the early years at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas.

About 1882 George saw an advertisement for a World Championship Match in Colorado. He attended, played and won the \$1,000 prize. He found employment in the mining industry in Colorado and remained in the United States.

George married Sarah Cole Williams at Williamsburg, Colorado, November 28, 1885.

Sarah Cole was born in Wales, June 1, 1857 and came to Pennsylvania at the age of seven. She had four children by a prior marriage. Their names were George, John, Mamie, and Thomas Williams. The latter two remained with George and Sarah and accompanied them to Glenrock, Wyoming about 1887. Mamie (Anson) and Thomas Williams were well known in the Glenrock area. Four additional children were born to George and Sara. They were William, Edward, Robert and Fred Walkinshaw.

George Walkinshaw was employed at the coal mine in east Glenrock where he was the paymaster and weigh-master.

William was born in 1886 in Colorado. He married Helen Nevin of Denver, Colorado in 1915. He was made foreman of the VR Ranch, south of Glenrock in 1915 and stayed in that capacity until the ranch was sold to the Jollys in 1945. Their four children were: Ed, Nevin, Bill (b. 1922) and Margaret (Doll) (b. 1928).

Ed, the first white baby born in Glenrock, was born in 1889.

Robert was born on March 21, 1891 in Red Lodge, Montana. He married Mabel Thayer, daughter of Walter and Mabel Thayer, on April 4, 1920. After ranching in the Wheatland area for twelve years for themselves they went to work for the VR Ranch in Wheatland. They are the parents of two children, Robert and Marian.

Fred was born after his parents came back to Glenrock from Montana.

Mabel Thayer Walkinshaw

## Wallis, Charles and Louise Family

Charles Louis Wallis was born in England and arrived with his parents in America when he was ten years old. They settled in New York state for a while.

His father was a tailor by trade and Charles learned the tailoring trade as a young boy.

As Charles grew older he read and heard about the great westward movement to settle the west. Charles struck out for the adventure and excitement in the west as a young lad with boundless and enduring energy.

He first went to the forts and helped with the tailoring of officers uniforms and then drove a dog sled team with the mail during one winter in Montana. On one of his runs

he was shot in the back twice with heavy caliber slugs, but managed to make it on to the next mail station. The station attendant cared for him but did not remove the slugs. He carried them for the rest of his life.

He applied to Russell, Majors, and Waddell to ride Pony Express but was just a little too heavy, even though he was a small man.

Charles joined a scouting party and scouted for General Custer for a while and finally resigned. He later said if he had known General Custer was going to fight his last stand he would have been right beside him.

After resigning as a scout for General Custer he returned to Chicago where he met his bride, Louise Studtz (Studtz later changed to Stuart), a young girl who had come from Germany with her parents to America.

Charles took his young bride and started working west again by being a company tailor for the army and making uniforms and buffalo overcoats for the officers at the various forts where they lived.

They lived at Fort Pierre where Pierre, South Dakota is now. From there they moved to Fort Robinson near Crawford, Nebraska for a short while and then on north to Fort Assinbone near Havre, Montana where Lawrence Diamond Wallis was born December 3, 1894. There were five children born to this union: Richard, Lawrence, Nellie, Louis and Evalena. The one surviving sister, Evalena E. Wallis Loyd, lives in Kansas City, Missouri.

Lawrence's brothers and younger sisters were born at Havre and the young Indian squaws would ask to take his baby sisters, as papooses on their back, for the day. Mother Louise would let them and tell the young Indian squaws to have her girls home by sundown, which they did.

When Richard, Lawrence, and Louis were young boys they learned to trade or barter with the Indian squaws, and they would trade their little white dog off to an Indian squaw for a pair of beaded moccasins, as the Indians really liked fat dogs to eat. The little dog, Queeny, would make its get-away and come running home, and the boys would hide her real quick and say they hadn't seen her. But in a couple of weeks they would trade her off to another Indian squaw for another pair of beaded moccasins and the little dog always managed to escape the Indians and come running home again and again.

From Fort Assinbone in Montana they moved to Fort Yellowstone at Mammoth Hot Springs in Yellowstone Park. Lawrence and his brothers would sneak or snitch a ride in the cooster at the rear of the stagecoach while it was being pulled by a four horse team around Yellowstone Park for transportation.

In 1908 Charles and Louise set up a tailor shop in Douglas in the building on Center Street which is now occupied by the Oasis Liquor Lounge.

In 1912 Charles passed away from pneumonia. Dr. J. R. Hylton, who was a very young doctor at the time, was doctoring him.

Lawrence wanted to help his mother with all of her obligations so he obtained a job as office boy for Dr. Hylton, cleaning up the office and examination room and putting instruments into the sterilization chamber.

Lawrence advanced to the fifth grade in the Douglas

school system and had a teacher by the name of Miss Leah Scheib. While attending the fifth grade Lawrence had a little tiff with Miss Scheib and she sent him straight home from class. He left but returned and snapped his finger at Miss Scheib and she asked, "What do you want young man?"

He said, "I can't go straight home."

She said, "Why not?"

He said, "I have to turn the corner down at the end of the hall."

Miss Scheib said, "Young man, you had better straighten those corners out," which he did in short order.

Miss Scheib had a liking for Lawrence because of his ability in art, so after he quit school and went to work for Fred Lewis she sent him a set of water colors, two picture postcards and two nickel tablet backs for him to paint and reproduce those pictures in water colors for her. One was a black and white snow scene and the other the Mountain of the Holy Cross in Colorado. He painted those pictures and returned them to Miss Scheib.

While Lawrence was herding a band of sheep for Fred Lewis in Fletcher Park near Laramie Peak a terrible snow storm with howling blizzard conditions set in one night. Lawrence dressed completely before leaving his wagon in the dark to try and keep the sheep on the bedground. He put a mirror behind the lamp to reflect the beam of light out of the wagon onto the snow. A gust of wind blew the lamp out and he became lost and wandered for three nights and three days during this intense blizzard of the plains. Lawrence lay down on his back and rested for a few minutes and kept saying, "Don't go to sleep, get up, and go on, as 'God helps those who help themselves.' and I am sure going to help myself." He got up and went on trying to follow the telegraph poles but couldn't see them often enough to follow them. Finally he stumbled onto a railroad track and was following it when he turned to catch his breath from the wind and driving snow and as he looked up he could see the huge bright light of the monstrous locomotive bearing down on him. He left the tracks just in time and began to wave his arms and holler in an attempt to attract attention of the members of the train crew, but his attempts were all in vain. Very disappointed and in despair, he trudged on. Finally he stumbled into or along the Platte River and followed it down stream to Hartville Junction as the storm broke up the third evening. He stumbled into a cafe and asked for something to eat and the waiter asked what he wanted. He replied, "Anything that is good as I haven't had anything to eat in three full days, as I have been lost in a blizzard and wandered here from Fletcher Park." So he served him ham and beans and two pieces of cherry pie and coffee. Lawrence figured he had traveled 65 miles in his ordeal. He was 17 years old when he had this harrowing experience. Fred Lewis came from Guernsey with a team and wagon and picked Lawrence up and the next day they worked their way back up to Fletcher Park and found the sheep, which had survived the storm, but had drifted some distance from where they really belonged.

After working for Fred Lewis, Lawrence worked for John Morton as a cook's helper in a lambing camp and later herded a band of sheep for him. After this he worked for William E. Taylor in Campbell and Johnson Counties.

While working for Taylor, Lawrence met his bride, Alma Mae Dale who was born October 15, 1899 and educated in Cadiz Township, Green County, Wisconsin. Alma finished her schooling and took normal training in Browntown, Wisconsin to get her certificate to teach school. William E. Taylor was a second cousin to Alma and had sent for her to teach his two young sons, Don and Norris, for two years. Alma Dale and Lawrence Wallis were married and to this marriage two sons were born, Robert Louis (1920) and Dale Chester (1921).

After Robert was born, Lawrence and Alma sold their homesteads to William E. Taylor and moved to Independence, Missouri where Dale was born. Later, Lawrence moved his family back to the Salt Creek Oil Field and worked as a rig builder for a short time and then as a pumper gauger for Standard Oil Company. In 1928 he moved his family back to Douglas to again take up ranching.

First the family lived east of Douglas on the George Bentley place, and Alma taught school at the X H Crossing School, near the Wintermote Ranch on Shawnee Creek, for one year. She had 22 pupils in all grades, first through eighth and they came from the Kaiser, Jones, Metcalf, Lane, Wintermote, Harnish, and Wallis families. She had several school plays and the entire community would come and enjoy the school activities and then they would have a dance, as someone would always bring some kind of an instrument for music. Dale and I, Robert, went to school for two years at the X H Crossing School.

In 1935 we moved from the Bentley place to the Al Hinkle place, five miles north of Douglas on Highway 59.

While my brother and I were growing up on these ranches, our parents purchased a pair of Shetland ponies for us and we began raising ponies along with the sheep and cattle our parents had. We finally built up quite a herd of ponies which we had for many years.

Upon entering the Douglas school system at the North Grade School I was in the fifth grade and met Miss Scheib who asked, "Are you Lawrence Wallis' son?" and I said, "Yes, and I have a brother, Dale."

She said, "I will bring something in the morning for you boys that I have cherished for many years." It was the two post card pictures she had asked Lawrence to paint for her on the little tablet backs.

Lawrence and his sons, Robert and Dale, all attended school in the North Grade School and Miss Scheib taught them all in a 25 or 27 year period of time.

After receiving encouragement from Miss Scheib that our dad could paint, Mother, Dale and I bought Dad a small set of oil paints for a Christmas present one year. This started Dad on his hobby of painting with oils when the mood struck him to paint a picture. He painted several pictures which Dale and I still have as well as some of the grandchildren.

After raising her boys, Alma went back to teaching school and attended the University of Wyoming. She went to summer school and took correspondence courses for some 20 years to obtain her teaching certificate and B.S. degree from the College of Education. She graduated in the summer of 1958. She taught rural schools at the Lundberg School north of Douglas for several years and also the Lost Springs School. Then she obtained a teaching

contract in the Glenrock school system where she taught until she retired in 1962.

On October 18, 1963 Lawrence and Alma Wallis were killed in a tragic accident, a train-automobile collision on the railroad crossing on Center Street in Douglas.

Lawrence Wallis was a second cousin to Clint, Lewis, Orville, and Bess Wallis and Cecila Nottage of Bosler and Laramie, Wyoming.

Robert L. Wallis met Irene Phoebe Barnes and courted her for five years. They were married September 3, 1944 while Bob was still in the U.S. Air Force and Signal Corp. To this marriage four children were born: Richard Ellis Wallis, January 16, 1948, who is on the Walker Creek Ranch; Bonnie Irene Wallis Millikin, June 24, 1949, of Glendo, Wyoming; Robert Allen Wallis, October 21, 1953, who lives on the home ranch near Douglas; and Matilda Louise Wallis Young of Anchorage, Alaska.

Dale Chester Wallis married Pearl Bevins on January 1, 1942. To this marriage four children were born: Frances Eileen Wallis Estep of Henderson, Nevada; Barbara Adale Wallis Newell of San Marcos, California; Addie Mae Wallis Christman of Casper, Wyoming; and Dennis Rhea Wallis of San Diego, California.

Robert and Irene Wallis purchased the ranch on Walker Creek from her parents, Ross and Phoebe Barnes and raised their family there for several years. After purchasing the ranch and working it for nine years, Robert returned to the University of Wyoming and finished his education in the College of Agriculture and the College of Education. After obtaining a B.S. degree from the College of Agriculture and a teaching certificate from the College of Education to teach elementary education, he taught his children for four years at the Wallis School in Niobrara County at the ranch on Walker Creek, while Irene took care of the cattle. He also taught one year in Lusk, teaching sixth grade in 1963-1964.

After losing his parents in the tragic accident in 1963 and Irene's father at the Walker Creek Ranch from a heart attack in 1964, Robert and his family returned to the ranch.

Later, Robert and Irene purchased all of the estate land of his parents.

Robert and Irene now reside in Mesa, Arizona during the winter months.

Robert Wallis

## Walton, Rose Schick Family

Rosina "Rose" Federer married Joseph Schick

1884 - 1971

? - 1927

Born: Springfield, Ill.

Born: Sopron, Hungary

Anna Louise, Chicago, Ill., married Melvin A. Ballard

Elisabeth Rose, E. Wisc., married Emmet Ballard

Helen Marie, Chicago, Ill., married Jack C. Hanlin

Rose Schick married Guy Alonzo Walton

Grace Lucille, Douglas, Wyo., married Jerome Kendal (deceased)

Paul Louis, Douglas, Wyo., (deceased)

Eldon Guy, Douglas, Wyo., (deceased)

Ted Daniel, Douglas, Wyo., married Del Carlos, Rhode Island

Rose arrived in Cheyenne, Wyoming, July 4, 1917





L. to r. Elisabeth, Rose, Anna and Helen Schick

from Chicago, Illinois. She came with her three little girls. Her four brothers, John, Louis, Theodore and Charles William Federer sent for her because she had been ill for more than a year and could not work to support us. Each of her brothers gave her a two-year-old Hereford heifer. Louis, who was a bachelor, provided a home for us for a year. In the spring of 1918, a severe snowstorm caused Mr. and Mrs. Harry Russell to seek shelter at my uncle's ranch. Mr. Russell extolled the greatness of the homestead lands available north of Douglas. When my uncles homesteaded north of Cheyenne, in about 1912, they could only file on a half section of land. Therefore, my Uncle Louis was entitled to file on another half section in this area. He planned to marry Lydia Jergens. A single woman could file on a section and retain it if she married after filing. My uncle and future aunt and mother then filed about seven miles north of the present Bill Post Office. We were one-half mile from our uncle's place.

While my uncle and mother built our house, we stayed at Harry Russell's ranch. It was a rainy fall. Mother had her household belongings stored in a small shed. She had some lovely embroidery work which my Hungarian grandmother and aunts had sent her for wedding gifts. We were so dismayed to have them water soaked and faded.

Our house was about 14x16 feet. Mother insisted that the house be shingled and have a gable roof. Later we hauled rock and built a rock chicken house and cow shed. Gumbo mud, which we mixed in a tub with a garden hoe, was the mortar to hold the rock. We girls thought it was hard work to gather rocks that suited Mother's request for good flat rocks. It seems we grumbled through every step of building the shed. We were equally proud of our achievement when the building was completed.

One year later, we had a very dry summer. The

government granted a leave of absence from living on the homestead for five months. That winter we went to Cheyenne. Mother worked as a practical nurse caring for mothers with their first-born babies.

After she "proved" up the homestead in 1922, we moved to Casper where she again started working. She married Lon Walton that winter and moved to Douglas. In the spring, we moved to Lon's homestead which was on Sage Creek near the Frank Amspoker and Bill Smith Ranches. I believe Pacific Power owns this land now or leases it for coal.

In September 1923, during one of the heaviest rains ever experienced in the previous 65 years, our sister, Grace Lucille Walton was born. This was the week of the tragic Cole Creek wreck — one of the worst in railroad history. She really lit up our lives and continues to do so.

Paul Louis was born the following year. We were delighted to have a brother. About 1926, my grandfather, Louis Federer died in Illinois. Mother inherited a little money. They sold Lon's homestead, bought a car, some cattle and we moved back to the Bill Community on Mother's homestead and leased Alva Miler's place.

Eldon was born there. He died in infancy in 1928. In 1929, Ted Daniel was born. He and his family now live in Cheyenne.

Lon had a son, Willis, when he married Mother. Willis lived to be about twenty when he drowned while he was working on the Harry Gillespie Ranch.

The folks lived there until about 1940, when they sold the place to Ernest Steinle and moved to Douglas.

#### SCHOOLS:

We started school at the Bill Dorr Ranch in the fall when we were staying at Russells'. Mrs. Russell's sister was living with them. She drove a car to the Dorr Ranch. We attended about three weeks until our "little brown house" was finished. Then it was too far to go. One of mother's greatest desires was for us to have a good education. She came to town and pleaded with the school board to establish a school for us. Their response was, "you must have four school age children to establish a school". She always insisted that Wyoming School law mandated that all Wyoming children were to be provided an education. She made twelve trips to Douglas in a lumber wagon to beg for a school for us. The trip took three days. The first night she would stay at Schlinskens' about eighteen miles north of Douglas. The next day she would come in and meet with the School Board and return to Schlinskens'. The following day she would return home. We girls stayed at Uncle Louie's while she made the trip. In spite of her efforts, we were without a school for one year after we moved to our new house.

Mother read to us everything she could get. I don't know how many times we heard Gene Stratton Porter's "Girl of the Limber Lost" and the Bible story of Joseph and his coat of many colors. Dorothy Dickson (Mrs. Frank Scott) lived about eight miles away. She came to spend the night with us. She came horseback with a sack of books which we read and re-read until we almost had them memorized. She must have been about ten years old then. When we went to bed she told us the story of Black Beauty. She was the best story teller I ever heard. She still delights her great-grandchildren with her stories. Needless to say, this was one of the best experiences of

our homestead days.

The summer after our school-less year, there was summer school at the Fairview School. This school was located a mile north of the present Bill Post Office and one mile east. It was across the corner from the Featherstone place which Web Stoddard now owns. At that time, four families lived there. George Peak, Leta and Bob Edie, his parents and Chris Neilson, a bachelor. The Dudleys lived a half mile east, across from them were the two Brockmeyer families. These families provided enough children for a large lively school. Emma Bushy Elder, who now lives in Guernsey, was the teacher. What a pleasant, lovely teacher she was.

This school was seven miles across the prairie from our home. We had some harrowing experiences going to and from school. Elisabeth and I rode a 22-year-old horse named "Chub" to school. Early in the morning Mother bundled us up and we took off across the range to school. (Quite a trip for two little girls from Chicago.) One day as we were riding down the last lap to school, a girl came galloping down the lane behind us. We urged Chub into a gallop and Nonie raced up. Chub, who was wearing a blind bridle shied or bucked (we thought he bucked). Elisabeth and I landed on the barb wire fence. Elisabeth had her front teeth loosened, from hitting a fence post. Our clothes were torn and we had numerous cuts and scratches. Needless to say Mother couldn't get us to ride Chub again. She then took us in a buggy. She and Helen sat in the north side of the school house where she mended and read to Helen until school was out.

On one occasion when we were going home a heavy rain and hail storm came up. Mother unhitched the young, jittery team. We sat under the buggy while it stormed, Mother holding the reins of the horses who wanted to drift with the storm. When the storm subsided we took off for home. There was a large draw we had to cross to get home. Water was running muddy and deep. Mother forced the horses into the water which was so deep the horses had to swim. The buggy began to float and Elisabeth and Helen who were sitting on wooden dried apple crates began to float as the water came into the buggy. Mother held the box down with her feet. Soon the horse's feet were on terra firma and we arrived home safe and drenched.

That fall the School Board "allowed" a school. Helen was four years old and Mrs. Russell's sister, Nonie, came by horseback to school so there were four pupils.

Orville Pellatz who lived two or three miles away was our first teacher. Esther Casey taught us the following year. We had school those two years in our little house. Mother hung sheets around the four desks and the teacher's desk. The "school" had the corner of the house that had the two windows. Mother took down a three-quarter bed and put the mattress and springs under her bed. Every night we pulled these out and Elisabeth and I slept on the floor.

The next year was when Mother proved up on her homestead and we went to school in Casper where she found work. She married in December and we moved to Douglas. In the Spring of 1923 we moved to Lon Walton's homestead which was four miles from the Frank Amspoker ranch on Sage Creek. When we lived at Sage Creek we attended the Amspoker School until we were

ready for high school. The school district did not pay isolation or furnish school buses. Most rural young folks who wanted a high school education came into Douglas and found jobs. The girls lived with families and "worked for their board and room". Some families treated us like members of their family and in others we were treated like we were slave labor. I "worked for my room and board" for seven exceptionally fine families while attending high school and college. This proved to be as valuable a learning experience for me as my college training.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL:

In 1918 there were no Sunday Schools in the rural areas (as far as I know). Mother had some Bible stories, a large illustrated Bible, a catechism and some Sunday School cards. Every Sunday she had a lesson for us. We learned the catechism, read and re-read about Joseph and looked at pictures in the Bible. I can still see Solomon in all his wisdom with a drawn sword ready to divide the baby between the two women who claimed him!!!

Later some neighbors got together and held Sunday School in various homes. Along about 1926 or 1927, the American Bible Sunday School Union established Sunday Schools throughout the country. They had a Sunday School Superintendent who visited occasionally and preached. In the summer he conducted Bible Schools. For perfect attendance for thirteen Sundays each child was presented with a Bible. Elisabeth, Helen and I each received a Bible. It was six and one-half miles to the Sunday School. Several Sundays we walked to and from Sunday School.

#### RECREATION:

Visiting with neighbors was the first recreation after families began settling this community. Later we had carry-in dinners on various occasions. On the Fourth of July there were picnics at Conley Grove, Dull Center and Dry Creek. The nine to thirteen-year-old girls usually vied to get the neighbors' babies to play with. Often there were five or six of us with one of the neighbor's youngsters in our arms. We also played hide-and-go-seek, pom pom pull away, steal sticks, last couple out, red light, blind-man's bluff, fox and geese, New Orleans, and drop the handkerchief.

Charivaris were held when there was a newly wed couple in the community. The neighbors got together and planned to surprise the couple after bedtime. They descended around their cabin making horrendous noises, by blowing whistles, beating on pans and whistling. The young couple were supposed to get up and furnish treats. Sometimes they hadn't been able to get into town to buy candy bars and cigars. Usually the women involved in the "goings on" brought refreshments.

Dances were held quite frequently. Everyone danced, fathers taught their daughters to dance. Mothers and older sisters taught the boys. Then when partners were changed in a Circle Two Step and the younger ones were paired off they were not embarrassed by not knowing how to dance. There were few wall-flowers with this method. After the Dry Creek Hall was completed in 1926 or 1927, it was the center for a great annual fair, a literary, frequent dances, weekly Sunday School, 4-H and Homemaker's Club meetings and baseball games. Dry Creek had a champion baseball team.

Many other experiences we had were common to the

ones others have written about in this book. I'm quite sure most of us homesteaders carried water, grubbed sagebrush, killed rattlesnakes, ate sage chickens, milked cows and built fences.

Anna Schick Ballard

## Wanek, Joseph and Mary Family

Joseph Matthew Wanek was born in 1862 in Cijevice Kralovice, Bohemia, the only son of Wensel Wanek. In 1863 Wensel and his family immigrated to the United States and settled first in Wisconsin. Wensel had been persecuted for patriotic expressions while in Bohemia. In 1870 he took a homestead claim near Madison, Nebraska. It was there that Joseph Matthew received his common school education.

Mary Planansky and Joseph Matthew were married in November of 1885 and in 1886 moved to Box Butte County near Lawn Church. Mary received her common education in eastern Nebraska. She, too, is full-blooded Bohemian. It is of interest that the Province of Bohemia was absorbed into the Republic of Czechoslovakia after the first World War and no longer exists as a separate entity.

Joseph and Mary were the parents of seven children, five boys and two girls; except for Minnie, the eldest, the children were born in Box Butte County, Nebraska. Three sons, William, Joseph M. Jr., and Louis, and one daughter, Minnie, came to Wyoming.

In addition to working on his homestead, Joseph was postmaster for twelve years at the Lawn Post Office. He also taught school for a time. He served as a member of the county board, helping to build the first bridge across the Niobrara River. The bridge was located on the route from Sidney to the Black Hills via Fort Robinson and was a freight and stage route. The bridge had a span of 60', being constructed entirely of wood and fastened together with wooden pegs. The total cost of the project was \$42.00. Since the working site was eight miles from the Wanek homestead, Joe was obliged to walk 16 miles per day to and from work. He must have enjoyed walking, however, for at one time he walked from Alliance, Nebraska to Sterling, Colorado and on to Silverton, Colorado to work in a mine located there, a distance of almost 500 miles.

William M. Wanek, also known as Willie or Bill, was born in 1887 in Box Butte County. He received what little education he had in Nebraska. He came to Wyoming in 1896 at the age of nine years. He was able to find work in the Lost Springs area, being employed by several of the townspeople to day herd their milk cows since, at that time, there were no fences. He worked later on as a horse wrangler for H. B. Card in the vicinity of Manville. Bill also learned to shear sheep, a trade which he worked at for a number of years in addition to proving up on his homestead. William filed for his claim about 1911. The land was located about five miles northeast of Lost Springs.

It appears that Willie made periodic visits to his home in Nebraska to visit his family and friends, and to court Elnora Eva Shimek, his sweetheart. It was his intention to marry Elnora, but his plans were to be thwarted. It seems that Joe, William's younger brother,



L. to r. Mary Shimek, Ed Marava, Mike Shimek and Nora Shimek.

was also courting Elnora during his brother's absences, and when William returned to Nebraska in 1911 to claim his sweetheart and make her his bride, he found that Joe had married Elnora a short time before. So William returned to his homestead in Wyoming alone to lead the solitary life of a bachelor.

In the early 1920s, Willie sold his original homestead and bought the claim of another man. This claim was located on Twenty Mile Creek about 18 miles north of Lost Springs. He was engaged in the cattle business. William died in 1948 and is buried in the Douglas cemetery.

Joseph Wanek Jr. was born in Box Butte County in 1891. He attended school there. He was married to Elnora Eva Shimek in 1911. Elnora's parents, Mathew and Eva Hovorka Shimek were born and raised in New Prague,



Eva Shimek



L. to r. Joe Wanek and Bill Wanek

Minnesota. They had four children while living in Minnesota, but the five younger children were born in Box Butte County. Elnora "Nora" was born in 1896 in Box Butte. Mathew and Eva Shimek are buried in the Bohemian cemetery located four miles west and nine miles south of Lawn Corner in the County of Box Butte.

Mathew Shimek brought his family to a sod house on his Nebraska claim. The furniture was homemade and quite crude. Mathew was engaged in farming. The water for household use was hauled by wagon from the Niobrara River some six miles distant.

To supplement his meager income from his farm, Mathew worked on the railroad building grades for the tracks for a wage of 50¢ per day. Leaving Eva at home with the children, Mathew walked to Deadwood to work for the railroad, a distance of 188 miles.

Nora, the sixth of a family of nine children, attended rural school in Box Butte, until, at the age of 15, she was married to Joseph Wanek. Since they were natives of the same area in Nebraska, it is safe to assume that they were married there. They were the parents of two daughters, born in Nebraska: both babies were stillborn. In 1916 Joe took a homestead claim northeast of Lost Springs and he moved his wife to Wyoming. Joe farmed his claim, besides raising milk cows and hogs. In 1918 their first daughter, Evelyn Eva, was born. The second daughter, Mildred was born in 1921. Both were born on the homestead in Niobrara County, Wyoming.

Two others of the Wanek family came to Wyoming. Minnie Wanek, the oldest of the family, married Joseph Paul Bartos and came with her husband to homestead. Louis, the second son, homesteaded, proved up, and sold his interest. He returned to Nebraska.

Though the homesteaders worked long hours proving up on their claims, they found time to gather together for "parties" of one sort or another. They enjoyed the company of one another and a chance to relax and visit. One of these gatherings was to be held at the homestead of Noah Henderson, some ten miles from the Wanek home. There was to be a "carry-in" dinner with games to follow. When the Waneks arrived at the Hendersons they found that

Noah, his wife and another man were lying dead inside the building. Rumor has it that Noah, working on a round-up to the north of his claim, had returned home to find his wife and the other man in a somewhat compromising situation. There followed a violent argument, during which Mrs. Henderson attacked her husband with a butcher knife. The end came when Noah shot his wife, the other man, and turned the weapon upon himself. For years afterward, the house stood closed, its walls, floor and curtains blotched and stained with human blood, a mute reminder of the intensity of human passions.

The Cody Shippen family had a homestead about one half mile south of the Wanek claim. Cody and Joe, both fond of "corn squeezin's," were good friends. Joe had constructed a still, and when it came time for the liquor to be jugged, Cody would come to help with the work. For obvious reasons, this task was attended to at night. The men would sample the whiskey as they worked and in the process would become slightly drunk. When the last bit was jugged, Joe would surmise that Cody was in no shape to walk the distance home alone. He would take a jug and the two men would walk to the Shippen place. Once there, Cody would reckon that Joe was too drunk to go back alone, so Cody would accompany Joe. This process was repeated until neither could navigate very well. Then they would spend the night, or what was left of it, where ever they happened to be at the time. The moonshine business ceased abruptly, though, when the Waneks moved to Twenty Mile in 1923, for Nora took the still and dumped it over the bank of the creek.

Leonard Gilbert, who had homesteaded on Cottonwood Creek, a tributary of Twenty Mile, traded his claim to Joe Wanek for Joe's claim near Lost Springs. Since Willie was already living at the site of the present buildings, Joe and his family moved into a house near the log bunkhouse where Willie lived. The brothers owned their livestock separately, but used the land together and helped each other. To supplement their income, the brothers, along with Cody Shippen and some others, formed a shearing crew. Their equipment and camping gear they loaded on pack horses and traveled around the country from one sheep outfit to another. Nora and her girls remained at home on the ranch.

A black man by the name of Jim Edwards, living on Harney Creek, and east of Twenty Mile, pastured his cattle and horses on the open range. Commonly they would drift to the northwest and become mixed with the



Nora Wanek



Wanek livestock. One very hot day in July, Jim was riding near the Wanek ranch. He came upon a nice fat three-year-old heifer belonging to Joe Wanek. Believing himself to be quite alone, Jim decided that he would drive the heifer home and butcher her. Joe Wanek witnessed the theft, but he allowed Jim to take the heifer. Later, Joe rode to the Edward's place and accused him of the act. Of course, Jim denied everything until Joe unearthed the fresh hide of the animal which wore the U lazy Y brand. Joe told Jim to keep the beef but that on his way home he was going to find a nice fat three-year-old heifer wearing a 16 Bar 1 (Edward's brand) and take her along. He did just that. Joe got his beef back, but the Waneks had to work all night canning the meat to keep it from spoiling. Old timers say, jokingly of course, that a man was stupid to butcher his own beef in those days.

The incident did not seem to cause any lasting hard feelings, though, for both of the Wanek girls took music lessons from Jim Edward's wife, Lethel. She was an accomplished musician, having a beautiful voice and being an excellent pianist. She had brought her baby grand piano from New York with her when she came to live on Harney Creek. Musical selections for several funerals in the Keeline-Lost Springs area were provided by Mrs. Edwards.

Joe was a happy-go-lucky person. He was very athletic, being nicknamed "Smokey Joe" for his prowess as a ball player, both in Nebraska, and later in Wyoming. He never owned a car, but traveled by horseback or with his team and buggy. His brother, Bill, finally bought a car, but drove it just about the speed that a good horse could trot. Nora was a hard working wife and mother. She was an excellent cook, and could make a feast from the most simple fare. The Waneks are remembered in this community as good neighbors. Visitors were always welcome at their home and they were always ready to lend a hand in an emergency.

Joe Wanek died in 1940 at the age of 49. Nora died in 1963. Together with Joe's brother, William, they are buried in the Douglas cemetery.

Evelyn Eva, the eldest daughter, married William Netz. They have an adopted son, Joseph Lloyd. Later the Netzs were divorced, and after the death of her mother, Evelyn moved with her son to operate the home ranch on Twenty Mile. Evelyn passed away in 1984. Her son, Joe, operates the ranch.

Mildred, the second daughter, married Robert Hudson. Their children are three daughters, all grown and married. The Hudsons make their home in Salt Lake City.

The U lazy Y has operated continuously for 61 years. It was the wish of Evelyn that her son, Joe, would continue to raise cattle and to make the Wanek ranch his home, as did the generations of Waneks before him.

Ruth Grant



## Ward, Jack and Anna Family

John "Jack" S. Ward, son of Charles and Caroline Kinsella Ward, was born in Black Hawk, South Dakota in 1884. He married Anna Mae Snyder, (b. 1888 in Falls City, Nebraska), in Alliance, Nebraska on June 28, 1910. One daughter, Margaret Carolyn, was born to them on July 29, 1912 in Alliance.

As a young man he was employed by the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad and later served as freight train conductor for many years.

Purchasing an interest in the Princess Theater from A. A. Clough in 1923, Jack came to Douglas in the spring of 1923. His wife and daughter followed him to town in June 1923.

Anna and Jack opened the Ben Franklin store on North Third Street in 1936 with Anna operating the store. The theater was sold in 1936 and the Ben Franklin store in 1943.

Jack was instrumental in organizing the Douglas Chamber of Commerce in 1949 and worked tirelessly in promoting the interests of Douglas. It was at his suggestion the annual Stag Dinner was instituted for visiting notables and Chamber members during the Wyoming State Fair.

His weekly columns in the newspapers known as "Short Reel Stuff," "Short Reels," "Chamber Chatter" and "Chatter" were read and enjoyed by people throughout the state.

Jack died on April 27, 1965 and Anna on January 12, 1969.

Margaret married Ben F. Burnett, (b. October 18, 1910 in Fort Collins, Colorado), on June 28, 1940. Ben, a pharmacist, purchased the old Steffen Drug Store. One daughter, Carolyn, was born. She was killed in a tragic accident on August 5, 1955. A truck collided with the bicycle on which she was riding at the corner of North Third and Walnut Streets.

Margaret Ward Burnett

## Weaklin, John H. and Amy Family

My mother, Amy Relinda Churchill, was born in Chicago on July 8, 1873 and moved to Wyoming in 1886. They settled in Platte County on Horseshoe Creek on the Henry Hughes Ranch. Later they moved to Orin in Converse County.

My father, John H. Weaklin, born in 1859, came to Orin from Lead, South Dakota where he was a cook at the gold mine. He ran a saloon and boarded at the hotel which my grandparents owned. He met my mother while living at the hotel. They were married in Orin on November 5, 1902.

I, Bea Weaklin, was born at Orin, October 15, 1903.

It must have been about four years from that time that I ran away from home and went to visit my dad at the saloon. I walked in and saw two large bottles about five feet high with big flowers on them. They were the color of the dark bottles now being sold. Well, they were so tall that they scared me to death and I started to cry. My dad came running to see what was the matter. I guess I was a little skittish in those days.





L. to r. Everett Weaklin, George Pollock, Amy Weaklin and Harvey Churchill, in front of hotel at Orin.

Dad sold the saloon and we moved to Lusk in 1907. He went into the mercantile business. While we were waiting for a house, we stayed at the hotel. I was so bored that I put a bean up my nose. I guess there was a lot of excitement about that time.

Time marches on and my brother, John E., was born December 5, 1908 in Lusk. The doctor's wife was taking care of my mother and also the baby brother. I was watching the procedure as she bathed the baby. I said "Mrs. Mathews, how can you tell if it is a boy or a girl??"

When I was seven years old my folks took me to a road show at the theater. A man played a big harp and played "Casey Jones." I was really interested and when we got home, I sat down at the piano and played Casey Jones with one finger. Dad said he thought I should take piano lessons, which I did for two years.

Dad, (John Weaklin) died in 1913; Mother (Amy)



J. H. Weaklin Store Orin, Wyoming

died in 1946.

We moved to Douglas in 1915 and in my sophomore year I played at the Princess Theater (before sound). In my junior year I played for the prom and didn't get to dance. In 1922 I began to play for the Kiwanis Club and I have been playing for them ever since, which is over 60 years of music and still going strong.

John E. died on January 28, 1947.

I graduated from high school in 1924 and was hired at the telephone company and worked for 39 years when I retired and moved to Casper.

Amanda Beatrice "Bea" Weaklin

## Webel, Charles and Louise

Philip Webel, born in Germany, first came to America during the war with Mexico. He served under General Zachary Taylor in that conflict. After the war ended, he returned to Germany where he was married to Katharine Beerhauers. In 1849 the Webels returned to the New World, making their home at first in the city of Philadelphia, and later moving to Pittsburgh where Philip established a large brewery.

C. C. P. Webel was born in Pittsburgh on November 29, 1852, the second in a family of five children. Charles received his education in the Chicago school systems, which were deemed superior to those in Pittsburgh, and upon the completion of his studies, he departed for Wyoming, arriving at Cheyenne on May 2, 1878. He found employment as a range-rider there, being engaged by the Seawright Brothers in 1879. At that time, the Seawright Brothers were driving cattle from the Oregon and Washington territories into the Wyoming territory.

In 1882 Charles went to Poughkeepsie, New York, where he enrolled in Eastman Commercial College and studied business law and commerce. After graduation he returned to Wyoming and was again employed by the Seawright Brothers whose base of operations was located on a ranch on the Platte River, 13 miles northwest of Casper, Wyoming. His employment was short-lived, however, since he refused to do some irregular branding.

Leaving the ranch, he decided to return to Cheyenne, and en route he stopped for a time at Fort Fetterman. There he purchased the mercantile house of E. Tillotson and Company. He took as his partner H. Altman, forming the firm of Altman and Webel, and engaged in trade at Fetterman. The business prospered, but in 1884, Mr. Webel sold his interest to Altman and went to work in the Laramie Peak lumber mills on Mill Creek furnishing lumber under contract for the United States Government.

Later, Charles located on a ranch of his own on Big Muddy Creek where he raised purebred Hereford cattle.

Mr. Webel was united in marriage to Miss Louise Bayer of Wittenberg, Germany on January 14, 1868, and to this union, a daughter, Susie, and a son, Charles C. P. Webel, Jr. were born.

In 1898 Mr. Webel, in association with his brother-in-law, G. W. Metcalf, formed the Webel Mercantile Company in Casper. Charles continued in his livestock business, however, organizing the Saw Creek Land and Livestock Company which raised both sheep and cattle.

Ruth Grant

## Werner, Edmund and Margaret

My father, Edmund Werner, married my mother, Margaret Werner, daughter of William and Nora Sullivan, on January 17, 1912 at the Sullivan home on LaPrele Creek. She was born on February 27, 1890 near Boxelder, Wyoming.

They had seven children: Mary, Margaret, William, John, Justin (myself), Edna and Jimmy.

In 1927 my father sold most of the holdings on the river and moved the ranch to Lightning Creek, northeast of Douglas. At the same time he bought a home on North Third Street so that my two oldest sisters could go to high school. The house was to be our home until mother died in December of 1965.

My father was elected as a County Commissioner for Converse County in 1936 and served for eight years at various times until his death on December 28, 1951.

Mary married "Bud" Ferguson, son of O.D. Ferguson. They lived on his father's ranch on Little Boxelder Creek until her death in 1952.

Margaret married Bill Runnion and they live in Casper, Wyoming where he owned and operated a truck in the oil fields until his recent retirement. They had four children: Fred, Butch, Mary Margaret and Dorothy Ann.

William was killed by lightning at seven years of age. The tragic incident happened while he was in an automobile in a lightning storm. Their dog was under the car with William sitting immediately over the dog. The dog drew the lightning charge, killing the dog and William.

Edna married Bill Barber. They live on and operate the ranch that Edna's sister, Mary, and her husband owned on Little Boxelder Creek. They have two children: Scott and Mary.

Jimmy died at an early age of diabetes.

I went through school in Douglas, graduating from the Converse County High School. In 1943 I enlisted in the Army Air Corp. serving in the Fifth Air Force Bomber Command, flying B-24s.

After my discharge in 1946, I returned to the ranch and entered into a partnership with my brother, John, and my father. Upon my father's death in 1951 we purchased the ranch from my mother. In 1953 we split up the land and livestock even though we continued to help each other. We purchased the Bob Sturgeon ranch near Laramie Peak in 1958. We felt that the type of range and good water was worth the 75 mile trail twice a year from the north ranch.

On October 20, 1954 I married Marilyn Park Carothers, daughter of Margaret Barry Park. Marilyn's mother and my mother had grown up together in the Upper LaPrele community.

We have three children: Debbie, born in 1955, married to Kent Simon, has one boy, Lee; Ed, born in 1958, is a mining engineer; and Jeff, born on February 29, 1960 is on the ranch.

I also served on the County Board of Commissioners for eight years.

My brother, John, joined the Marine Corp. at the same time I joined the Air Corp. He thought the Marines were for him since he didn't like water. As it ended up, he spent more time on water than a lot of sailors. He served



Margaret and Ed Werner

at Camp Pendleton, California and served in the Pacific at Okinawa and Guam.

By 1951 John had married Barbara Ann Leman, daughter of Jim and Lois Leman and moved to the Goochy place on Lightning Creek. They had three children: James E., married Dawna Peterson and have three children, John, Erica and Jessica; Mike, who lives on the old Jack Douglas Willan place south of Douglas on the Platte River; and Elaine, married to Frank Moore.

John's wife, Barbara relates their experiences trailing the livestock from the north ranch to the mountains in the south:

"In 1958 John and Justin bought some summer range in the mountains, at Laramie Peak (the Bob Sturgeon place). This put us 75 miles from the main ranch north of Douglas. It has become an annual trek going to and from summer pasture. In years past we would trail the sheep first, come home and start up with the cattle. It took about eight days each. The coyotes and Wyoming blizzards finally got the best of us and we sold our remaining sheep and built up the cow herd.

"Our trail crew usually consisted of our own children and often times a couple of Taylor children or Runnion boys, nieces and nephews. For several years, Jeff and Randy George helped. Jim, our oldest, was seven years old the first year we started trailing, so it was a pretty young bunch of cowboys and girls. After the first couple of years we purchased a small trailer house to pull each

day for camp. We could make just about ten miles a day. We had to make our stops each day in accordance to the water holes. The weather played an important part as to the ease or difficult times of trailing. A nice cool, overcast day was best. One year we had a heat wave in June with the temperature over 90° most days. The flies ran the cattle, then they required more water, and it made for a bunch of sunburned kids. On the other hand, some years it would rain so hard we would be bogged down. The little cowboys usually slept outside in their bedrolls and sometimes they would pitch a tent. When it rained too hard, the tent would leak. Our little trailer got pretty full with six or seven pair of overalls, coats, overshoes, etc., which were all wet and soggy. We tried to dry everything out, and to find a corner to sit or lie down.

"The most worrisome day was the day we went through the town of Douglas. It was always a relief when we were south of Douglas and our eyes would all focus on the mountains. It meant we were getting closer, with only four days left. We certainly were glad when that last long hill was finally climbed. By this time all the cows and calves were tired and sore footed and so were we. I can only imagine how it was with our forefathers coming west. They would have to have been a hardy bunch. I could jump in the car and go for water and groceries and oh!, that delicious ice. When Douglas started the "big boom" it got difficult trailing through town and we started trucking when the calves are babies and trailing home after the calves had been weaned."

Due to John's poor health and the necessity of making room for their eldest son, Jim, John and Barbara moved to town in 1975 where they built a house on North Eighth Street.

John died on May 6, 1983 of complications from cancer.

E. Justin Werner  
Barbara Leman Werner

## Werner, Herman and Grace

Herman Werner, son of William and Mary Werner, was on his own from the age of eleven. He drove string teams, broke horses and lived the rugged cowboy's life of roping, riding and herding sheep. He would tell stories of breaking broncs for the British Army early in World War I and chuckle about how they would run some of the meanest mustangs in on the supposed knowledgeable British Cavalry officers.

On January 29, 1923 he married Grace Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Smith, in Lander, Wyoming. Grace was a widow with three children: Jack, Bob and Mary Jane. One daughter was born to the Werners, Herma Werner Irvine.

In 1924 Herman purchased Major Ormsby's "Spearhead Ranch." This was the beginning of Herman's empire. Before his death he was to be one of the largest land owners in the state of Wyoming and at one time sheared more sheep than anyone in the state.

Herman died on August 6, 1973 from injuries incurred in a car accident in Rawlins, Wyoming.

Jack married Lois Lundberg. They had three children: Jon, Randy and Jackie.

Bob married Helen Metz. They had one son, Bob. Bob Sr. was killed in action in World War II.

Mary Jane is married to Howard Strand and has five children.

Herma married Van Irvine and had three children.

Grace Werner

## Werner, William and Mary Family

William Werner Sr. was born on May 11, 1854 in Achern, Baden, Germany. Not too much is known about him prior to his coming to what is now Converse County in 1885. I, Justin Werner, remember bits and pieces that were told to me by my father, Edmund Werner, and my uncle, Herman Werner.

It is known that William, my grandfather, came to the United States as a young boy from Germany. He joined the U.S. Cavalry and served under General Crook during the Indian Wars. Soon after the Custer disaster it is thought that he returned to Germany to serve out his required time in Bismark's army. Coming back to the United States in 1880, he rejoined the U. S. Cavalry again and served in various forts in Montana and Wyoming. His discharge papers issued at Fort Reno on the 26th day of July, 1885 stated that "Saddler Werner was by occupation a shoemaker when he enlisted" and "that his character was excellent, industrious and sober in habit." Soon after his discharge he took up residence at Fort Fetterman where he was a bootmaker, postmaster, constable and ran a hotel.

Grandfather married my grandmother, Mary Anna Pfeifer, at this time. He must have been very good at letters because he convinced her to come to Wyoming. She was born in Achern, Baden, Germany on October 20, 1859. She came over with her brothers who settled close to the fort.

They had nine children:

William Jr., born September 17, 1886, died in 1950.

Edmund, born October 31, 1887, died December 28, 1951.



William Werner



Mary Pfeifer Werner

Benjamin, born November 22, 1889, died December 20, 1919.

Herman, born November 10, 1892, died September 6, 1973.

Karl E., born March 2, 1894, died November 2, 1948.  
August, born August 22, 1897, died 1899.

Franz, J., born October 31, 1899, died March 30, 1973.

Carla M., born January 8, 1902.

Lucy, born August 26, 1904, died 1983.

From old records that he kept at the time, it seems that sheep and horses were his main interest though politics of the time also entered into his life. Old newspaper accounts of the era referred to him as the "Duke of Fetterman." From old letters and records that I have read, he had an excellent command of the English language, both written and spoken. From all accounts he was the community leader in the German settlement that had grown up between Fetterman and Glenrock.

When the railroad came in and stopped at what is the present site of Douglas and the town started growing, it shattered his dreams of Fetterman being the center of commerce and as the place was abandoned he went into the ranching business. His original holdings were on the south side of the Platte River but later he was to acquire land on the north side located where "Corky" Lisco now lives.

He died on July 16, 1908 from cholera and is buried on the old ranch at a spot overlooking the Platte River and the old fort downstream. His grave marker has been destroyed but I have hopes of someday being able to locate it.

After his death the family fell on some very hard times. The oldest son, William, went to Texas and it was left up to my father, Edmund, the second son, to try to keep things going.

My grandmother, Mary, died on August 30, 1930.

William went to Texas to work in the oil fields, Ed married Margaret Sullivan and remained in the area. Herman became one of the largest livestock and land

owners in the State of Wyoming, Benjamin entered the military service during World War I and was shell shocked in France, later dying at his Aunt Anna's home in Douglas. Karl lived in Cutbank, Montana and worked with Frank Werner in the oil field welding business. August died as an infant and was buried in Fort Fetterman, Carla married Tony Wroblewski, a Casper policeman, and Lucy married Harold Apel and lived in Casper.

E. Justin Werner

## West, Forrest and Fay Family

William Forrest West was born on March 23, 1900 in Page, Nebraska. He grew to manhood there, coming to Douglas as a young adult. He worked at various jobs after his arrival. On May 28, 1923 he was united in marriage to Wilma Fay Brose. To this union two sons were born, William Forrest II and Donald Lee.

Forrest was employed as a mail carrier, later a postal clerk, and then acted as assistant postmaster in the Douglas Post Office.

The Wests bought a place west of Douglas where they ran a dairy, raised turkeys, a large garden, and kept bees. Forrest kept his position with the postal department, however.

The West children were educated in the Douglas school system. After his graduation from high school, Bill served in World War II, after which he entered college. After completion of his college studies, he was married to Esther Richards, and they returned to Douglas. He taught in several country schools. Two children, Terri Lynn and William Forrest III were born to this union.

Donald also completed his college education and worked as a commercial artist for several years, after which he was a free lance artist. He has had several art shows where displays were made of his wood sculptures. He is married to Harriet Pickel of Nebraska, and they make their home in Casper, Wyoming.

After his retirement from the Postal Service, Forrest worked as night clerk for the LaBonte Hotel for several years. He died in February of 1981.

Fay Brose West

## Weston, Abner and Myrtle

Abner Weston was born in Tennessee, February 12, 1887. Myrtle Wagley Weston was born in Texas in 1890.

They came to Douglas, Converse County, Wyoming in 1917 from west Texas. They filed on a homestead about 27 miles northwest of Douglas.

Mr. Weston's brother, John Weston, also came along and took a homestead joining Abner's, where he built a small rock house to live in. They both proved up and Abner bought John's place and John returned to Texas.

From the very start, Mr. Weston began to build one of the better houses and continued to add to it until he acquired one of the nicer houses in the area before he moved to town in the early 50s.

Mr. Weston was a barber by trade and cut hair for many in the community. Mrs. Weston was a seamstress





Abner Weston with team of horses.

and did all her own dressmaking and sewing for others. They worked very hard raising cattle and sheep alone, as they didn't have a family to help them. He was quite successful with farming using only two horses for field work and hauling coal and produce to town.

Coming from the city, the Westons pulled the shades tightly; never could a peep of light be seen at night, a thing so welcome when traveling on the isolated road far from home. However, there was always a welcome should you knock on the door.

Mrs. Weston grew weary of isolation and moved to town in 1948. He soon followed, leased the ranch and began to build a home there in Douglas.

Abner passed away after a long illness on November 30, 1964. Myrtle died November 25, 1973.

Lucille Cress Baker

## Westwick, James and Eliza Family

James Balance Westwick (1815-1899) of Stockley, England and Eliza Atwell (1828-1896) of Killarney City, Ireland met on board ship and were married in November of 1850, before they reached America.

James' brother, John, and his wife, Mary, accompanied them to Galena, Illinois where the brothers operated a machine shop and foundry for 30 years.

All nine of James' children were born in Galena, Illinois:

Annie (1852-1928)	Harriet (1860-1939)
Jane (1855-1928)	George (1862-1948)
Robert (1856-1916)	John (1864-1898)
Eleanor (1856-1941)	Martha Matilda (1866-1952)
Willie (1858-1887)	

)twins

In 1877 John W. Marsden (Jane Westwick's husband) came to Wyoming as a surveyor for the Creosus Gold and Silver Mining Company. After five years he filed on a homestead on Wagonhound Creek, on what is now the upper part of the George Wills' ranch.

In 1884 the Westwick brothers' machine shop was partially destroyed by fire. As a result of this misfortune, John purchased the remainder of the shop and foundry from James. After many plans were made, James and Eliza and six of their children left for Wyoming. Those

leaving were: George Westwick and wife, Nell; John Westwick and wife, Emma; Eleanor Westwick (later Mrs. Matt Kewan of Wheatland, Wyoming); Harriet Westwick (later Mrs. Tom A. Shaw of Wheatland, Wyoming); Jane Westwick (Mrs. John Marsden); and Martha Matilda "Tillie" Westwick (later Mrs. William J. Carothers of Douglas, Wyoming).

They traveled by railroad to Rock Creek. There they made arrangements for wagons to bring them the remainder of the way. James and his family homesteaded on the lower end of Wagonhound Creek. It is now known as the Daly ranch. George homesteaded on the ranch later known as the George Wills ranch. John homesteaded on the ranch later to be known as the Milt Hammond ranch. John Marsden homesteaded on what is now known as the Redenbaugh ranch. These homesteads were all south of the present town of Douglas. The Westwicks received some of the earliest land grants issued in the area.

The nearest settlements were Fort Fetterman to the north and Rock Creek (now Rock River) on the Union Pacific Railroad to the south. Once or twice a year they went to Rock Creek for mail and provisions by team and wagon.

James had a white frame two story house built for his family. All of the lumber was rough and had to be hand planed. This was at a time when most homes were log houses.

The Indians were supposed to be on reservations by 1884, but there were still some around. The story was told about Tillie (Martha M. Carothers) who was alone at the ranch house one day when she heard the chickens making an awful racket. Tillie grabbed the broom and ran out of the house just in time to see a very drunk Indian with a squawking chicken. It made her so angry she started hitting him with her broom. He dropped the chicken and ran. Tillie was just four feet eleven inches tall. That must have been a sight to behold!!!

James Balance Westwick was known to his friends and neighbors as the "Old Granger." He was a formidable character with his mutton chop whiskers, his English accent and his stern attitude. Eliza was a dumpling of a person but she did have a temper. At times the "Old Granger" had to watch his step around his "Irish Lass." (This didn't happen often.)

We believe the Westwicks came to Wyoming because of the glowing reports John Marsden sent home. He covered a lot of the state in the five years working for the mining company, Laramie, Casper, and the area south of the present town of Douglas, Wyoming.

Robert Westwick (James and Eliza's oldest son) and his wife, Rose Ann, were the last Westwicks to come to Wyoming. Rose didn't like living the rugged pioneer life so they moved back to Peoria, Illinois where Robert was head machinist for the Northwestern Railroad.

The wedding of Martha Westwick, youngest daughter of James and Eliza, to William (Billy) J. Carothers, on March 7, 1888, was quite an event. Two of the guests were Tom Shaw and Matt Kewan, Billy's fellow riders for the Douglas Willan Horse Outfit. Matt Carothers, Billy's brother, was its manager. The horses were shipped from England by way of the Horn (pre-Panama Canal) to Oregon. The wranglers then hazed the horses overland to the



ranch above the present town of Orin. (Others working there were Eli Peterson, George and John Westwick, and John Housiaux.) It is said between them, George and John built over 100 miles of fence for the outfit. At the wedding the two wranglers, Tom and Matt, met the bride's two sisters for the first time. Later Harriet married Tom Shaw and Eleanor married Matt Kewan. Both couples made their homes near Laramie Peak.

The William J. Carothers homesteaded on Wagonhound Creek. Their home was a three room log house. The roof was of sod. A clear running spring behind the house was their source of water. About 200 feet beyond the spring ran Wagonhound Creek. There were raccoon and beaver on the creek, wild turkeys on the meadows, and many deer in the foot hills near the ranch. Breaking horses took up a great deal of Billy Carothers' time. Martha had a garden and some chickens. On February 15, 1892 their only child, Samuel Westwick Carothers, was born. Sam was only eight years old when his father died from injuries received while breaking a bronc.

Soon the "Old Granger's" family was really scattered. One son and one daughter stayed in Illinois. Two of his sons, George and John, with their families moved to California. Three daughters remained in Wyoming. In 1896 his beloved Eliza passed away. Three years later James Balance Westwick joined his Irish Lass and both were buried on the William J. Carothers ranch. After 1901 their remains were moved to the Douglas Park Cemetery.

Robert Westwick (eldest son of James and Eliza) and his wife, Rose Ann, had twelve children. After Rose's death, Robert's three sisters in Wyoming each took one of his younger children to rear as their own. Jane and John Marsden took Jennie E. Westwick (b. 1905). Jennie now lives in California. Harriet and Tom took Robert B. Westwick (1891-1971). After serving in WWII Robert came home to Wheatland, Wyoming where he and his wife, Tillie Patrick, reared their family.

Eleanor and Matt Kewan took William Westwick (b. 1900) for two years. However, due to a lack of school facilities near the Kewan ranch, in 1912 William "Bill" went to live with Martha "Tillie" Carothers.

Bill attended Wagonhound School. Some of his classmates were Rose and Gordon Fitzhugh, Cecil and Ed Hammond, Mary, Jim and Nellie Marsden, Francis and Ruth Pollard, and Bill's sister, Jennie Westwick. One of his teachers was Irene Shaw (later Mrs. Harry Isaac). The children walked or rode horseback to school. If they rode to school, the horses were left at the Jim Marsden ranch. There was no place to care for the horses at the school.

Bill rode once a week to pick up the mail at the LaBonte Post Office on Wagonhound at the Pollard ranch (later the Fitzhugh ranch.) The LaBonte Post Office was first located at the Pollard ranch on LaBonte. At an earlier time this ranch had the Road House facility for the travelers on the Oregon Trail. Later the post office was moved to the Pollard ranch on Wagonhound Creek.

Branding time was a working and social time. The ranch carried three brands: RT (Martha M's); ZY (Sam's); and Lazy YN (Bill's-later transferred to Harold Carothers).

In 1919 Bill and his cousin, Jim Shaw, were hunting

deer on the back side of Laramie Peak. They came across three bears and got two of them. This "news" made the Douglas paper.

The big social events of the year were the community dances in various homes with rooms large enough to accommodate all the neighbors and friends. The Matt Carothers' home on Wagonhound was one of the most popular of these. Families arrived on horseback, in wagons, cars, trucks and by shank's mare. Many of the young ladies who came on horseback brought their dancing slippers and party dress along with their cake tied behind the saddle. During intermission at the dance, cake and coffee were served while some gentleman passed the hat for change to pay the musicians, a dollar was most generous. Square dances and waltz quadrilles were quite popular at these functions especially if a good "caller" happened to be present. Bill Westwick certainly enjoyed being a caller and had more fun than most because there were usually two or three in each set who were trying to square dance for the first time.

In the spring of 1924, the four local teachers who were all from Nebraska, sponsored a box supper at the Scott ranch on Wagonhound. The teachers were Ruth Furman (now Mrs. Walter Whitaker of Douglas) of the Matt Carothers School, Vallie Wiggains of the George Brow School, Zelda Stewart of the Frank Rogers School and Ethyle Wiggains of the Zaichkin School. Bill Westwick picked up his date, Ethyle Wiggains, on horseback. Ethyle had her beautifully decorated lunch box and a change of clothes in a sack on the saddle. The men weren't supposed to know whose box belonged to whom. Later these colorful, frilled and ribboned boxes were displayed for the gentlemen to bid on. Jim Willox was the very capable auctioneer who did a little under-handed work, when possible, to aide the gentlemen to bid on his date's box, so he could share the delicious supper she had brought. The five Curry brothers of Douglas were the musicians for the many hours of fun and dancing which lasted until sun up and was declared by many to have been their first box supper and bushels of fun.

On December 10, 1924 Bill Westwick and Ethyle E. Wiggains were married. Their first home was in the log house where Martha and Billy J. Carothers had started housekeeping on his homestead almost four decades earlier. I, Ramona Martha Westwick, Bill and Ethyle's only child, was born at the Douglas hospital on September 9, 1925. The following March 17, 1925, Samuel Westwick Carothers was married to Ferne Sadler. Their only child, Harold Samuel Carothers, was born on October 8, 1927. "Had" (Harold) and I had many good times on the ranch. I have many fond memories of growing up on the Carothers' ranch.

Ramona Westwick Roberts

## Wheelock, Ben and Margaret

Margaret, the daughter of Frederick AuFrance and Elizabeth Rohne AuFrance, was born in Paulding, Ohio on March 2, 1878. She was raised in Ohio, receiving her education there. Margaret was a very lovely young girl, about five feet four inches tall and had an abundance of beautiful dark hair.



Maggie and Ben Wheelock 1913

When Margaret was a teenager, she met a handsome, dapper man with whom she became infatuated. He courted Margaret, finally convincing her that if she would leave her family and accompany him to Wyoming, he would make her his wife, and that there they would begin a wonderful life together. Margaret accepted the man's invitation and left Ohio to come to Wyoming, not realizing that he was actually a procurer of women for houses of prostitution. He traveled about seeking naive young ladies to set up as "Madames" in various locations, taking his "cut" from the businesses for a time and then moving on.

Margaret and her paramour arrived in Douglas in the late 1890s and there the procurer obtained a house in which he set Maggie up in business. Just how long he stayed in Douglas is not known, nor is the reason for his leaving. It is reasonable to assume that he was there for some time, taking his share of the profits, and overseeing the business until Maggie became proficient at it. Then he disappeared, leaving Maggie to manage on her own.

Since she felt that she could not return to her family and since she had no other means of making a living, she continued to operate the business. After her marriage to Ben Wheelock in 1913 she did return to Ohio to visit her people. Fred AuFrance, Maggie's nephew, came from Ohio when he was a teenager to make his home with the Wheelocks who reared him as if he were their son.

One building which Maggie occupied was a two-

storied structure, once a part of the old Valley House which was originally located south of the Burlington grade crossing at First and Center Streets. It was moved in 1914 to make more room for the railroad tracks. This hotel, constructed in 1886, was "T" shaped. The cross of the T was three storied, the tail was only two storied. The three-storied part was cut into two pieces, one part being moved to North Third Street where it was made into the Ranger Hotel; the other part was moved to a lot south of the post office, where it purportedly now houses the Home Bakery. The tail of the T was moved to North Second Street, and it was there that Maggie located, living there until the building burned to the ground after a short time.

Of interest is the fact that warranty deeds indicate that Ben Wheelock purchased Lot 1, Block 3 of the Town of Douglas in May of 1913 for the sum of \$400. In November 1916, a deed was issued to Mrs. Ben Wheelock for Outlot C., which was located between the tracks north of the Grain and Storage, and which was sold to W. R. Eastman in March of 1924. In 1920 an additional deed was issued for Lots 16 and 17 in Block 15, which lots are located on South Second Street, just south of the old LeBar Ford Garage building.

The establishment north of the Grain and Storage was known as the Riverside House. The one which was later occupied by Maggie and her "girls" located south of the Ford Garage was known as the "Green House." This was probably the fanciest of all the establishments, having a large mirrored wall opposite the front door, furnished with the comfortable settees and chairs of the period, and having a piano and victrola to furnish music for the patrons. Canadian liquor, imported, was dispensed over a bar situated in the front room. This liquor was shipped in and stored in a cellar located behind the house.

The respectable citizens of Douglas took the attitude that there was no prostitution in their town, though all were aware of the truth. They just chose to pretend that such a business did not exist.

Margaret was an excellent businesswoman; her establishment prospered. While she fiercely protected her girls, she was a rigid disciplinarian. She kept the girls off the streets whenever possible; but each month, all of them must pay a visit to the local physician for examination, to protect the clientele from diseases. The merchants of Douglas, in order not to offend their customers, set down a rule that no more than two of Maggie's girls could come into their businesses at one time.

Most of the time there were ten girls working at the house. Maggie took a sixty per cent cut of their earnings, allowing the girls to keep forty per cent. In return for her cut, Maggie furnished everything the ladies needed, such as the care and upkeep of their clothing, their rooms and their meals.

Before automobiles became the common means of transportation, Maggie owned a buggy with a fringed top. It was drawn by a single white horse. This conveyance could be seen at the depot on the occasions when Maggie expected a "new girl" to come in on the train. She imported her girls from other localities. Coincidentally, on these days, a large number of townspeople just happened to be at the depot. The respectable young ladies

who worked at the switchboard in the local telephone office "overheard" conversations which dealt with the arrival of the latest addition to Maggie's house, and somehow the word spread all over town.

Vince Merritt, whose father ran a general store on the southeast corner of Second and Center Streets, and Eddie Russell, who was apprenticed to Jack Kirwin, local saddle and harnessmaker, were frequent visitors at Maggie's place. Vince was sent there by his father to take ready-to-wear clothing when new shipments arrived to the "house" so that the girls could choose whatever apparel they wished. Eddie, on the other hand, was sent with beautiful, colorful Navajo Indian rugs and blankets of which the girls were inordinately fond. All transactions took place in the parlor; the young boys were not allowed in any other part of the house.

An office receptionist for Dr. Storey remembers the beautiful clothing which the girls wore, picture hats with ostrich plumes, long flowing gowns, fur neckpieces, rather ornate jewelry, and above all, their perfume. All of them wore a fragrance called "White Rose." For several days after the girls had made their monthly visits, the aroma lingered in the office. For the most part, the girls were quite pretty, well-behaved and quiet when they appeared in public. They used make-up, to be sure, but usually they applied it sparingly.

The Green House was surrounded by a six-foot-high board fence, which lent an air of mystery and intrigue to the place. Back to back, across the alley was the City Hall of Douglas. The upper floor of that building provided a place for tittering young ladies of the day to peer down into the back yard, hoping to catch a glimpse of the girls with their customers, but unhappily, they saw very little. In winter, other young folks, on their way to a pond south of the Green House to skate, peered through the cracks in the board fence. This, too was unproductive.

In addition to her female employees, Maggie hired a solicitor by the name of Harry Larson for quite a number of years. She also had a Negress named Maude who acted as housekeeper. There were other Negresses later on, as well as other solicitors. Maggie also had a house in Casper at one time which was located on South Wolcott Street, a block from Klines at Second and Wolcott.

The ladies of the churches of Douglas, in the company of a southern gentleman appeared at Maggie's door one day. The ladies objected to the "girls", but the Southernor objected to the Negress. Together they decided to call on Maggie and tell her that she must close her business and send her housekeeper back to the South. They were admitted to the parlor by the Negress who seated them and summoned Maggie. The Negress then departed to prepare tea and cookies for the guests. After some small talk, Maggie decided that she would get to the heart of the matter and inquired of the ladies just what their business was. They explained their visit, saying that it would be much better for the town if the house were closed. In reply to this, Maggie calmly said, "If you ladies would keep your husbands home at night, then I would have no business, and I would be forced to close." The embarrassed, red-faced ladies left, with the gentleman bringing up the rear.

On another occasion, George W. Pike "borrowed" a beautiful sorrel saddle horse from a man living in

Sheridan County. He brought the horse to Tate's Livery Stable, located where the LaBonte Hotel now stands, leaving the animal to be cared for while he paid a visit to Maggie's "Green House." Word got around that a law enforcement official from Sheridan was very close to Douglas and when he arrived he intended to arrest Pike for horse-stealing. Vince Merritt was sent to Tate's to tell him of the impending arrest. Tate told Vince to take the horse to John Hartman's place outside of town, that Hartman would dispose of the animal. When the officer arrived he found neither George nor the horse so he returned to Sheridan empty-handed.

At Christmas time, it was Maggie's custom to enlist the help of two or three of the girls to go out to the Wheelock ranch where they spent several days butchering geese, chickens and turkeys. These fowl were then taken to the Bolln Grocery, where Maggie purchased the other food necessary for a festive holiday dinner. Bolln would then have his delivery boy load the boxes of food in his pickup and distribute them to the poor families in Douglas. The folks who received these gift boxes never knew that they were donated by Maggie, but believed instead that Bollns gave them.

Another story told is of the prominent Douglas businessman whose wife grew prize winning roses. One morning it was found that all the roses had been cut during the night. The wife was very angry and the husband, to calm her, said that he would offer a reward for the capture of the rose thieving culprit. Notice of the reward was posted. Later it was learned that the rose thief was the husband and the recipient of the roses was Maggie Wheelock.

With the plans to begin a state fair in the town of Douglas, came the need for donations of money, anything from 50 cents to \$10.00 to start the project. Mrs. Pauline Peyton was in charge of soliciting donations from the various business houses and from private citizens. She kept a record of all the donations, as well as the amount donated. She collected \$2.00 each from Ben and Maggie Wheelock. Her work completed, she turned the monies over to the State Fair Board, only to have them refuse to accept the donations from Ben and Maggie, evidently considering it to be "tainted money." Mrs. Peyton was furious, arguing vehemently with the board, but to no avail. She returned the money, but never forgave the board for its narrow-mindedness.

Conversely, if the town assessed businesses for such things as sidewalks or streets, the assessment which Maggie had to pay was always about double that paid by the other businesses. If the city could not meet its monthly payroll, then the law enforcement officials would "raid" Maggie's place, collecting a fine which they used to make up the deficit in the city's funds.

Maggie did favors for many people, cashing sheepherder's checks, lending money to persons whom she felt deserving or who were down on their luck. She almost always collected her loans, though sometimes it took a long time.

During the prohibition era, Maggie was arrested for selling liquor. Since it was a federal law, the officers of the government raided places which sold liquor illegally every once in a while. Maggie was put in the County Jail at the time Al Peyton was serving as sheriff. Mrs. Peyton

cared for the women and juvenile offenders. She respected Maggie, knowing of her generous and unselfish acts of kindness. It is uncertain whether Maggie received further sentence at a federal prison or whether she was simply fined and released.

The Episcopal Church in Douglas gathered donations in the form of vegetables to be sent to the Cathedral Home for Children which was located in Laramie. Miss Pauline Peyton, Al Peyton's daughter, helped to gather the contributions. One year, great quantities of produce were donated and after two trucks were loaded and sent to Laramie, there were lots of vegetables left over. Young Pauline decided that she would take the produce around the town, selling it to persons who had no gardens, thus raising additional money for the church. She was about seven years old at the time. She enlisted the aid of one of her friends and together they drove about with a team and wagon, selling their vegetables. It was inevitable that she would eventually try the folks at the Riverside House where there was no garden. Pauline had no idea what sort of business was done there, but she thought the place looked prosperous. The door was opened to her knock by the tall, big boned Negress, Maude, who was astonished to find this young, white girl there. Pointing her finger at Pauline, Maude cried out, "You! You, child! What are you doing here? Now go on, git! Git out of here!" Pauline, who was a very determined child, waited until the Negress stopped shouting at her and then explained her mission. She left with much more money and many less vegetables.

The Peytons lived in an apartment above the old Gas Company which was located across the street from the College Inn. During one state fair, when Pauline was still quite young, her parents went to a party at the LaBonte Hotel, leaving Pauline in the care of a sitter. Pauline had been put to bed, the sitter was in another room, and the hour was late. Suddenly, there was a commotion outside on the street which awakened Pauline. She slipped from her bed and ran to her window which overlooked Second Street. There, in the street below, were several inebriated cowboys on their hands and knees each with one of Maggie's girls astride his back. The girls, always modestly dressed when they were observed downtown, had donned short can-can skirts in brilliant colors, exposing their legs, arms, and a lot of bosom. The riders and "horses" made a ridiculous sight as they "raced" up the street to the finish line.

In her later years Maggie lived in the "house" on South Second Street which is now the George Jewell house. The second floor and part of the first floor were moved from the site. She had become somewhat crippled as a result of an automobile accident in which she injured a hip. Evidently she had retired from taking an active part in her business, but she had not lost interest in her fellow man. She was known to take in elderly women who had no means of support, to care for them. One such lady was Mrs. Abe Daniels, a widow, penniless, who lived in the small house behind Maggie's home until her death, with Maggie taking care of her.

On May 2, 1940, Margaret AuFrance Wheelock died. She was buried beside her husband in the Douglas Park Cemetery. She had been confined to her bed for three or four months preceding her death.

Maggie Wheelock was engaged in business just as others were. She offered a marketable service as others did and made her living from the sale of it. Eddie Russell said that because of the generosity of Sarah Morton and Maggie Wheelock there was no need for a Welfare Department in the city. Al Peyton said of her, "Maggie was a good woman. I should know, having had both good and bad in my jail. Bad women are much harder to handle than good ones and Maggie was a good one."

Maggie was kind, generous, honest, and most important to this history, one of the most colorful and interesting characters in Douglas and Converse County.

BENJAMIN ELLSWORTH WHELOCK was born in Vermont or Massachusetts on August 9, 1858, the son of B.C. Wheelock. The elder Wheelock was born in 1826, coming to Wyoming with his sons, Frank, Joe and Ben in 1871. The family first stopped at Fort Laramie, but a short time later continued on to Douglas. B.C. Wheelock took a homestead on lower LaPrele which was eventually sold to Jim Crowe.

Young Ben Wheelock was sent into Montana to fulfill a haying contract when he was only 17. While he was there, he assisted in the burial of the remains of the soldiers who had been slain in the Custer Massacre which had occurred a year earlier. The bones of the massacre victims were gathered in sacks and buried in a common grave.

Ben became well versed in the Indian languages of the regions, serving many times as interpreter for the army and for other governmental agencies. In recognition of his services in this capacity, he was presented with a gold-headed cane, a gift which he treasured, and which he hung on the wall of his home.

In the early 80s, after the government had abandoned Fort Fetterman as an army post, Mr. Wheelock established residence there, engaging in the saloon business. In 1905 he took a homestead on Alkali Creek west of Douglas where he raised cattle. Ben, in addition to his homestead venture, was a good carpenter. He helped to build cabins for other homesteaders who came into the area, as well as those who took claims in the mountains to the south. He was adept at hewing and fitting the logs which were used in the construction of the mountain cabins.

Ben was a nice looking man, about 5'10" with dark hair, greying at the temples. He was remembered as being dignified, polite and friendly.

Ben died March 12, 1940, after having been confined to his bed as the result of a stroke. He was buried in the Douglas Park Cemetery beside the grave of his father, B.C. Wheelock, who had died in 1909.

Ruth Grant

## Whitaker, Walter W. and Ruth

Walter W. Whitaker was born on October 19, 1895, in Parker, Kansas. His father, Joseph W. Whitaker was born in Tennessee and his mother, Minerva Cease Whitaker was born in Indiana. The family moved to Colorado where his father was Tunnel Inspector for the narrow gauge C & S Railroad, built through the mountains to Kenosha Pass. Later they moved to Colorado Springs,

Colorado, where he worked in the assayer's office. When Walter was six, his father died.

Walter attended school in Colorado Springs. In 1908, at the age of 13, he came to Wyoming where his older sister lived in the Goshen Hole area. Another sister lived in western Nebraska. During the next several years in Wyoming, Walter worked at a variety of jobs; on farms, hauling beets in the beet fields, on ranches or breaking horses. He loved the outdoor life and by now he had acquired a team of horses and several saddle horses. In a buggy, he and a friend from his school days traveled across northern Converse County, camping along the way. They arrived in Buffalo and soon were at work helping to build a branch of the railroad into Buffalo. He used his horses to move dirt in this construction and his younger brother, Joe, later joined him there. Wyoming was in his blood and he decided to make this his home. He found the land he wanted to file on south of Douglas on King Creek in the Wagonhound area.

In 1916 he acquired his Lazy MY brand. The requirements for proving up on a homestead were a large undertaking for someone alone. To keep going, he helped ranchers in the hay fields, ran a threshing machine, freighted posts and poles out of the mountains and many other jobs. These events in his life were interrupted with a call to serve his country. During World War I, he was with the 91st Rainbow Division and served eighteen months overseas. When the Armistice was signed, he returned to the homestead only to find it had been contested. The problem was soon cleared up and he completed the requirements, proving up on his homestead.

Any young man with a homestead needs a help-mate, and fate was working at solving this problem. In Marsland, Nebraska, on June 11, 1903, twin girls, Ruth and Rachel were born to proud parents. Their mother, Nellie Benton Walker, was originally from Tennessee but following the Civil War, the family left the South and moved on to settle in Sidney, Nebraska. Their father, Howard Gustin Furman, was born in 1847 in Columbia Crossroads, Pennsylvania. Howard left home at an early age, first going to St. Louis, Mo. where he worked as a telegrapher. The untamed West was where he wanted to be so the next few years were spent trapping, hunting and fishing and generally exploring Wyoming, Utah and Montana. On May 21, 1872, he enlisted in the army and in 1876, from his personal notes: "We left Camp Douglas, Utah to take a hand in the troubles that General Custer was having with the Indians in the Big Horn Country. We left the train at Medicine Bow. I was sent on ahead with material to cross the Platte at Ft. Fetterman. We got across the Platte alright and were well on our way when we met a courier with news of the Massacre." Howard was discharged from the army at Camp Robinson, Nebraska in 1877.

On March 22, 1878, he married Nellie B. Walker at Sidney, Nebraska. The next four years were spent building railroads from Nebraska to Utah and later freighting supplies between Deadwood, South Dakota and Sidney, Nebraska. He found the land he wanted on the Niobrara River near Marsland, Nebraska and in 1883 he filed on his homestead. From this start, he and Nellie built one of the finest ranches in western Nebraska.

Ruth and Rachel were graduated from Crawford

High School in 1922 and later attended Chadron Teachers College where they received their teachers certificates. With pioneer spirit, they chose to go west to Wyoming and Douglas was decided upon since an old family friend, Nellie DeCastro, lived there. Rachel was assigned a school north of Douglas while Ruth was assigned a school in the Wagonhound area and stayed at the Matt Carothers home. She and the three children drove to the log school house in a one horse buggy with young George at the reins. With much help and good pitch wood, a fire was built that soon warmed the one room building. This year will be remembered by the tragedy of the Cole Creek flood. Once a week, mail was delivered by way of a horseback mail route between the LaBonte and Hammond post offices, now disbanded. Walter Whitaker was the carrier and was a frequent visitor at the hospitable Carothers home. The teacher and the mail carrier soon became friends and by Christmas, Ruth proudly wore a diamond engagement ring. On May 8, 1924, they were married.

Their first home was a log cabin on a place Walter had leased to be near a ranch where he was putting up hay on shares. The lease being up, the next move was back to the homestead on King Creek which had only a small shack as a dwelling. Near Poison Lake a small settlement had been built for the manufacture of Epsom Salts. Later being abandoned and buildings for sale, a three-room frame building was bought and moved by horses to the King Creek homestead. There was a nice spring where Walter fixed a "spring box" to keep milk, cream and butter cool. One afternoon dark clouds rolled up, a flood came down the creek and took the "refrigerator" down to the Platte.

A Sunday School had been established and prayer meetings were held at the schoolhouse. Rev. John Falconer held services not more than once a month. The ranchers with adequate room held neighborhood dances and often winter evenings were spent playing cards. Neighbors visited each other always sharing a meal. Rachel had married Lee Fowler and lived miles north of Douglas but several times a year the twins managed to meet in town. One of the more special occasions of every year then and now, was the state fair when everyone from the area participated in the many activities, renewing friendships and making new memories.

July 22, 1925, Walter, Jr. was born. Ruth recalls that when Walt, Jr. was four months old, they had an invitation for Thanksgiving dinner with a neighbor. They saddled their horses, wrapped Walter, Jr. in some warm blankets and put him in the saddle mail bag and rode cross country to their hosts as the snow was too deep for the Model T.

In 1926, Ruth's mother died. Her father lived at the home ranch in Nebraska where married sons ran the operation. His health was not good and he wished a daughter would come and stay with him. Ruth and Walter assumed this responsibility which would last for over four years. Meanwhile, Walter commuted back and forth from the small holdings in Wyoming. During this period, the Whitakers acquired two neighboring homesteads.

December 12, 1929, a daughter, Janice was born, On April 2, 1931, Joan was born, (deceased April 19, 1940). With a growing family, it was time to return to Wyoming.



The great depression had now hit and great plans for raising wheat and certified potatoes were not paying off. Wheat delivered brought 20¢ a bushel. Labor and material were bartered between neighbors, eggs were taken to the grocery store in exchange for groceries. The original house was moved again although this time with tractors, after which more rooms were added. From a piece of hardwood, Walter carved out a propeller which was mounted so the wind would generate electricity, providing some electric lighting. Long winter evenings were enjoyed with "Little Orphan Annie", "Amos and Andy" and music of the mid-thirties on the battery powered radio. Life was made easier with the lights and a Coleman iron. Trucking coke, a by-product of the oil industry, to western Nebraska where it was used in furnaces for fuel, supplemented the meager income. The truck was always loaded with produce from the gardens of that area for the return trip. What wasn't sold would be shared with neighbors. During these years of drought, economic depression and hordes of grasshoppers, neighbors shared in many ways. One year when there were more grasshoppers in the combine than kernels of wheat, Walter invited his near neighbor to turn his large flock of turkeys into the ruined wheat fields.

Another daughter, Eleanor Dee was born July 6, 1934 at Rose Hillman's maternity home in Douglas. With a growing family to educate, a move had to be made. At this time, the government took action to keep down surplus by cutting the wheat acreage allotment. A ranch to run livestock and irrigated land to raise feed seemed more profitable. This was in the late 30's and there were several ranches for sale. The large meadows of the Freeman place caught Walter's eye and with past experience on irrigated ranches, he knew this was the place he wanted. If a sale of \$5.00 an acre could be arranged for the farm on Wagonhound, the debts could be paid with enough left for the down payment on the ranch. This transaction took place in 1939 and the family moved to their new home in May 1940. This ranch was one of the oldest on LaBonte Creek with the original log house consisting of three rooms and the remainder of the home built in frame. A coal burning furnace installed for hot water bears the date of 1904. With 2½ baths and carbide lighting which was soon replaced with 32 volt electricity, this house had many comforts unusual for a country home in that day. Over the years the house has undergone much remodeling but the brick fireplace in the log room still is used as is the old dinner bell that hangs on the gate post.

The first few years the meadows produced more hay than there were cattle to eat it. Some hay was baled and sold; additional cattle were taken in for winter feeding. Part of the Eggleston place to the south was being leased and when the Federal Land Bank informed Walter in the early 40's that it was to be sold, Walter decided to purchase it. Water was important to pasture land and a spring on the Black Ridge was filed on by the Willox family in the early days. An agreement was made whereby the Whitaker ranch could use the spring for livestock, a neighborly act that was greatly appreciated. There was run-off water in the spring when the meadows were irrigated. To capture this water, Walter gave Charles Saul permission to build a reservoir on the lower end of the

ranch which has become a landmark. Always mindful of conservation and efficient use of water, many small dikes were built throughout the pastures.

The early 40's with World War II taking Walt Jr. and help difficult to find, the summer brought young boys to the ranch to put up the hay. One summer German prisoners were recruited from the camp at Esterbrook.

On August 26, 1942, a son Gerald was born (deceased Nov. 8, 1969). The following years were spent improving the pastures and the irrigation system. In the late 40's, a small portion of land was given to be used to build the LaBonte-Wagonhound Community Hall. Walter Jr. was associated with the ranch operation. In 1961 Walter Jr. married Delores Perry and they made their home on the ranch with their three children until the fall of 1969. The girls were married in the early fifties and grandchildren were frequent visitors to the ranch. Janice and her husband, R. E. Hudson, have spent most of their married years in Casper with their four children. Eleanor and Jess Rodgers have also lived in Casper many years with their five children. Gerald was married to Marsha Rushing in 1968.

In 1960, more land was purchased which balanced the feed available with the number of livestock. The new property ran up into the mountains where the family enjoyed taking visitors to see the falls on Deer Creek. They would be amused when told about "Bunchum Creek". It was said the sheepherder would bed the sheep down along the creek bottom; it was the time to bunch 'em in the evening. Visitors could also see an old buffalo wallow enroute to the mountain pastures.

On May 8, 1974, Walter and Ruth celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a reception at the LaBonte Hotel hosted by their family. Retirement gave time for traveling and spending some of the cold days of winter down on the Gulf. They visited many states including Hawaii and Alaska. Walter also had time to work with and gentle some of the saddle horses he raised.

Walter Whitaker was known for many good things; among them his faith in other people, his ability to do almost anything with animals plus his own brand of wit and the ability to enjoy a joke, even on himself.

A salesman came out to the ranch one day selling "break-proof" drinking glasses. He demonstrated his product by dropping one glass on the floor plus hurling it against the wall. He let Walter try to break the glass and promptly sold a full set. A short time later, Janice, very recently married, arrived to visit along with her husband. Walter proudly demonstrated his purchase to his new son-in-law. As he dropped the first glass, it promptly broke in many pieces. Puzzled but still having faith in the salesman, Walter threw two more glasses only to see them shatter also.

Another time, upon arriving home one evening from town, Walter pushed the button to open the garage door to put the car away. As the door opened and the garage light came on, a family of skunks darted in through the open door. Walter got a broom and tried to "sweep" out the intruders. Although the skunks didn't seem to mind the treatment, they were not about to leave. Now this called for "drastic" action. Walter closed the door and started the car engine, then went into the house to let the deadly exhaust gas do its work. After a time Walter returned to

the garage and picked up the lifeless skunks, placing them in a large pail to transport outside. When asked later how many skunks there were, Walter replied, "five gallons!"

Walter died April 18, 1976.

Ruth remains busy with her flowers, civic and church activities. The ranch house remains "home" to family and great grandchildren these days. On June 11, 1983, Ruth celebrated her 80th birthday on a cruise down the Mississippi on the paddle wheeler, The Mississippi Queen.

Ruth Furman Whitaker

## White, Henry and Lena Family

Henry N. White was born in Sevier County, Tennessee on July 1, 1874. His parents, Tyler Clay White and Mary Ellen Frazier, as well as his maternal grandparents, were also born in Tennessee. About the turn of the century, Henry moved to Missouri and on May 9, 1900 in Carthage, Missouri he married Lena May York, daughter of Jonathan Albert and Bell Petty York, all born in Jackson or Cass County, Missouri.

In March 1912 Henry moved to Shawnee, Wyoming with his wife and three children: Eula, Guy and Emmitt. Lena's doctor had advised her to move to a dry climate to improve her health. Since she had several brothers living in Wyoming, they chose to go there to homestead so they could have a place of their own.

They lived with Lena's oldest brother, Thomas York, while they cut logs to build a two-room log house with a sod roof and mud chinking. When the house was finished, Tom helped them move their few possessions. Before he left he warned them it looked like bad weather was coming and if it did storm they should not leave the house for anything. His forecast was accurate, a blizzard hit that night and lasted for three days. They had a sheepherder's stove and one bed for the five of them, but they made it! They spent a lot of hours with everyone in the bed trying to keep warm and also sweeping out the snow that blew in between the cracks. When someone went to the outhouse they tied a rope around his waist and someone in the house held onto the end of the rope until the person had made a safe return. There were many happy gatherings in that little house: Ladies' Aid Society, neighborhood parties and holiday dinners for as many as 17 guests.

The three children went to the Shawnee School, which was north of their house. The first two years they went to school during the summer because of winter blizzards. Their schoolmates included three Harkins children, a Swickhamer and a Moore boy. The teacher was Eve Thresher from Lost Springs. Part of the time she boarded with Tom and Myrtle Elgin York.

Around the beginning of World War I many settlers came to Shawnee. As new houses went up all over the place, the sheepherders and cowboys started to go over the hill leaving the sodbusters to take their place. Now a larger school was needed so a two-room school was built. Henry bought the old school house and Tom York helped him move it to his land. When they unhooked the horses and looked inside the old school house, they were sur-

prised to discover they had forgotten to take down one of the kerosene wall lamps and the building had been moved two miles without the chimney falling off. They remodeled the old school house and added two rooms. Now they had a four-room house! The old log house was moved a short distance and made into a barn.

Henry thought the virgin Wyoming soil would make a good garden so he planted one of the first gardens in the area. When winter came their root cellar was filled with carrots, turnips, rutabagas and potatoes. One year he grew so many potatoes he rented a railroad car and took them to Nebraska where he sold them, bringing back apples for his family and to sell in the neighborhood. How good they tasted! He also grew flax which looked like a sea of blue with the blossoms waving in the breeze. They raised turkeys but it was too hard to protect them from the coyotes. Henry sent away for Indian corn seed which made an excellent crop. He fed it to the hogs which he butchered for meat for the table and to sell as far away as Douglas. His cattle brand was HN, a combination of his first and middle initials.

There was no church service in Shawnee until Rev. Fisher came from Lost Springs on the Saturday afternoon train and spent the night at Henry and Lena's house. The next day he attended Sunday school and preached a sermon to the local congregation, returning to Lost Springs on the Sunday afternoon train.

One summer my family took Henry's father and other relatives from the midwest, to the Laramie mountains to camp out for a week. Sometimes they went to the activities in the Seymour District, traveling by horsedrawn wagons or sleds, depending on the weather. There were taffy pulls, good programs and a potluck dinner on Childrens' Day. The children picked dock stems to decorate the school house. The grown-ups pitched horseshoes and the children played games.

Sadness touched their lives in Wyoming. A son, Alvin, was born in 1914 but did not survive. Lena's mother died in 1917, and her brother, Carl York, died during the flu epidemic in 1918. Both of them are buried in the Prairie View Cemetery.

A daughter, Geneva, was born at Shawnee in 1917. I, Virginia, was born in 1922 after my family returned to Missouri, but their conversations about the happy times they spent with their friends and relatives there always made me wish I had shared their Wyoming adventure.

Virginia White Thompson

## White, Captain W. H. and Elizabeth

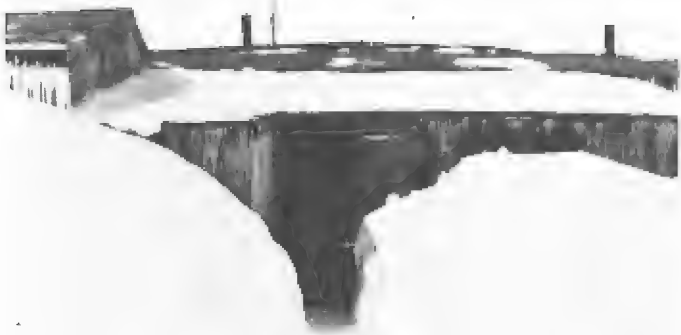
A seaman by trade before coming to Wyoming in 1893 with his wife, Elizabeth and baby daughter, Mollie Frances, (born May 7, 1892), Captain Willard Heber White settled on Virden Creek in southwest Converse County, on the old GR Ranch.

Captain White was born in Sussex County, Delaware, May 1, 1861, the son of Henry H. and Mary Ann White. After spending the first sixteen years of his life on the farm, he went to sea and for thirteen years sailed the briney deep as a seaman. He was a master of his vessel for four years.

On November 7, 1889 he married Elizabeth Virden of



Captain W. H. and Elizabeth White.



Winter time at W. H. White cabin on Boxelder Creek.

Lewes, Delaware. She was born January 29, 1862, in Milton, Delaware, the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Virden.

Captain and Mrs. White became interested in Wyoming through her brother, Frank Virden, who had migrated to Wyoming in the middle 1880's with the Joseph Carey family, also from Delaware.

A niece of Mrs. White, Lida Veasey, whose mother had died when Lida was a baby, accompanied the Whites to the West. Lida later married O. D. Ferguson of Douglas. While living on the GR Ranch, daughters Cornelia "Jimmy" was born in 1894 and Elizabeth "Betty" on October 4, 1896.

The Whites moved to the Charles Smith Ranch on Boxelder Creek, which they purchased in the late 1890's.

All the girls graduated from Douglas High School with Jimmie going one year at Boulder University. Jimmie taught school around the country. Among the schools was the Beaver School on LaPrele Creek.

Jimmie's untimely death occurred in 1918, during the influenza epidemic. Frances (Mrs Howard Esmay) died May 2, 1954.

In 1928, the ranch was sold to Lloyd Huxtable and the Whites moved to Douglas, living on the corner of Fifth and Ash. Captain White died February 7, 1929, and Mrs. White died March 15, 1952 in Douglas.

Betty married Thomas Urie Slonaker in 1921 and passed away August 1, 1982.

John R. Pexton

## Whiting, Marion and Emma Family

Marion Fay Whiting was born January 11, 1883 at Ithaca, New York. When a young man he moved to Pennsylvania. In 1901, at the age of 19, he came to Converse County and worked in the oil fields with his uncle. Later he went to work for Roy Moore who owned a ranch about 40 miles northeast of Douglas.

Emma Jean Hartman was born at Norfolk, Nebraska the daughter of Ernest and Anna Hartman. She spent her girlhood in Nebraska and South Dakota. At the age of 17 she started working in the Norfolk hospital and within a few weeks was traveling with the doctor to farm houses on maternity cases. All of these were two week jobs, the length of a new mother's confinement in those days. She looked after the mother and new baby, took care of the other children, cooked, washed and did everything pertaining to general house work. Her pay was \$15 for the two weeks.

Emma's coming to Wyoming started with a telegram she received in Norfolk which read "Call at Western Union for train ticket to Douglas." When she arrived in Douglas there on the platform stood her uncle, John Emil Hartman. There had been a new baby in the family and they needed her help.

Following that case Dr. Bodine, an early day Douglas physician, engaged Emma to care for the wife and infant son of a prominent ranch family, the Roy Moores. The usual two weeks work stretched into months and months into years...without her ever getting back to Douglas. At this ranch she met Marion Whiting.

On May 12, 1913 Marion filed for a homestead 21

miles northeast of Douglas in the Walker Creek Community. On the next day, May 13, 1913, he and Emma were married.

Their first project on their homestead was to build a house, a two room log structure for which they fell and dried their own timber. Winter weather had set in before they got the logs chinked with cement so they decided to use gumbo. They had no water well, so they melted snow in a tub over a sagebrush fire then mixed in the gumbo. They were progressing fairly well until one day the mud would no longer spread. It seemed pretty cold outside to work so they decided to quit chinking for that day and go to Douglas after food supplies. How surprised they were when they got to town to find out it had been 45 degrees below zero. They gave up chinking until warmer weather came in the spring, then they finished the house and made a start laying the logs for a barn.

The water situation for family use was a big problem. They had been hauling water from a nearby spring but this proved unsatisfactory when one morning Emma was going to make coffee for breakfast and found the water bucket swimming with polliwogs. A well had to be drilled. Marion found a job and worked long enough to have money to pay for drilling a well. Emma stayed at the homestead and took care of things there. Later in the summer they did get a good well drilled but it was located at the bottom of the hill from the house making it necessary to haul the water up the hill. Down by the well Emma always raised a big garden, which provided a large part of their food supply. She spent many hours in the fall canning, storing away food for the long winter months.

During the next five years their three sons were born. Marion Fay Jr. on August 24, 1914, Adolph "Bubs" on June 8, 1916 and Ed Irvine on May 5, 1919.

The next five years also brought many more homesteaders to the community. This made a growing need for a school. During the summer of 1917 the parents got together and presented their need to the school board in Douglas. The board agreed to furnish the material and the parents agreed to do the work. Work was started right away but the building was not completed when school started in September. School was held at the home of Mrs. Nicholls for about two months until the school building was finished. Miss Maude Goldsby was the first teacher. She boarded at the Whiting home. At the peak of homestead days the school house had to be enlarged to accommodate 32 scholars. This old building is still standing on the Walker Creek School grounds. It has not been used for school since the spring of 1981. The building was condemned for not meeting standards for fire protection and a new building was moved in for use the fall of 1981. The old building was bought by the community and is being used to hold Sunday school.

In the early '30s the residents of the community banded together again and built the Walker Creek Community Hall. All time and labor was donated. To pay for the cost of material they had pie suppers, box socials, dances and other kinds of entertainment.

In the fall of 1934 Marion was ailing from poor health. On January 12, 1935 he was taken to Denver for examination and treatment. He died in Denver on January 12, 1935.

After their father's death the two older boys, Junior and Bubs, left home and found work. Ed stayed home with his mother to help take care of the place. Early in 1937 Junior married Sylvia Young Reed. They had one child Thomas Alvin, born September 22, 1937. One month later on October 22, Junior died. Not long afterward Sylvia became ill and was bedfast for several years before she died in 1941. Tommy was cared for by his grandparents, Andrew and Hattie Young, until after his grandmother's death in 1946. Tommy was then cared for by his half sister, Ruth Faye Reed, who had married and was living in California.

On November 13, 1937 Bubs and Ruth Numrich were married. Ruth had come to the community to teach the Walker Creek School. They had two sons, Jimmie Dale, born December 14, 1938 and Larry Joe, born December 14, 1940.

Ed was married on April 20, 1941 to Rua Good. Soon after their marriage, Emma moved to Douglas to make her home.

Early in the fall of 1943 Ed left for the service. While he was gone their daughter, Constance Edine was born on June 28, 1944. He was discharged in January 1945. On December 20, 1946 their daughter, Judy Lynn, was born.

In March of 1944 Bubs was drafted in the marine corps. He was discharged in January 1946. In December of that year he bought a place six miles west of Orpha where they made their home.

After Ed returned from service he made his home in Douglas and went to work as a carpenter. Emma then sold the homestead and bought an apartment house at 402 North Second. Ed completely remodeled it making three rental units and one Emma used for her home. This provided an income and work she really enjoyed.

On June 1, 1952 tragedy struck again when Ed died suddenly at the age of 33.

Emma continued to make her home at the apartment house until her death on November 5, 1973.

The homestead is now owned by Earl and Thelma Dunham who have made the old log house into a modern comfortable home.

Ruth N. Whiting

## Wiker, Miller and Nina Family

Miller Kendig Wiker was born November 17, 1857 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania to John Wiker and Ann Elizabeth Hildebrand Wiker. When Miller was but six months old his parents moved from Pennsylvania to Muscatine County, Iowa, where he grew to manhood. On October 6, 1880 he married Nina I. Sargent. They lived in Iowa for two years where a son, Leslie C. Wiker was born and died in infancy. In 1884 they started west driving a mule team hitched to a wagon with all of their possessions.

Their first home was at Long Pine, Nebraska. They had run out of money and couldn't go on. Miller ran a livery stable for two years. During this time Wesley "Wes" K. Wiker was born January 4, 1886. Two years later, on November 16, 1888, Verda L. was born in a small town known as Non Pariel, Nebraska, which is no longer in existence.



Wesley K. and Agnes Hutchison Wiker 1950

Miller first came to Silver Cliff, Wyoming, near where Lusk is now located and then went to prospecting in the Big Horn Mountains hoping to find the Lost Cabin Mine. Having no success with prospecting for gold he returned to Nebraska and prepared his family for a move to Wyoming. He had decided to settle in Newcastle and in 1890 the family moved to Newcastle on the C.B. & Q. Railroad.

Miller served on the city council and as a county commissioner of Weston County and took part in several sheriff posses while in that city. His children began their schooling in Newcastle.

In 1900 Miller, with the help of his family, moved to



Wesley K. Wiker at Circle Ranch in Dubois. 1920

Converse County and settled down on Lightning Creek for a short time. That fall Wes entered the eighth grade in Douglas. It was to be his last year of education as his father wanted him to help on the ranch. Wes couldn't go on to school, but he never quit studying, and many people asked what college he attended.

Miller kept on trying to ranch, leaving Lightning Creek he settled for a time on LaBonte Creek, Little Box Elder and the Cheyenne River. He finally gave up ranching and he along with his son, Wes, sold the ranch and stock and bought the Jim Albaugh Saloon, naming it The Wyoming Bar. Wes soon learned he didn't want to be in a saloon and sold out his interest in favor of running sheep. Miller then sold his interest in the bar and became part owner of the Douglas Garage Company for several years.

Miller was a County Commissioner of Converse County. After the death of his wife he disposed of all his interests and moved to Wenatchee, Washington to be



Nina Sargent Wiker 1910

near his daughter, Verda Thompson, and adopted daughter, Marie Wiker Lyon. He died February 19, 1932 and is buried in Douglas Park Cemetery along side his wife, Nina, who died January 19, 1922.

On June 3, 1925, Wesley K. Wiker married Agnes M. Hutchison. Agnes was born Thanksgiving evening, November 26, 1903, the daughter of Thomas Payne Hutchison and Maud Powell.

We, Wes and Agnes, took our honeymoon trip to the west coast, going to Portland, Oregon and to Wenatchee, Washington. We were accompanied on our trip by Mr. and Mrs. Ral Collins in one car and Miller Wiker and daughter, Marie, in the other. We all carried our own camping equipment and tents. The first night we had to stop off the road between Casper and Rawlins because of heavy rains and mud. We laugh many times about our honeymoon trip because it was unusual. People did not start off on those trips alone because there were no motels, just campsites with cold water faucets and





Miller K. Wiker 1914

maybe some wood for a fire. By traveling with others there was always one car available in case of car trouble. The crossings on the Columbia River were ferry boats or rafts. The Snake River crossings were not on bridges either. After a month of traveling we returned home by way of Montana where they were just starting to build the road that would later become a well traveled road to the northwest.

Over the years, Wes owned the Circle Ranch 12 miles north of Dubois on the north fork of Wind River, the HK Ranch out of Moorcroft, the Burbank Ranch on Walker Creek, and later a 25,000 acre ranch north of Lance Creek which he operated with Bill Rankin.

For many years Wes was Superintendent of Livestock at the state fair. In the 1920s and 30s Wes maintained a real estate office in Douglas. He served as a State Senator from Converse County, was a City Councilman, a representative of the State Land Board serving all of Wyoming, a representative of the Denver Joint Stock Land Bank, Chairman of the O.P.A. during World War II (for Converse County), President of the High School Board and District No. 17 School Board, Vice-President of the Douglas National Bank, Highway Commissioner for six years, and an appraiser for the Bureau of Reclamation on the Glendo Project.

Wes belongs to Ashlar Lodge No. 10 A.F.A.M., Knight Templars, Korein Temple, is a Past Patron of Woodbine Chapter No. 18 O.E.S., is a life member of the Wyoming Pioneer Association, and a member of the Congregational Church of Douglas. Wes has come from the covered wagon days to the beginning of the space age. He is now over 100 years of age.

August 3, 1926, our first daughter, Nina Maud, was born here in Douglas and I started housekeeping in earnest. We purchased the house we live in now in November 1926 and moved in about December 15 of that year. We have owned this house since that time. Our second daughter, Sara Elizabeth, was born June 28, 1932.

Both our daughters completed their schooling here in Douglas and went on to college. Nina graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1948 and Sara went to the university for two years. Sara Wiker Baker lives in Portland, Oregon. I have four grandchildren: Dr. Wesley Gradin of Douglas, Susan Elizabeth Hickie of Denver, Sherrie L. Gradin and Cindy A. Gradin of Portland, Oregon.

Wes and I celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary in June 1985.

Agnes Hutchison Wiker

## Williams, Charlie

Charles Williams, also known as "Nigger Charlie" by early time residents of Converse County, was born in Missouri in 1851. At the close of the Civil War, when slaves were freed, Captain John D. O'Brien took Charlie and brought him to Wyoming. He lived with the Captain and his family, doing farm work, playing for dances, and helping around the house with the children. Emma O'Brien Adair called him "a faithful old 'Nigger'" and stated "He was often called Charles Williams O'Brien."

Pauline Smith Peyton had the following to say of Charlie, "On about the summer of 1885, I first saw Charlie Williams at my father's ranch on Lower LaPrele Creek. Charlie was hand cleaning the old and narrow Mormon ditch on our ranch for my father. He received \$35 a month.

"Charlie reached the conclusion that the captain's boys could do the necessary work and went to live at a place close to the Fryer Ranch. My father, Edwin Smith, loaned a milk cow to him.

"He always played the violin for the dances given at the captain's home. Later I remember Charlie helping to provide music for public dances in Douglas. Ed Schloss was floor manager."

The violin he played was given to the Wyoming Pioneer Association to be put in the museum. It was brought from Scotland about 1874 by Arthur Brownlee and sold to Williams in 1894. Supposedly it was made by Jacobs Steiner, which would have made the violin very valuable. Appraisers later proved that it was not a Steiner, nevertheless it must have given Williams and dancers much pleasure over the years.

Ferne Carothers Payne had this to say of him, "Williams had a dugout in a bank on Wagonhound Creek located on the Sam Carothers Ranch from around 1918 to 1921. He lived there while prospecting for copper and gold in the surrounding hills."

According to Gene L. Payne, Sr., "Charlie Williams lived in a small cabin just south of the feed store for ten years or more prior to his death on May 14, 1937 in Douglas."

John R. Pexton



## Williams, Fred and Pearl

At age 19 and married, Fred Williams came to Wyoming in 1904. The town was Moorcroft, he arrived via emigrant car. His first job was to exercise a team of horses for a rancher who had been in town several days. He was to pick this man up, so he drove in front of the bar several times, then he'd run the horses some more. Finally the man came out with two three-gallon jugs of whiskey, handing them to Fred after he had taken over the reins, he said "boy don't lose that whiskey." Fred sat in the seat and held on to the jugs while the other man grabbed the whip and made it pop and they left then on a dead run and kept it up for several miles. Fred said it was an awful road but they got to his ranch and he told Fred to just pull the harness off and turn the horses loose. Fred said he thought he'd never see them again, but next morning the rancher called them and fed them grain. Fred worked for him quite a while and on one occasion he saw a string team the other side of a deep draw. He watched the team come down the steep canyon. The driver had two wagons and 16 horses. He eased the horses and wagon into the bottom, then got out and petted his lead team and got back in the wagon, took out his whip and cursed them, driving up the other side. Fred had never seen anything like it before or after. Fred later learned that it was the spring roundup wagon.

Fred worked for ranchers in the Carlile, Wyoming area helping Mr. Zimmerschied build a house that is being lived in today by his daughter, Edna Graves, and her daughter, Mary Johannesen. He homesteaded in the area of Carlile after his wife, Mary, came out.

He came to Douglas and bought the Skeleton Springs ranch, about the year 1915 and lived there until 1934 when Mary passed away. Then he bought the Alex Ferguson ranch on Dry Creek from Margaret and Mrs. Ferguson in the later '30s. He ran cattle on the Pine Ridge Reservation for three or four years then came home. There was a drought again, this time he went to the Laramie Plains and wintered out of Rock River on the Bosler ranch, moving in the spring to the Padlock ranch 35 miles north of Gillette. He had a livestock sale and the cattle sold well but the sheep didn't, so he trailed them back to his ranch out of Douglas.

In 1945 I, Pearl Smith Runnion, married Fred. I came to Douglas by train in 1919. In 1920 I homesteaded 15 miles north of Douglas and took the full five years to prove up on it.

My brother, Harlow Smith, who worked at the light plant on North Second Street in Douglas, had a stripped down Ford. He let me use it whenever I needed transportation to get to the homestead. It wasn't very comfortable as I remember. You sat on a cushion on the floor. To start it I had to jack up the hind wheels then use a hand crank. I fixed many a flat tire by taking off the tire and putting a patch on the tube then pumping air into the tire.

I worked in the Douglas area for several years doing odd jobs. Some of them were helping sick people while they were confined, helping Mrs. Bert Emery at the LaBonte Hotel and helping Mrs. Willox.

My mother came to Wyoming in 1922 so I stayed with

her for a while.

Robert Runnion and I were married in 1925 while I was working for the telephone company. We had a son, Robert.

In 1947 Fred and I sold our ranch north of Douglas to Hap Kattleson and moved to Medora, North Dakota. We became acquainted with Verna and Evelyn Anderson who bought us out. We then ran sheep on contract in North Dakota until the fall of 1951 when we sold the sheep and went to Kearney, Nebraska with Fred's brother, Ed. Ed had been associated with Fred on the Skeleton Springs ranch earlier after his retirement as a Green Stamp Company employee.

After Ed's death we moved to South Dakota where we ranched on the Cheyenne River 35 miles southeast of Dupree. We sold out in 1958 and moved to Rapid City, South Dakota where we lived until Fred died in 1972.

Pearl Williams

## Williams, John T. and Elizabeth

"Johnny, you've been gone a year out there in the West, and we're worried," went the letter from Wisconsin in 1879. "Sally is still waiting here and wouldn't it be better if you came back?" Johnny never did. He went on being range foreman for the big CY Ranch in central Wyoming. He had spent two seasons cowboying with the CY from the bend of the Platte toward Pumpkin Buttes. It was a time the grass came stirrup high on Hazenville Pass and the cattle came northward up the Texas Trail. He established his own livestock outfit on the range of Sage Creek, north of the Platte River in 1885, and was with George Metcalf in a partnership in a general merchandise store at Fort Fetterman.

He induced his brothers, Abner, Jasper and Jim, to try their fortune raising livestock on Wyoming rangeland. Ab and Jap, in later years, engaged in sheep ranching in Tierra delFuego of southern Argentina.



Standing: Mr. and Mrs. James Abney; J. T. Williams seated in car; the three women are unidentified.



John T. and Elizabeth Williams

John traded for mules in Georgia, sheep and cattle in the Idaho northwest and struck a partnership with William C. Irvine at the Ogalalla Land and Cattle Co. He acquired more than a few stock brands coming up out of the Texas trail, namely the notable Chandelier brand of the Ogalalla outfit.

John married Elizabeth Priscilla Ragsdale in Cheyenne on October 7, 1887. She was born March 11, 1860 at Vincennes, Indiana, the daughter of Thomas and Sarah Ragsdale. In 1883, she came to Cheyenne from Broken Bow, Nebraska; and in December 1885, she came to Fort Fetterman. Their children were Carl Torrance, 1889; John Walter "Mike", 1895; and Elizabeth J., 1900.

In the fall of 1888, John Williams became the first elected sheriff of Converse County beating Malcolm Campbell by 39 votes. "I remember Johnny Williams running for sheriff at the dances at LaPrele," said Nora Sullivan. "He had little bottles of whiskey in his batwing chaps for the other men. Never drank himself. I never liked his wife," she added. Campbell beat Williams in the 1890 election.

John was Sheriff Joe Hazen's deputy sometime before that unfortunate officer was gunned down by the Hole-in-the-Wall Gang in June 1899.

He built the sheep pens on Sage Creek. His career grew quickly with the abandonment of Fort Fetterman, the settlement of Douglas, and the founding of the First National Bank of Douglas. He took an active part in the political life of the community being elected twice a senator in the state legislature (1903). He helped to establish the first Wyoming State Fair. "Johnny Williams got really obstreperous at times...considered himself gubernatorial timber . . .," Charles Guernsey remarked in his book on early days in Wyoming. He was instrumental in the development of the Fetterman Irrigation Ditch project and the Douglas municipal light and power plant. To the time of his death in 1914 he was active with W. C. Irvine in the Ogalalla Livestock Co. He built

the Unity Temple Building and organized the Douglas Mercantile Co. His wife, Elizabeth, died in 1936.

Carl T. was a commissioned officer of the Wyoming National Guard (1909) He married Nell Rowley without issue of children. He died in 1969. Elizabeth married Henry J. Bolln with issue of John Bolln and Priscilla Bolln. Mike operated ranches on Duck Creek, Walker Creek and Orpha. He was a loan inspector for the Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation and was Executive Director of the Wyoming Unemployment Compensation Commission (1939). He served in World Wars I and II and retired as Lt. Commander USNR (1946). He was one of the early licensed airplane pilots in the state (1929). He married Eleanor Powers of Pennsylvania in 1917 and four sons were born: John Jr., James P., Franklin T., and Carl Michael, with a number of grandchildren in widespread parts of the nation. John T.'s grandson, Carl Michael, has pursued an influential career as lawyer and corporate executive in the TV industry. He was a state senator and state chairman of the Republican party in Colorado.

Jim Williams



L. to r. Carl Williams and Mary Doyle 1910

## Williams, Paul and Emma

John Paul Williams, "Paul", was a lad of 16 when he arrived in Wyoming in 1930. Leaving his family, father, mother, four brothers, two sisters, school and a small farm in southern Illinois, to come west. He was seeking adventure because he felt things were moving too slow in Illinois. He had been a voracious reader of the stories of the west.

Always wanting to be a cowboy, he chose Wyoming for his home. He drifted between Converse and Niobrara Counties, between the towns of Douglas and Lusk, which included Lost Springs, Shawnee and Keeline. Working around sheep, and then not caring for sheep, he chose to be a cowhand. He mended fences, helped in the hayfields, rounded up and helped with the branding. Doing other various jobs that are done on a ranch, not an easy life but a wonderful one.

After several years he met Al Hoge who more or less adopted Paul, as his three step-children had forsaken him. Al taught Paul a great deal about cattle and the country. He helped him buy the Harry Parker homestead that joined Al's place.

Eleven years passed and everything was great for Paul. Then the war broke out in December 1941. Paul volunteered in the U.S. Navy and was in the submarines. All that time he saved his money; sending it home to Al, as they were now partners, to buy land. After the war, Paul went back to the life he loved, being a cowboy and a rancher. He is kind and considerate and has a special know-how to communicate with animals. He rides like he was glued in the saddle, with no spaces. He can even witch a well. He can spot a deer, which you'd swear was not there. He is Jack-of-all-trades, which is a must on a ranch. He is a man's man. He commands the respect of his friends and family. He doesn't like fancy foods, he is strickly a "meat and potato" man and he will push a napkin to the side.

To be a rancher was his big dream and desire, and this he has successfully fulfilled, with owning his own ranch. He has worked hard at something he knows well



Emma Pfeifer in Pfeifer Confectionery Store on Center Street in Douglas. 1913

and has enjoyed. His time is his own, no time clock to punch, and he is his own boss. Here is one man who is truly content with life. One, I believe who has found the true meaning of life.

If I were to describe Paul to you, I would say he resembles "Hoss" on "Bonanza", but Paul doesn't wear the big hat, nice shirt, vest or guns. Paul is a big husky man with thinning hair, he wears a blue faded denim shirt and levis, no gun and always has a smile on his face. His two faithful dogs are always at his heels or within calling range. His partner, Al, died years ago. Paul married Emma Pfeifer Olson and was proud to take his wife to his ranch. Paul's world consists of his wife, his dogs and the ranch. Life there is quiet and peaceful.

The setting of the ranch is a sight to behold. You drive seven miles north of Douglas, then take a right turn and for 19 miles you are driving on a dirt road. Then you come to the mail box and over a little hill you can see the ranch, which is about a mile further down the road. The ranch house, barn and corral all fit in a rolling valley. The timberline, which is rows of pine trees, can be seen to the right. When I arrive at this spot, I know I'm home. I'll soon be greeted first by the barking dogs, then my mother and then the one Wyoming Cowboy, Paul whom I'm proud to call my stepdad.

Dolores Olson Leitner

## Wilcox, James and Nellie Family

For three-quarters of a century, there has been a Wilcox on the present "96" Ranch on the West Fork LaBonte Creek. James A. Wilcox, the present owner, is the third generation to run the operation and his son, James H. (Jimbo), is the fourth Jim Wilcox to live on the ranch.

The first James Wilcox was born in Scotland on August 15, 1852 and immigrated to the United States in 1871 when, at the age of 19, he stowed-away on a freighter



Paul Williams 1960



bound for America. The pioneer spirit that drove young James to the United States led him to an adventurous, sometimes daring, and always enduring life as a cattle rancher and prominent force in the early development of Wyoming. He loved his new country deeply for the freedom it offered and became a naturalized citizen on April 2, 1878 in Waukegan, Lake County, Illinois. On March 12, 1928, he returned to Scotland, legally, to visit his native homeland.

On arrival in America, Willox headed first to Lake Forest, Illinois. He later moved to Leadville, Colorado, then to Exira, Iowa. It was in Exira that Willox met and married Nellie Cooper, daughter of Andrew and Esther Cooper. Jim and Nellie had four daughters born to them while they lived in Iowa: Edna (Mrs. Hub Southwick) Burns, deceased, Bess (Mrs. Otto) Bolln, deceased, Margaret (Mrs. Luther) Freeman, deceased and Elsie (Mrs. Edward) Bancker, deceased.

In 1889, a chance visit to his brother-in-law, Lyman Cooper, who had settled in the Esterbrook area of Wyoming during the late 1870s, convinced Willox that this was the area to establish the family's roots.

Willox first settled on Owl Creek, the site of the present Larry Philbrick ranch, on land that was purchased from Virgil North in 1891. He bought additional land from Charlie Deere in 1892 and in 1893 he homesteaded higher mountain land called Willox Park which is now the location of the George Falkenburg Cow Camp.

In 1896, the patriarch James Willox's son, James Cooper, father of the present owner, was born at the site of what is now the Larry Philbrick ranch. That same year, the Cooper-Willox Livestock Company was formed. Partners Lyman Cooper and James Willox imported Galloway cattle from Scotland for their herds, a breed that proved to be too wild and very unsuited to the rugged Wyoming lands and harsh winters.

In 1897, Willox sold his interest in the ranch to Cooper and headed to the land of perennial sunshine, California, where he invested in citrus groves. Within a few short years, a freeze devastated his orange crop and wiped him out financially.

Returning to Douglas, Wyoming, the family pulled all their forces together to reach their goal of someday returning to their former position of ranch owners. Nellie Willox and her daughters operated a restaurant in town, while James hired on as the foreman of the Gibson ranch, the site of the present day Frank Pexton ranch.

In 1905 Willox moved up West Fork Creek to what is now known as the Willox "96" Ranch.

Willox purchased the land from Tony Loubre, a Frenchman, who returned to France a very wealthy man. Loubre had patented his land in 1894, the land where the present Willox ranch home stands. Early records give 1880 as the first recording of a brand to Loubre.

Willox purchased additional land from Frank Werner, Millard Dean, Glen Steeves and the Cooper Livestock Company. In order to have a large block of land under one ownership, several family members homesteaded land adjoining the properties purchased by Willox.

Nellie Willox died on July 20, 1925.

Since the very beginning, Hereford cattle have been



Jim Willox family

run on the Willox ranch on the West Fork LaBonte Creek. The ranch brand, "96", has been in continuous use for 75 years. It symbolizes the year that Willox's only son, James Cooper Willox, was born. The numerals 96 have always appeared on ranch vehicle license plates and today they are also an integral part of the ranch phone number.

James Willox died on November 15, 1932.

James Cooper Willox took over the ranch from his father in 1931 and with his wife, Evaleen Blomquist Willox, ran the ranch until his death in 1956. He believed strongly in the need for a self-contained water system on the ranch and developed an extensive irrigation system to serve that purpose. In 1940, Jim and Evaleen held a large celebration, complete with live band and dance pavillion, at the ranch, to mark the opening of the big ditch.

In 1951, Jim traded 3,000 acres of land with Fred L. Manning. Parcels of land on French Joe Creek, South Park and Saddleback were traded for a large tract of land on Gooseberry and West Fork Creeks to block up the Willox's mountain land. This changed the fence boundary lines from 26 miles to five miles.

Jim and Evaleen had two children, Ann, now Mrs. William Gray, of Orin, Wyoming and James Andrew who now operates the ranch.

Shortly after James Cooper Willox's death on May 24, 1956, Ann and her husband, Bill Gray took over the ranch operation while James Andrew Willox fulfilled his military obligation. This energetic and dynamic young couple managed to also maintain Bill's family ranch at Orin. They ran both ranches from 1957 to 1959.

James Andrew officially took over the ranch operation in 1960. Together with his mother, Evaleen, he enlarged the ranch through land purchased from Fred Manning. Included in this purchase was Cummings Park where such early homesteaders as Thornton Brow, Orin Marshall, Elmer Holm, Charles Suthard, Louis Steffen and Elizabeth Gibson lived. Some of this land had, at one time, been a part of the LaBonte Livestock holdings. LaBonte Livestock was a corporation formed by Lyman Cooper, James Charles Saul and Henry C. Saul.

Evaleen died on June 15, 1965.



James Andrew married his wife, Susan in 1966. Today, Jim and Sue and their two children, James H. (Jimbo) and Amy live in the original ranch house that Tony Loubre built from logs in about 1894. The log home has been added onto by each successive generation. One of the first additions was the addition which was made for Andrew and Esther Cooper when they moved from Wagonhound Creek (Raeber Ranch) to live with their daughter and son-in-law, Nellie and Jim Willox.

The Willox family members have always attended rural schools, including the White School, a one-room school house that serves kindergarten through eighth grade. Jim never failed to make his way to the school house, regardless of the weather conditions, even braving fierce blizzards in order to meet his academic obligations. He was even honored with a perfect attendance award for never missing a day of school in the first four grades, netting him a place in Ripley's "Believe it or Not".

The first James Willox served in the State Legislature for one term in 1910. His brother-in-law, Lyman Cooper, served in the State Legislature as speaker of the house. James Willox's grandson, James Andrew Willox, the present ranch owner, served three terms in the State Legislature between the years 1967 and 1971.

The Willox "96" Ranch of 1980 contains some mountain section land that has been traded out and repurchased or traded by the family at least twice.

Like his father before him, Jim Willox believes in the need for water on his ranch. Jim has made some significant changes in the irrigation system of the ranch and has included an irrigation circle. The family's love of their ranch and their rich heritage is shared with friends and relatives on the last Sunday in May each year, when the traditional brandings are held, a tradition that has endured for over 75 years.

Patti Potter



J. M. Wilson, M.D., 1886.

## Wilson, Dr. James and Laura

James M. Wilson was born in Newluce, Wigtonshire, Scotland on February 25, 1854. He came to America when he was just a boy. He received his common school education at Albany, New York, and at Woodshire, Ohio. In 1878 he entered Jefferson Medical College at Philadelphia. He began his professional career in Harrisville, Ohio.

He was married to Laura J. Moore on December 3, 1880 in Harrisville. Their elder son, James Byron was born there on August 7, 1883. In 1886 Dr. Wilson, his wife and son moved to Douglas, Wyoming, which at that time was only a tent town. He practiced as a physician and surgeon for ten years in Douglas. His second son, Charles M., was born there on February 19, 1888.

Dr. Wilson retired from the medical profession in 1896 to take over the management of the Platte Valley Sheep Company, a position he held until his death in 1925. The Platte Valley Company was incorporated in 1893. They ran many bands of sheep on the open range. Later when increasing numbers of homesteaders filed on the open land, the company was obliged to rent grassland as far away as Casper, Wyoming.

Dr. Wilson was active in every movement beneficial

to the sheep industry in Wyoming. He was the vice president of the National Wool Growers Association for years. He also served as chairman of the State Board of Sheep Commissioners from its inception by legislative enactment. He organized the first Wyoming State Fair, and acted as the president of the Fair Board.

The Douglas Budget, on March 21, 1918, mentioned, "Dr. J. M. Wilson was seriously hurt in Pueblo, Colorado, when a switch engine hit the taxi cab he was riding in. He is partially paralyzed from the hips down."

Dr. Wilson died Sept. 13, 1925 and his wife, Laura, on Oct. 17, 1930.

Byron, the elder son of James and Laura, attended the state university for one term after completing his common schooling. Later he attended the Peeksville Military Academy, Peeksville, New York. He graduated in 1901, and went to Oberlin, Ohio to attend college for three years. He returned to Douglas then, and read law in the office of Judge Maurer for a year.

Bess Lewin, who was to become Byron's wife, was also employed by Judge Maurer. Bess was born in Longwood, Nebraska in 1885. She came to Wyoming in 1905. Bess and Byron were married in Comstock, Nebraska in 1914. They moved to the Muddy Ranch which Bess and her brother managed. Byron had taken a position with the Wyoming Wool Growers Association and was away from home most of the time. Byron became secretary of the Association in 1917, and Bess acted as his secretary for many years.

Bess and Byron eventually moved from the Muddy Ranch to the Platte Valley Sheep Ranch headquarters at

McKinley and assumed the management of that ranch. Bess died in 1966, and Byron in 1965.

It is of interest to note that the Muddy Ranch, located southeast of the headquarters at McKinley, was mostly bottom land irrigated from the waters of the Platte River. The first pumps were powered by steam engines; later on, water wheels were installed, and much later the pumps used were electric. Today the Muddy Ranch is covered by Glendo Lake.

Of interest, too, is the fact that the bridge across the Platte was not constructed until 1914. Provisions for the various sheep camps had to be "forded" across the river.

Charles M. Wilson, Byron's brother, attended school in Douglas. He went to Prep School at Peeksville, New York, and later attended Kentucky Military Institute at Lyndon, Kentucky. He graduated with honors in 1907. Following his graduation, he was engaged in the livestock business with his father. Still later he went into the ranching business for himself. He was married to Julia Elizabeth Gilbert, a nurse, on September 29, 1931 in Sterling, Colorado. Charles died on December 25, 1951.

Ruth Grant

## Winder, John E. and Leah

John E. Winder and Leah M. Lindley were married in Bedford, Iowa, on Christmas Day 1918. John wanted a farm, but land was too expensive in Iowa. So they were greatly impressed when Leah's brother, Clifford, who had homesteaded near Fischer, Wyoming, wrote of the great land for growing potatoes to be found there. To a land-hungry young couple, the availability of a homestead in Wyoming acted like a magnet.

Consequently, it took them only until March 1919 to move to Converse County, Wyoming in an emigrant railway boxcar with all their belongings, which included three horses, a dozen hens, and one rooster. They left the train at Fischer and before long John filed for a homestead, one section of land two and one half miles north of Orin Junction, at the land office in Douglas.

They spent the first winter (1919-1920) living in a boxcar parked on a railroad siding near Fischer. Leah taught school there under Margaret Barry, the County School Superintendent.

This young couple was not overly discouraged by the culture shock of suddenly finding themselves living under primitive conditions in an arid, thinly populated area. It helped that they found all its inhabitants, both tame and wild, of great interest.

In the spring of 1920, neighbors from Shawnee Creek helped the Winders build a concrete-block house on their homestead land. A dugout barn covered with railroad ties and dirt was also built. During the house construction, a bunny rabbit would hop into the cooking shed and play with Leah's shoestrings while she worked. A bullsnake, which had gotten into the concrete blocks during construction, did a good job of keeping the mouse population down. But it became unwelcome after Leah's sister, who taught at the Platte Valley School, saw it one night by moonlight shining through a window. A great hunt developed and several days later the snake was evicted from the house.

During the homestead era, a collie dog followed John home from Orin Junction. Shep soon became Leah's dog and helped her catch rabbits, knowing he would get to eat the head. With dry beans being a way of life, the rabbits were welcome table fare. Shep was good at identifying ripe melons with his nose. But so were the coyotes, who would soon find the ripe ones and carry them away for a feast. Shep had a run-in with a porcupine and Leah spent hours pulling the quills from his mouth.

It seems the "great" farm land didn't produce well. Notwithstanding, John purchased another section of land to add to their holdings. But enough income still couldn't be obtained from farming to support a family. So John also worked as a railroad section hand.

In 1923 Leah began teaching at the Platte Valley School. She boarded at the J.C. Shaw ranch during the week. John would pick her up Friday evenings with the horse and buggy. The horse was a shiny black Morgan named Barney, who didn't have much use for cars. When seeing one, he would stop and paw the air with his front legs until the car disappeared. The highway at this time wasn't much more than ruts going over the hills.

After living on the homestead for seven years, John and Leah moved into Orin Junction, where they rented a house from Henry Hern across the street from the school. Leah taught there with Emma Powell. In 1927 the Winders bought a home in Orin from the Randolphs. During this time, 1927-1934, Orin had a baseball team which was quite good. Father Bruno from Douglas played on the team. It seems his bishop from Cheyenne wasn't too pleased and managed to obtain and burn the Father's uniform. Father Bruno very carefully safeguarded his next baseball uniform!

Work was very hard to find during the great depression. But Leah obtained a job as a case worker for the welfare office in Douglas, and John worked on the railroad. They rented an apartment in Douglas, where Christmas Day 1934 became a day to celebrate when a son, John Henry, was born to the surprise of a great many people who considered the Winders a little too old to start having children.

In 1938 John was still working on the railroad, but the family now rented a house from Mrs. Chamberlin in Douglas. It was here, on February 18th, that a daughter, Laura Jo, made her appearance.

John soon began working at Orin Junction and he moved his family into their house there. He continued to work on the railroad until his death on December 23, 1946. After John's death, Leah, with her two children, moved to Lusk, where she taught school (second grade) for 17 years until her retirement. She was an active part of the Lusk community until 1979 when she moved to Rapid City to live with her daughter and her family.

Laura Winder Boyd

## Wintermote, Martin and Semira

The first Wintermotes coming to the New World settled in New Jersey. The name was then Windemoed, later it was found as Wintermoot, Wintermood, and Wintermute. There are many descendants who still use the Wintermute spelling. They worked their way westward to Iowa where Martin Leonard was born in 1858. He



Elsworth and Rachel Wintermote

and his wife, Semira (b. 1879), moved to Holt County, Nebraska in the early 1880s. Two children were born in Iowa: Chlonella (b. 1880) and LeRoy (b. 1881). Their third child, Arminta, was born in 1883 in Holt County, Nebraska. She died at the age of four years.

LeRoy was the first of the Wintermotes to come to Converse County to homestead. He came from Butler County, Kansas along with his wife, Grace, and children, Wilda, Roy, Dora, Vernon and Gladys. The year was 1914. They found suitable land one mile south of Shawnee.

The next summer brought Martin, his wife, Semira and son, Joyce (b. 1902). Their homestead was seven miles west of Shawnee on the "Shawnee Cut Off" road. They spent the summer of 1915 returning to their home in Holt County, Nebraska for the winter. Martin was quoted as saying "Wyoming has a great future, you are bound to have enough room to turn around without crowding your neighbors." They came to stay in February 1916. Two of the sons, Everett (b. 1897) and Audra (b. 1895) stayed in Nebraska to feed some cattle, and came later in the spring.

Elsworth Vernon (b. 1888) filed for his homestead in 1916 accompanied by her husband's parents, Martin and children, Leona and Lester came by train February 22, 1916 accompanied with her husbands parents, Martin and Semira and their youngest son, Joyce Elsworth came two days later with a car load of their belongings. While the house was being built, they stayed with Elsworth's brother LeRoy, near Shawnee.

The first years of homesteading were lean years for everyone. Elsworth, often worked away from home leaving Rachel to "keep the home fires burning." It seems it never failed that range cattle would tear down fences and get into the precious field crops, or even into the garden. Open range was plentiful and stock could go in any direction for miles. Often the milk cows would wander away and not be found for two or three days.

The year of 1917 two more children were added to the Wintermote name. Clifford was born to Lee and Grace, Zella to Elsworth and Rachel. That same year Everett met and married Cleona Rhoda Harkins on November 19.

He homesteaded north and east of Orin Junction. Once more the family assembled to build a house and barn for the newlyweds.

World War I was taking many local sons, and Audra joined the army and marched off to Germany.

Florence (b. 1893), daughter of Martin and Semira, and husband, Glen Keeper, lived about two miles northwest of Shawnee. The year of 1920 she had gone to Mayo Clinic for surgery. The surgery was unsuccessful. She was buried in Douglas Park Cemetery.

Along about 1922 Lee sold his homestead and returned to Butler County, Kansas. Their son, Clifford, died that year in Kansas. They had one more son born in Kansas, William Leonard in 1923. Lee and Grace spent the rest of their lives there. There are many of their children and grandchildren still living there.

The XH School was a one room log structure built at the east side of Elsworth's land. All eight grades were taught there for all neighboring families. Teachers were sometimes wives of local homesteaders, other times they came from out of state. So it was that Eugenia May Wall came to teach.

Wedding bells rang once more in 1923 when Audra married Eugenia Wall. They lived on rented places for a while before Audra homesteaded west of Casper.

In 1924 Joyce married a neighbor girl, Grace Metcalf. He helped his parents on the home place for a time. Later he too went west of Casper where Audra had settled.

Martin and Elsworth bought a threshing machine and tractor to harvest not only for the family but for neighbors as well. Threshing time took them away from home, it was hard work, but they enjoyed the fellowship gained through helping friends and neighbors. Whole families took part in the harvest. Men came early with teams and hay racks, the ladies came later with extra plates, kettles or what ever might be needed to prepare meals. The children romped through the straw and the grain bins.

Martin's health began to fail so in 1928 they held a public sale and moved to Douglas.

It was during the harvest season of 1930 when the "threshing crew" was at Everett's home that Cleona and Everett received a message from Cheyenne that there was a baby boy ready for adoption. Needless to say they were overjoyed and made a rush trip to bring back a healthy, brown eyed Lloyd.

February 12, 1932 Martin suffered a fatal illness. Semira stayed at the home in Douglas for a few years. Her last years were spent with sons, Audra and Joyce, who then lived west of Riverton.

In 1932 Elsworth and Rachel's oldest daughter, Leona, married Robert Roy Tiedt and went to live on her homestead west of Casper.

Everett and Cleona had a public auction in 1937 and returned to Holt County, Nebraska. They were blessed with two more sons, Leonard and Arthur. Everett owned and operated a welding shop in Chambers. He lived there until death claimed him in 1968. Cleona died five years later in a nursing home.

That left only Elsworth and Rachel of the Wintermote family in Converse County. Zella married Newton Melbern Crane in 1936. Lester remained at home helping

on the ranch. He married Grace Bell York on July 17, 1938. Elsworth and Rachel bought a small trailer house and lived down along Shawnee Creek. They were still very active in running the ranch.

Death struck once more in 1941 taking Leona. She left a husband and three small children: Betty (Alberts), Vivian (Robison), and Donald.

In the fall of 1942 Elsworth and Rachel turned the ranch over to Lester and moved in to Douglas to make a home for Leona's husband and children.

Elsworth worked at various places. He was employed at the state fairgrounds trimming trees in 1947 when a tree limb swung around and struck the ladder he was standing on resulting in a serious back injury.

In 1944 the original homestead barn and part of the house, was moved one mile east near XH Crossing on Shawnee Creek. All that remains at the original site of the homestead is the wind mill and corrals.

After retirement Elsworth and Rachel enjoyed traveling, camping and fishing. They were in a boat with friends on Glendo Lake on a Sunday afternoon June 26, 1960 when Elsworth suffered a fatal heart attack. Rachel stayed at the home in Douglas for a few years. She bought a small trailer house and lived in Lester's yard. In December of 1976 she went to Lander, Wyoming with her daughter, Zella. She spent the remaining three months of her life there until death claimed her March 15, 1977.

Lester lived on the ranch until his death on September 25, 1981. His wife still lives there. The ranch is now leased and operated by Lester's oldest son, Allen Wintermote.

Zella Wintermote Ratliff

## Witt, O. P.

Born on February 26, 1854 in Georgia, O. P. Witt came to Fetterman, Wyoming Territory in 1885. In 1892 Witt, who operated a livery stable in Douglas, founded the Douglas Grain and Storage. In April and May of 1892 Witt was an integral part in the abduction of the two eye-witnesses, Ben Jones and William Walker, to the murders of Nate Champion and Nick Ray. He was hired by the "White Caps," the cattlemen's regulatory mob, to aid in kidnapping the two to prevent their testifying.

The two trappers, friends of Champion and Ray, after witnessing their deaths traveled to Casper, Wyoming. Upon their arrival in Casper they were immediately taken into custody by Ol Rice, the Sheriff of Natrona County, questioned about the murders and released, being cautioned by the sheriff not to leave town, to stay in the open, avoid strangers and not to stay out after dark. These precautions were felt to be necessary since the sheriff was convinced that the cattlemen would surely try to murder the witnesses.

Shortly it became evident that the lives of the two men were in constant danger as long as they remained in Casper, so Rice contacted Sheriff Red Angus of Johnson County and Under Sheriff Kimball of Converse County to decide where the two men would be the safest. It was decided that the Converse County Jail would be the best place so Kimball went to Casper to escort the witnesses to Douglas. The trip was made by railroad with the trio

riding in a baggage car which Kimball felt would be safer than riding in a regular coach. An attempt to take the witnesses was made by the cattlemen at Glenrock but it was a failure.

For several days after their arrival in Douglas, Jones and Walker lived in the county jail, watched over by Kimball. Then Kimball was called to Glenrock to serve a warrant. He was certain that the summons to serve the warrant was a trick by the cattlemen, but was obliged to perform his duty. Before leaving the jail Kimball gave each of the men a revolver and ammunition cautioning them not to take chances and to kill anyone who bothered them.

Kimball had been gone only a short while when a man came to the jail to speak to Jones and Walker. This man was O. P. Witt. He told the witnesses that their lives were in danger no matter where they lived until all of the cattlemen were cleared of the charges against them. Witt said that the cattlemen would pay them money to leave the state or pay them with lead if they stayed. "The decision," he said, "was up to them." The conditions were that Ben and William were to leave the state that night and stay away until after the cattlemen had been tried thus there would be no witnesses. If the two refused then the cattlemen would be forced to kill them for they could not afford to have any witnesses alive. Witt assured the men that they would be well paid for their time and trouble.

Witt was to receive a settlement of \$1,100 in cash in addition to any expenses he would incur for the trip to Nebraska, such as horses, supplies and so forth. Each of the two witnesses were to receive \$200 when they had entered Nebraska and at that time they were to be freed.

Neither Jones nor Walker was pleased with the proposition but they had little choice so they finally agreed to go with Witt. They were told to have their packs ready so that they could leave at dusk. Witt left to arrange to buy saddle horses and the necessary supplies and clothing for the trip. He returned to the jail shortly before midnight. In the meantime Ben and William secreted the pistols which Kimball had given them among their belongings and the three men left the jail at midnight before Kimball's return.

They avoided roads and the railroad so they would be less likely to encounter anyone, finally returning to the railroad tracks near Lost Springs. There Witt stopped to cut the telegraph lines as he had been ordered so that messages could not be sent from Douglas informing other law offices of the kidnapping. Witt cut the line in two places, removing about 50 feet of wire which he then took some distance from the line and hid in the sagebrush. If someone did happen along, the line could not be spliced when cut in this manner.

Witt and his two companions traveled 115 miles in 13 hours to cross the Nebraska line. They unsaddled their horses near a bridge at the edge of a town and waited there for the arrival of the Chicago and Northwestern train. Witt said that a man carrying the money due to Ben and William would be arriving on the train. This statement caused the two witnesses to become even more suspicious and uneasy since Witt had told them in Douglas that he, Witt, was carrying the money.

When the train arrived the only passenger to get off



was F. H. Harvey, a Douglas lawyer. He gave the witnesses their money but would not free them. He said that other things had occurred which made it necessary for Ben and William to go further into Nebraska. However, Harvey assured them that when things "cooled down" each would receive another check in the amount of \$2500. Kimball, who had returned to Douglas, tried to find ways to arrest the witnesses and return them to Douglas. He issued a warrant for them for the theft of the pistols taken from the Converse County Jail. Other law enforcement officials made similar attempts but all failed. The progress of Harvey, Witt, Walker and Jones could not be stopped. On May 10, after having been in Omaha for some days, Jones and Walker were smuggled out of Omaha and sent on eastward. Witt then returned to Douglas.

Since the president, the governor, two United States Senators, the national guard, war department and several judges all sided with the cattlemen, the killers were never brought to trial. They were finally released by Judge Scott. The reason being that Johnson County had to pay for the care for the 44 killers during their confinement. Laramie County finally refused to accept warrants from Johnson County and also refused to care for the prisoners any longer. The judge said that he was forced to allow the prisoners bail, the regulators refused to furnish bail and the judge was obliged to release the killers on their own individual recognizance. Right away, the killers signed bail bonds for \$20,000 each and were ordered to appear for the next term of court in January 1893. The gunmen left for Omaha where the president of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, John Clay, saw that all got their pay. At the rate of five dollars a day for five months each plus 50 dollars bounty for each scalp it amounted to a tidy sum.

Court convened in January but the gunmen were absent as were the two witnesses which O. P. Witt had helped to kidnap. The witnesses were still hid away in Rhode Island, held prisoners by a member of the famous Dixon family. The gunmen had returned to Texas and only a few cattlemen went to court that day. So the murder case was dropped and no one was ever punished.

O. P. Witt, in addition to his grain and storage business, was a partner with George Cross, Sr. and George Goodwin in the Mountain Valley Sheep Company serving in the capacity of manager. In 1906 the company sold its holdings to the Sims brothers. Witt was the uncle of Leonard Shaw who later owned and operated the grain and storage business.

Witt was married to Mrs. E. R. Wright of San Antonio, Texas in 1922, at the age of 68. He died the following year on September 8, 1923.

Ruth Grant

## Wohlford, John and Rubie

John and Rubie Wohlford were pioneers who played an important part in the growth and advancement of the sheep and cattle industry of Converse County, Wyoming. John ran 1000 to 1200 Rambouillet sheep and a herd of Hereford cattle on 5,000 acres of range, having added to his acreage through the years.

John was born on October 1, 1889, near Barnard,



L. to r. Dr. Lynch, Mrs. Lynch, Colista Combs, Gene Combs, Rubie Wohlford, John Wohlford, and unknown. In front of Wohlford home north of Douglas.

Missouri. He was the son of George Caleb and Nancy (Thompson) Wohlford. He grew up on a farm near Barnard, one of a family of ten children.

Rubie was born near Arkoe, Missouri on February 20, 1893, daughter of Z. T. and Elizabeth (Breckenridge) Clements of Arkoe, Missouri where she grew up to womanhood. Rubie was the youngest of ten children. She was preceded in death by all her brothers and sisters.

John and Rubie were married on December 1, 1915 at Marysville, Missouri. They made their home on a farm near Barnard, Missouri until 1917, when they came to Wyoming and homesteaded 45 miles north of Douglas and one mile south of the present Cheyenne River Bridge.

John was one of the men who worked worthily and well for the good of the community. He served for many years as a member of the Dry Creek Hall Board, and at the time of his death he was representative of this section for the Wyoming Cooperative Wool Marketing Association.

Rubie was a member of the First Baptist Church and a charter member of the Dry Creek Homemakers Club. She was willing to help with other social activities and events.

John and Rubie carried on their ranching operation for thirty years. In the spring of 1947 they sold their place to Wilbur Stoddard and moved to Douglas, to make their home.

John died suddenly of an apparent heart attack on February 10, 1955. Rubie continued making her home in Douglas until she passed away on July 9, 1974 at Converse County Hospital. They both rest in the family plot in the Douglas Park Cemetery.

Velma Steckley





## Wolcott, Frank and Adelaide

Francis "Frank" Wolcott, founder of the beautiful VR Ranch south of Glenrock, was enticed to the Territorial Wyoming by President Ulysses S. Grant who appointed him (1869) as "Receiver of Public Monies, U.S. Land Office." His political duties required his assistance in processing "entries" of prospective homesteaders and once their "claims" were "proven up", to assist in issuing patents to their land. Strangely enough, this complex man 23 years later, master-minded an invasion plot designed to "exterminate" no less than 70 citizens of Converse, Natrona and Johnson Counties, some the very folks he had been appointed to help.

A variety of personality-types, even his close acquaintances were hard pressed to describe Wolcott; John Clay, who loaned him sizeable sums of money on his VR holdings, characterized him as "...a fire-eater, honest, clean, a rabid Republican with a complete absence of tact, very well educated and when you knew him a most delightful companion. Most people hated him, many feared him, a few loved him." Malcolm Campbell, Converse County's first sheriff, spoke of Wolcott as "...a polished gentleman..cocky..a bantam rooster...a Kentuckian who served in the Civil War on the union side. His smile was cool and cynical...had fearless eyes...a brown mustache, and a strong jaw that closed with a snap after every sentence he uttered." A hired hand, Dunham, distrusted him, saying, "I found the Major was a hard-headed rascal who would cheat his men out of their wages." On the other hand, an employee named Hemingway praised Wolcott for his "honesty" and declared, "If I am respected today...it is because I was taught by Major Wolcott." M. McGrath of Glenrock fumed, "I never knew a man more universally detested." Malcolm Campbell explained, "Wolcott was a man of very positive convictions and his experiences with small ranchmen around his VR Ranch had often been of a violent nature."

Many felt Wolcott's government service was doomed. Even his activities as U.S. Marshal and warden at the new 42 cell federal prison at Laramie City (now Laramie, Wyoming) came under fire. Repeated accusations of political graft were raised, primarily due to a widely circulated pamphlet which claimed he had taken under-the-table payoffs and even pocketed money belonging to his deputy marshals.

Evidence indicates that it was during this period that Wolcott received his twisted neck -- acquired in a tussle with a Laramie cowboy -- that left his head permanently cocked to one side. Despite this, he still maintained his military bearing and wore his puttees.

Then, without warning, came the resignation of Territorial Governor John A. Campbell who accepted the office as U.S. Third Assistant Secretary of State. Suddenly Wolcott's political days appeared doomed. Campbell's replacement, John M. Thayer, wasted no time in removing Wolcott, reporting to Washington that he was "offensive to almost the whole people." But the Major still had luck on his side.

Wolcott's replacement proved so inept and overtly dishonest that he was removed; and once again, despite



Major Frank E. Wolcott

howls of protest from his political foes, President Grant re-appointed Wolcott U.S. Marshal. He continued in that office until 1876.

Wolcott, unlike most of the open range stockmen, had little financial backing and didn't seem to have well-heeled kinfolks' back east or in the "old country" to bankroll him. As a result, the Major realized if he were ever to make it BIG, he must get in good with the well-heeled "Cattle Barons." Towards that end, Wolcott had consistently urged the ranchmen to get organized. As a result, a meeting was held in Cheyenne on April 15, 1871, and the Wyoming Stock Graziers Association was organized and named John A. Campbell its president. True to form, with hardly a cow brute to his name, Major Wolcott got himself voted in as the association's secretary.

On March 28, 1879, the association changed its name to Wyoming Stock Growers Association. It was at this meeting that Major Frank Wolcott presented the most important resolution ever to be considered by the association. "That an executive committee is hereby established to consist of three members, residents of Cheyenne, who shall be elected by the Association at its present meeting and shall with their successors hold office for one year..." Thus did the system of management come into being over a hundred years ago which, perfected down through the years, prevails today.

Harry Boyer, a hired hand fresh from the east, wrote his family, June 19, 1878; "Wolcott's Ranch is on Deer Creek about four miles from its mouth on the Platte, two tents and three dugouts complete the establishment." This would place it in the heart of the Fort Fetterman Hay Reservation which had been set aside by Military General Order No. 34 - 1867, for use exclusively as a hay reserve for the government and exempted from homestead entry by the public. The reserve took in most of the

Deer Creek Valley, from the Laramie Mountain Range to the south, to its mouth where it enters the North Platte River to the north.

The cleverness of Wolcott's decision to locate there comes to light as the result of a law suit filed in District Court against William Briney and Joseph Long. His attorney, Charles N. Potter, petitioned that Wolcott was "...the owner of lands adjoining said reservation and had resided there ever since prior to the 30th day of July, A.D. 1877." He further claimed to have obtained an "Order" dated September 14, 1877 from the "Adjutant General of the Department of the Platte of the United States Army" which allowed him to fence the "Hay Reservation" and was granted "occupancy" in consideration for "protecting the same for the use of the government of the United States."

The Petition asked the court that Briney and Long be "...restrained...from constructing said ditch...", that the ditch was of such dimensions "...that cattle cannot cross from one side to the other." Col. Emerson Kimball, editor of the "Glenrock Graphic" newspaper, scoffed at "Lord Wolcott's" dilemma (the title Kimball derisively called him) for having cattle incapable of crossing a ditch which was actually only "three feet wide and one foot deep." ("Glenrock Graphic" July 18, 1890). In the same issue editor Kimball wrote about the federal troops being called in to tear down the fence the Major had erected around the "Hay Reservation," making suspect his claims previously made to the court.

Owen Wister, made famous later as author of "The Virginian," ventured west for the first time in 1885. His destination was the VR Ranch where he spent two glorious months hunting, fishing, riding "broncs" and generally sampling the ranch-life of the frontier west. On July 16 Wister wrote; "Today we've had the border element." Then he recited how settlers, Brannan and Beach, had "squatted on some land that had already been taken up and improved by Wolcott." Then he went on, "Today they started to dig a ditch." Wolcott tried to stop them without success, causing Wister to note; "Today the Major returned for his gun." The battle was heating up.

Now the Major changed his tactics. Wister overheard him say, "I'm Justice of the Peace and I'm thinking I'll have a little court on the premises." He was indeed the presiding J.P. and indeed he did hold court. Territorial records for 1884-86 and 1886-88 show Frank Wolcott as Justice of the Peace for "Deer Creek, Albany County, Wyoming."

Without Wister realizing it, much water had already gone over the proverbial dam. An anonymous writer told in detail of the incident; Wolcott first tried to run off Brannan and Beach, who were trying to homestead "...about four and a half miles from Wolcott's," which was far too close to suit the Major. For starters Wolcott claimed "...he owned the land." Unmoved, they ignored him and "...went to building their cabins." Wolcott sent a man named King to convince them to give up. They wouldn't. Since they had to hire out part time to ranchmen around the country to buy groceries and prove up on their homestead, Wolcott sought to dry up their income by having them "...blackballed by the Stock Association." If successful, no rancher would have been allowed to hire them (according to Wyoming Stock

Growers by-laws). Next, "...he ordered them not to come down the Government Hay Road" (located on the hay reserve). Neither could they "...come over the Deer Creek bridges" (indicating that bridges had already been built to span the stream). As Postmaster of the Deer Creek Post Office, he steadfastly refused to give them their mail. Still determined, the homesteaders refused to leave. Exasperated beyond reason, Wolcott threatened Brannan in front of witnesses: "I'll kill you if you don't leave this place."

Wolcott filed suit in court "for damages" amounting to \$500 each against both Beach and Brannan, despite what he had done to them. But try as he might, Wolcott couldn't run them off. Then fate played into Wolcott's hands.

Beach, in an unrelated incident, shot and killed a man named Locker. Contending he shot in self-defense, he rode directly for Fort Fetterman and turned himself in to the sheriff. Here was Wolcott's chance. He demanded that Beach be returned to him for trial as "...he wanted a whack at him." It was done. Now Judge Wolcott and a six man jury "...composed of three of Wolcott's men and three outsiders" would decide if the prisoner should be bound over for District Court. Hardly a comforting thought for Beach, considering the hearing was taking place in the front room of Wolcott's own home.

As the story goes, Wolcott felt the jury was deliberating Beach's fate longer than was necessary. He grew impatient, rushed up to the door (the jury was meeting in his bedroom) and demanded, "I'll give you five minutes to come to a decision, or get off from my ranch!" The vote came quickly; four to two that Beach be bound over for trial for manslaughter at Rawlins. Wolcott was furious. He felt Beach should have been tried for first degree murder. Bail was set at \$1,500. Beach, of course, couldn't post bond and Wolcott had one more nuisance out of his hair.

A month before, John Clay, representing Scottish financial circles, negotiated the first of several loans with Major Wolcott. "It was in June 1885," he wrote, "...Wolcott showed me the spot where...he shot 20 bull elk, enough for his winter meat. We arranged a loan of \$50,000 secured by the real estate and cattle."

Contrary to commonly held beliefs, this writer finds no evidence to support the belief that Frank Wolcott was manager" of the VR Ranch for British or Scottish interests until after he defaulted on his loans. On August 12, 1885 \$50,000 was borrowed from a Scottish financier named Thomas Nelson. The mortgagor was listed as Frank Wolcott and Company. A second loan for \$30,000 made the following year to build "a big ditch and purchase more land" was incorporated into the unpaid first loan, totaling \$80,000.

Legal documents show the firm was "...composed of Frank Wolcott of Deer Creek, Albany County, Wyoming Territory and Robert W. Irvine, Tokyo, Japan." Mortgaged were "all the cattle branded VR, VR and VRV, on the left side, shoulder or hip." Irvine was again party to the \$80,000 mortgage, dated May 1, 1886. On a bill-of-sale dated February 15, 1888 for "five hundred head of neat cattle" the firm of Frank Wolcott and Company again lists Robert Irvine as the second member

of a "co-partnership."

Unfortunately, as John Clay recalled, "Then came the winter of 1886-87 and Wolcott practically went to the wall. His herd was cut in three. He had no earning power and at last he had to turn over his property to the Nelson Estate." Staggering losses or not, the Major never gave up. On August 6, 1887 he received a homestead patent for the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 5 of Township 33 N, Range 75 W, which he deeded in part to the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad Company "a strip of land...for a right-of-way." This is now part of the town of Glenrock. On February 21, 1889, Wolcott incorporated "The Tolland Company" with himself, his wife, Adelaide, and Stanley Harrington being issued one share of stock each. This corporation was doubtless set up to act as a shelter against the unpaid loans mentioned above.

The first three Converse County Commissioners were appointed by Territorial Governor Thomas Moonlight to serve from April 12 to May 18, 1888. An election was held; the first three elected commissioners of Converse County included George H. Cross, E. T. David, and Frank Wolcott who served from May 18, 1888 to January 7, 1889. Wolcott was defeated in his bid for reelection.

On July 1, 1891 Wolcott again mortgaged everything; cattle, horses, mules, real estate, personal property -everything. The Promissory Note, in favor of Thomas Nelson, had accumulated to a whopping sum of \$131,427.14. He was unable to pay and with the death of Mr. Nelson in 1892 lawyers for his estate were inclined to commence legal action, but John Clay offered a suggestion. He felt it would be impossible to collect the money and eventually "...the properties were turned over" to the Nelson estate in lieu of foreclosure.

Like all the others, Wolcott was desperate. Such desperation became a contributing factor in triggering the Johnson County War. The Major was unusually vocal. He ranted and raved and eventually persuaded a substantial number of the largest ranchers in Wyoming to join him in a plot to wipe out suspected "rustlers" which had been placed on a "hit list" and were marked for "extermination."

Suffice to say, Major Wolcott received ample notoriety for his exploits. After the stockmen were placed under arrest by the military, telegrams flew hot and heavy between Buffalo and Cheyenne and Washington, D.C. as to what had happened and what to do to correct the situation. The official word was that Wyoming was in a state of "insurrection" and that "marshal law" should be declared. Military troops escorted the invaders by marching them to Douglas where they were placed on a train and returned to Cheyenne. During all of this, practically every telegram spoke of the "Wolcott party."

The whole affair turned out to be a disaster. But under the most humbling of circumstances, even while under arrest at Cheyenne, Wolcott continued to boast what the stockmen would do, even yet, once they had a chance. To one and all he became an embarrassment.

Federal troops were brought in and set up what became known as "Camp Suggs," located east of Buffalo. Gradually things simmered down. A law suit brought against the stockmen by Johnson County was dropped because the county ran out of funds. Wolcott, finding no more armies to lead, returned to Glenrock. But life for

him would never be the same.

Of Wolcott's family, little evidence is found. John Clay in 1885 spoke of the family "Mrs. Wolcott (Adelaide) was a delightful woman, and they had a very interesting little daughter." Lucia G. Putnam wrote of how the VR was in 1889: "The day we arrived at Deer Creek where the big Wolcott Ranch lay was quite an event. We were invited in to the big low adobe house and served tea with little jelly tarts...The servants on that ranch were all Chinese. The Wolcotts had one little daughter. She and her mother and the child's governess were at the ranch that summer." Mrs. Wolcott played the organ and the Major was the first Sunday School Superintendent at the Christ Episcopal Church in Glenrock, which was built through the efforts of Major Wolcott in 1887. He and his ranch hands cut and hauled the lumber and built the church.

But those were the old days. Again, Malcolm Campbell tells of Wolcott leaving his buggy at the Glenrock Post Office while he went in to get his mail. "He came out and drove away. Unknown to Wolcott, while inside, someone removed the nuts from the axles. The Major went but a short distance when all the wheels fell off and the body of the buggy collapsed on the street."

The mighty Major had fallen. Scottish interest now owned his beautiful showplace. His dreams were shattered. And one of the most controversial, yet colorful characters to grace the pages of Wyoming's history, hardly mentioned in today's history books, slipped away into oblivion.

Eugene Potter

## Wollen, Byron and Flora

Byron E. Wollen was born April 7, 1898 at Ceresco, Nebraska. Flora L. Boydston was born December 10, 1897 at Ceresco, Nebraska. They were married July 9, 1919 at their hometown of Ceresco.

Byron left Nebraska at the age of 20 and came to Wyoming to work for his cousin, Will Slater, in the freighting business at Slater, Wyoming. He was drafted into the army in November 1918, but was discharged immediately upon the signing of the Armistice on November 11.

He then returned to Wyoming with his future brother-in-law, Henry Boydston. They filed on adjoining claims to homestead 50 miles north of Douglas near the old Bill Post Office. Returning to Nebraska soon after, he married Flora Boydston, daughter of Charles and Flora Nash Boydston.

Their children were: Phyllis (Exley), Fay (Kolodziejczyk), Dorothy (Quillen) and Byron Eugene.

Byron worked for several of the ranchers in the area to make ends meet while the homestead was being proved up on. Flora taught school in the north country and in the county until her retirement at the age of 70.

When Flora's brother, Henry, decided to go back to Nebraska he sold his place to Byron and Flora. The property was to stay in the family's hands until 1982.

Byron remained a cowboy the rest of his life. He understood cattle and ranching and worked for several ranches. He participated in the last long cattle drive for

Fred Williams when they brought cattle from the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota to the Williams ranch near Douglas. He loved horses and swapped many a tale (and horse) with Dr. J. R. Hylton, who was his friend as well as our family physician for many years.

He was "caretaker" of the Thunder Basin Grazing Association Community Pasture, north of the Cheyenne River, for several years. He enjoyed working with livestock and his horses were a special pride. He always had good cow horses with lots of savvy. His son carries on this tradition.

Byron always loved Wyoming and never regretted his decision to live there. Flora was a bit apprehensive at the outset but by the time she got there she began to like it. Since she was an adventurous and dedicated teacher, she liked her pupils very much, and became a true pioneer. She wrote letters to her family in Nebraska telling them "hair-raising" tales of her adventures with rattlesnakes, cow midwifery, coyotes, gardening, teaching and raising the family on a homestead 50 miles from the nearest town. She nursed one child through a bout with polio and all four with various illnesses at times. Most of the time a doctor was not available and she coped with these things with the help of neighbors and her "doctor book."

In later years she moved into town so the older children could go to high school. She became involved in many things with teaching in country schools and her beloved First Baptist Church where she was organist and choir singer for more than 30 years.

Byron passed away July 17, 1965 and Flora lived to the age of 78 and passed away July 15, 1975.

Eugene Wollen

## Wright, Franklin Earl and Dortha

Dortha Burson and Franklin Earl Wright were married in Douglas, Wyoming by the Methodist Minister in 1912. Earl, as he was known, came to Douglas in 1911 with his brother to shear sheep. They sheared for Zimmerman, Moores, Smiths, and many more in the Douglas community. I remember him telling that one day he walked from the Bedtick place to the Zimmerman place, sheared 201 yearlings with hand blades, walked on into Douglas and bought groceries, and walked back out to his home on Bedtick.

Earl also played at the dances around the LaPrele community. Dortha accompanied him on the piano. He also barbered in Douglas with Fatty Hardenbrook.

Franklin E. Wright — 1889-1979

Dortha M. Wright — 1896-1983

Guy L. — born at Douglas, Wyoming 1913

Hazel — born in Casper, Wyoming 1915

Frank — born in Casper, Wyoming 1917

Juanita — born in Casper, Wyoming 1919

Hazel came to the LaPrele community to teach school at Pleasant Valley in 1934. Here she met and married Fred Marburger in 1935 and raised their children in Converse County.

The rest of the history is in the Marburger family history.

Hazel Marburger

## Wright, George and Margaret

George Watts Wright was born on October 15, 1883 at Independence, Virginia to John A. and Laura Watts Venable Wright. His mother died when he was 25 days old. His father later remarried and the family lived at Battle Creek, Nebraska.

Margaret Ann Anders was born on March 4, 1885 at Creighton, Nebraska to Wm. T. and Katherine Smmeckpeper Anders. She grew to womanhood in this community and it was there she met George Wright who was known as Watt. He was assistant agent and telegrapher at Creighton for the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company at this time. When they were married at Creighton on May 23, 1906, he was agent and telegrapher at Meadow Grove, Nebraska where Watt and Margaret established their first home.

In April of 1907 Watt came to Lost Springs, Wyoming as station agent and telegrapher, having accepted the job



Margaret Wright (on left) holding her son, Wilbur. 1908

here since it payed \$10 more per month on this division of the railroad than it did east of Chadron, Nebraska.

Margaret came out to Lost Springs in May of 1907 and they boarded with the Smith family until the railroad brought out a furniture car that was placed by the boxcar depot and this was their home for the next few years.

Margaret recalled that the train men would bring them fresh fruit and vegetables from Chadon as there wasn't a store or anything at Lost Springs as yet. Also, they would have to go to Douglas or Lusk by train to do their shopping and to get supplies.

Watt dug a small cave near the depot for storing their supply of potatoes and other food stuff and Margaret said one hot day in the summer she had gone to the cave carrying her parasol and gotten whatever she had gone for and on coming out of the cave was opening her parasol and it spooked some of the cowboys' horses. Being shy, she quickly retreated back into the cave until the cowboys and horses were out of sight.

When expecting their first child, Margaret's father wouldn't hear of his daughter giving birth so far from a doctor so consequently Margaret returned to Creighton, Nebraska for the birth of their son, Wilbur Frederick, on April 26, 1908. He was born in the same house where Margaret had been born. They returned to Lost Springs when Wilbur was about two months old.

In the fall of 1908 they decided to file on a homestead close enough to Lost Springs so Watt could walk back and



forth to his job at the depot. In 1908 they could only file on 160 acres but shortly after they were allowed to take another 160 acres when the 320 acre homestead law went into effect and by isolating another 40 acres they could purchase it from the government for \$3 per acre, which they did. Their homestead house, 12' by 24' two room frame building was built in the spring of 1909 and they and their infant son, Wilbur, moved onto the homestead. Water for drinking and cooking was carried home from the depot each evening as Watt walked home from work. Their home was about a mile from the depot. Water for washing, chickens and a milk cow was hauled from the creek.

The Wrights had intended to file and prove up on the land and then sell it but since they both liked it here they decided to keep the homestead and Watt eventually quit his job at the depot and did some farming and worked for ranchers in the area to supplement their living. A well was drilled near the house in about 1912.

When Lost Springs was incorporated in the fall of 1911 and the need for a Justice of the Peace came up, several of the town officials went to a judge at Douglas asking for one to be appointed saying, "We want Watt Wright" and the judge replied, "You'll get what's right." Everyone had a good laugh over that. Wilbur does not recall if his father did serve as Justice of the Peace.

A daughter, Dorothy Ruth, joined the family on December 17, 1912 but the family was saddened by her death on February 7, 1913. Her remains were taken to Creighton, Nebraska for burial in the Anders family plot. Another daughter, Margaret Dorothy, joined the family on May 5, 1914. Both daughters were born on the homestead.

By this time two more rooms had been added to the homestead house, but in 1916 the Wrights had a sale and returned to Creighton, Nebraska where Watt followed the carpenter trade for a time before returning to work as telegrapher and agent in Colorado for the Union Pacific Railroad. It was there that Margaret and Watt separated and Margaret, with her two children, returned to the homestead in late fall of 1919 to once again make their home. Along with taking in washing, raising chickens to sell and milking a few cows and raising orphaned calves, the little family made its living.

November 11, 1918 saw World War I come to a close and Margaret's youngest brother, August Anders, who had been wounded in France and after spending some time in army hospitals, came to Wyoming in about 1922 or 1923 to make his home with his sister and family. He was employed as a section hand for the Chicago and North-western Railroad and also took a homestead relinquishment of 40 acres about two miles west of Lost Springs so as to be able to walk back and forth to his job. He took his additional homestead of 320 acres some 20 miles north of Lost Springs. After proving up on his land he again made his home with his sister and family, still worked for the railroad and leased out his land.

Wilbur and Margaret Dorothy, known as Dorothy, rode a pony to school and it was kept in the Charles Hitshew barn during the day and later in a barn that had been built at the school. When children had completed the eighth grade those who could afford to go to high school had to board in Douglas to finish their education but in the



Wilbur and Dorothy Wright on "Dengy." 1921

fall of 1923 ninth grade was taught at Lost Spring and the tenth, eleventh and twelfth were added as the children progressed to them. Wilbur graduated with the first graduating class from Lost Springs High School on May 25, 1927. Classmates were Mildred Howell, Frances Hoge, Wayne McGrew and Herbert Rogers. There was one more graduating class from Lost Springs High School in 1928 and members of that class were Evelyn Gibbons, Anna Rueber and Harry Turner. (As of November 1983 we do not know what became of Evelyn Gibbons but do know that only Frances Hoge and Anna Reuber are deceased.)

During the summers Wilbur would work away from home so as to have money for clothing etc. for school and during the summer of 1925 he worked for neighbors to the east, the Wallace Ball family, and considered Mr. Ball his friend. In early 1926 Wallace lost his wife, Effie Sharp Ball, to cancer and sometime later, being lonely, Wallace and his daughter, Margaret Noreen would call on the Wright family to visit and later that year Wallace was courting Mrs. Wright. In June 1927 Wallace and Margaret Wright were married at Hot Springs, South Dakota and the family went to live on the Ball homestead some three miles east of the Wright place. During the summer of 1928, along with farming and ranching, Wallace and Wilbur dug out a basement under the Wright homestead house using a horse and slip and loading the dirt onto the slip and pulling it out with the horse. They also hauled



sand from a draw west of town for making cement blocks which they laid up for basement walls and a 12' length was added to the house for a larger kitchen and another bedroom and the attic was made into two bedrooms. Later that year the family moved back to the Wright homestead.

Meanwhile, Dorothy had continued going to school at Lost Springs by riding back and forth with her uncle August as he drove to and from his job with the section. In the fall of 1930 Dorothy was ready for eleventh grade and as it wasn't being taught at Lost Springs anymore she rode with Margaret Noreen to catch the Keeline school bus to Manville. Margaret Noreen Ball had graduated from Manville High School in 1927 and having taken normal training was teaching school in the Niobrara County school system and at this time was teaching the Chalk Butte School northwest of Keeline. For her senior year at Manville, Dorothy drove her uncle's car to meet the school bus and when the weather became bad she boarded with Mrs. Mattie Hitschew in Manville, graduating in May 1932.

On April 7, 1932 the family was again saddened when August was struck by a car at their turnoff along the highway when returning home from work and was instantly killed. His body was returned to Creighton, Nebraska for burial in the Anders family plot.

In December 1932 Dorothy and Edward Hale of London, Kentucky, who was working in the area, were married. They were the parents of Wilma Dorothy in November 1934 and Norma Louann in March 1936. Edward farmed and worked some for ranchers and drove a school bus until ill health overtook him. He died in July 1938 and is buried in the Jireh Cemetery east of Keeline. In October 1939 Dorothy married Charles Maurice "Chuck" Walsh, and they farmed for a time in the Lost Springs area where a daughter, Thelma Maureen, was born at Lost Springs in August 1940. They then moved to a farm and ranch in the Glendo area and a son, Melvin Charles, joined the family in May 1943 and a daughter, Wyoma Jane, in September 1944. From here they moved to a ranch northeast of Manville in the late 40s and in January 1954 a son, Richard, was born. In 1969 Dorothy and Chuck divorced and Dorothy and Richard moved to Ft. Morgan, Colorado to make their home near her daughter, Wyoma, and family and where Dorothy still resides.

Margaret Noreen taught school for a number of years and then married Owen Stewart, a friend of Ed Hale who had come to Wyoming with him, and they returned to London, Kentucky to make their home. They were the parents of Betty Noreen in August 1935, Patricia in January 1937 and Wallace Owen in August 1938. Owen died in about 1943 at Wayne, Michigan where the family made their home. In November 1952 Margaret married Azril T. "Jack" Rippee in Michigan and they continued making their home there until both retired and they moved to Black Rock, Arkansas where Margaret died on October 27, 1981. She is buried at Walnut Ridge, Arkansas.

Wilbur worked for Art Meinzer at the Springs Garage for a time then farmed for himself and also worked on construction jobs and in the winter of 1935-36 attended Hemphill Diesel Engineering School at Los Angeles, California graduating in May 1936. He was then employed by

Ross Construction Co. near Riverton, Wyoming for several years and later by them at Meeteetse, Wyoming where he was shop foreman and where he met Ada Lucille Niehaus, daughter of Powell, Wyoming homesteaders of 1908, Frank and Sarah Miles Niehaus from Missouri. Wilbur and Ada were married at Billings, Montana on June 2, 1939. Wilbur continued doing construction work as mechanic and shop foreman for a time and was also employed in the oil fields.

A son, Wilbur Dale, was born to Wilbur and Ada on September 13, 1940 at Powell, Wyoming and in November the family returned to the ranch at Lost Springs due to the ill health of Wallace who passed away on February 1, 1941. He is buried at Chadron, Nebraska beside his wife, Effie, in the Ball family plot. Wilbur and family continued making their home on the ranch which they operated for his mother.

In May 1948 a daughter, Zadah Ann, was born but the family was saddened by her death in March 1950. Dale attended school through the third grade at Lost Springs when school was discontinued and students were bused to Manville.

On January 1, 1951 Lost Spring became Lost Springs due to a change in name by the United States Postal Department. Due to the combining of school districts in eastern Converse County, the Lost Springs children were bused to Shawnee the fall of 1953 so Dale attended the eighth grade there. He attended high school at Lusk graduating in 1958.

On June 17, 1961 Dale and Joan L. Wintermote, daughter of Lester and Grace Wintermote, were married at Douglas. They are parents of Anita Jean, born in February 1964 and Todd Allen in May 1968 and make their home east of Douglas.

Wilbur and Ada continued ranching with his mother until her death on June 29, 1964. She is buried at Lusk next to her granddaughter, Zadah Ann Wright. Wilbur and Ada inherited the ranch and still make their home there where they continue in the ranching business.

Wilbur F. and Ada Wright

## Yardley, John and Eolyn

John Yardley was born in Pollock, Missouri in 1896. Eolyn Otella Boon was born in Alliance, Nebraska in 1905.

When John was 14 years old he hopped a freight train at Pollock, Missouri and came to Wyoming to work on his cousin's ranch at Buffalo, Wyoming. He stayed there working on the ranch until he entered the marines during the first World War in 1918. After returning from the war he worked in the oil fields in Midwest, Wyoming.

He met Eolyn Boon (a teacher) at a box social in Redington, Nebraska, and they were married in Colorado Springs, Colorado on January 20, 1926 and went to Borger, Texas where John operated a garage for a short time. While living in Borger their home was a tent behind the garage where Eolyn prepared their meals on a campfire.

They returned to Nebraska in 1926 and farmed around Broadwater and Crawford until moving to Converse County in 1939 where they made their home west of Douglas, doing some farming and dairying. While in



John Yardley 1954

Nebraska there were three daughters born, Lenore (1927), Pauline (1929) and Helen (1931.)

They moved to the Glenrock area in 1941 where they operated a dairy and shipped milk to Casper.

They purchased a place in the LaPrele community in 1944 and continued to operate a dairy until 1959 when they engaged in the sheep and cattle business. They summered their cattle on the Clausen ranch in the LaBonte area.

There were no improvements on the land at the time they purchased the place in the LaPrele community. A house was purchased in Lance Creek and moved to the home place. The rest of the buildings were built with the help of their daughters. In the spring of 1946 they lost their home and belongings in a fire and lived in a sheep wagon until a house was moved in from Midwest, Wyoming.

Due to health problems they had a farm sale March 10, 1973 and retired in Douglas.

John enjoyed wild game hunting and reading western stories.

Eolyn enjoyed her involvement with the LaPrele Homemakers Club which she belonged to for many years. Long winter evenings were spent playing cards with neighbors and social events at the LaPrele Hall.

John passed away in 1977 and Eolyn in 1983.

Lenore Yardley Lore

## York, Henry and Elizabeth Family

Henry York was born on December 25, 1880 in Pleasant Hill, Missouri, the son of Jonathan and Isabell Petty York.

Elizabeth Elgin, daughter of Charles and Lucy Graves Elgin, became Henry's bride on November 19, 1902 in Jackson, Missouri. Elizabeth was born on March 11, 1882 in Rich Hill, Bates County, Missouri.

Coming to Wyoming in 1904 with his brother, Tom, Henry found work in the Lost Springs area. He returned to Missouri for the winter and returned to Wyoming in 1905 homesteading two miles southeast of Shawnee.

Henry and Elizabeth's children were: Gladys (b. 1910, d. 1923), Walter (b. October 25, 1911), Thomas (b. October 15, 1914, d. May 5, 1936), Adelia (b. 1916, d. 1917), Paul (b. May 26, 1919) and Evelyn (b. June 18, 1923).

The family moved several times from the time they came to Wyoming to homestead to allow Henry to provide a living for his family. They lived for different periods of time at various places; among them were the Tumble place, Keeper place, Hartshorn, Oklahoma (where Henry worked in the Rock Alley Coal Mine) and at the family coal mine north of Shawnee.

Henry died on June 18, 1952, Elizabeth on January 9, 1958.

Walter married Hazel Stock (see the Stock story).

Paul married Marian Rickabaugh, daughter of Clarence Rickabaugh.

Evelyn married Verne Anderson.

Hazel Stock York



L. to r. Tommy York, Paul York, Walter York and Evelyn York Anderson.

## York, John and Verna Family

On October 13, 1890 John Earl, the seventh of nine children, was born to Isabell Petty and Jonathan York at Rich Hill, Missouri. May 3, 1920, he married Verna Ethel, daughter of Grace Em Davis and Martin L. Thompson of Mountain View, Missouri. The Thompsons, having come to Mountain View from Lebo, Kansas, the place of Verna's birth on November 9, 1902.

John and Verna were married in the Church of England at Grand Prairie, Alberta, Canada. They returned to the states a few months after their marriage.

While living north of Shawnee, Wyoming with



John York family 1928 Back row: L. to r. Verna and John York. Front row: L. to r. Grace, Earl and Donald York.

brother, Tom, and family, a daughter, Grace Bell, was born on February 10, 1921. In March of that year, John worked in coal mines near Douglas, Wyoming. With the help of Cloe Hatfield, he built a reservoir south of Douglas. About Christmas time, John took a man's horses and his own team to north Missouri. He journeyed on to Anderson, Missouri to visit his sister, Lena White, and family, and a brother, Charley, at Coffeville. He returned to Wyoming where a son, Earl Howard, arrived on September 9, 1922. They lived on the Glenn Keeper place north of Shawnee until April 1924 when John and Verna loaded their possessions, two children and Alberta, a sister of Verna, in a covered wagon and set out for Anderson, Missouri. When going through Sidney, Nebraska, the team became frightened and ran away. After all the excitement of the runaway was over, they had to stay at Sidney, Nebraska to repair the damage.

While in Missouri a second son, Donald Lee, arrived. This time while in Missouri, John found work at a sawmill and later worked in coal mines in Hartshorn, Oklahoma. He gave up mining in 1925 and bought a farm near Anderson, Missouri. Yearning to be back in Wyoming he sold the farm, had an auction and returned in 1930 to Shawnee. By this time Verna's sister, Alberta, had married C. O. Boman. She remained in Missouri where she resides today in Seneca.

John worked various places and at a variety of jobs at whatever was available to support his family. One of his earlier jobs was helping construct the grain elevator at Shawnee. The elevator was a landmark for several

years, until in 1982, when it was torn down by John's grandson-in-law, Dale Wright and his friend, Vernon Poage.

In 1930 the John York family moved to Glenrock where John and his brother, Henry, operated a coal mine north of Glenrock. Later that year they moved north of Shawnee and mined coal on land owned by the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. John sold his interest to Henry and moved his family on a farm west of Shawnee, owned by Al Fero. They lived on rented farms for a while. In 1941 they purchased a ranch joining the town of Shawnee. From years of hard work and perseverance they were able to purchase several sections of land.

John and Verna left the ranch in 1953 moving to Douglas leaving the ranching to their sons, Earl and Donald. John maintained an active interest in the ranch until his death, December 5, 1967. Verna continued to live in the home they had purchased on South Sixth Street. She worked at the Converse County Hospital as a cook, work she enjoyed and where she had made many friends during her 15 years of service at the hospital. She passed away December 18, 1978 in the hospital.

Earl married Clara Hublein, daughter of John and Annie Hublein. They had three sons, Waldon, Bobby and Wayne and one daughter, Shirley (Lazure), who died on December 14, 1970. Earl married Dorothy McBirney Condray after he was divorced from Clara. Dorothy had been married to Robert Condray and was the mother of



L. to. r.: Tommy, Henry, John, Charles and Tom York

one son, Donald Lee, and one daughter, Donna Lou. Earl and Dorothy live on the home place at Shawnee where they have built a new home. Earl also works for the Converse County Road and Bridge Department.

Donald and his wife, Donna (Browning) have a beautiful home on their ranch seven miles east of Douglas, formerly belonging to Tom and Ann McCarty. Here they raised two sons, David and Jeff and four daughters, Connie (Bower), Margie (Marler), Sherrie (Santistevan) and Linda (Newton).

Grace with her husband, the late Lester Wintermote, their three sons, Allen, Vernon and Steven, and three daughters, Peggy (Middleton), Joan (Wright) and Sharon (Ferris) have made and still call home their headquarters near the old XH Crossing on Shawnee Creek.

Grace York Wintermote

## York, Tom and Myrtle Family

Tom York was born in Pleasant Hill, Missouri on August 27, 1876. He was the son of Jonathan and Isabell Petty York, both of whom had also been born in Missouri.

Tom came to Wyoming soon after the turn of the century by train to visit his brother, Henry. Henry and his brother-in-law, John Swickhamer, were working at a coal mine near Lost Springs, Wyoming.

The family of Tom remembers an incident that happened to him when he first arrived in Lost Springs. It seems he went into a bar. "He was dressed in a suit and 'Caddie' hat. The men in the bar thought 'here is a number one tenderfoot' so one of the cowboys asked Cody Shippen to offer a drink to the newcomer and if he doesn't take it pour it on him. Cody offered the drink to Tom but brought the drink back to the barkeeper since Tom refused it. When asked why he didn't pour it on him, Cody remarked, 'I didn't like the look in his eye so I didn't want to rough him up'."

Tom and Myrtle Elgin were married on August 26, 1909. Myrtle and her sister, Blanche, had come to Wyoming earlier to be with their sisters, Mrs. John Swickhamer and Mrs. Henry York.

Tom and Myrtle had one daughter, Noma (b. December 14, 1910) and two sons, Jesse (b. June 23, 1915) and Robert (b. February 16, 1917). The morning Jesse was born Tom blew the whistle on the steam engine where he was working a long hard blast. Paul Miller said, "Tommy must have had a boy."

The Yorks filed on a homestead near Shawnee.

Like most of the homesteaders, Tom worked at any work in the area he could find. One place he worked was at a sawmill out of Douglas. He also had a threshing machine and threshed grain for neighbors in the area.

One harvest season, Tom and his brother, Henry, went to Montana to work during the season. They asked a wheat farmer for a job. The farmer asked to see their hands and seeing that they didn't have calluses, wouldn't hire them. Henry told the farmer "Tom's hands may not show it but he was a mighty good hand and knew how to run a steam engine." Needless to say they got the job and Tom ran the steam engine all season.

Myrtle was known for her baking powder biscuits. She sometimes made several batches during the day for neighbors, cowboys or anyone passing by who stopped to eat.



Tom York family; l. to r. Myrtle York, Tom York holding Jesse, unknown, Lena White, and Henry White.

The family moved to a ranch north of Moorcroft in 1952.

The Tom York family was kind and helpful to their own family, friends and neighbors. Fred Smith once was heard to say, "Tom York would take the shirt off his own back and give it to someone he thought needed it."

Myrtle died on August 8, 1952; Tom on January 5, 1959.

Robert served his country in the Seabees during World War II. He lives with his wife, Donnie, on the ranch at Moorcroft.

Jesse married Ethel Cannon on March 27, 1936. She is the daughter of Earl and May Hess Cannon.

Jesse York

## Young, Andrew and Hattie

In 1919 Andrew Jackson "Dude" Young and his wife, Hattie Elizabeth Young sold their dairy in Drumright, Oklahoma. They set out for Wyoming in an old Model T touring car with their three children: Sylvia Ann, 15 years, Ralph Andrew, 13 years and Audrey Mertie, nine years. Hattie's parents, Thomas Andrew and Lucy Ann Young, with their two children, Clarence Andrew, 17 years and Birdie Irene, 15 years, accompanied them in their Model T Roadster. (Hattie's maiden name was the same as her married name.) The roads were only trails and muddy most of the way. They got stuck over and over again and since Audrey was the smallest, the rest would push and she would drive. She swears to this day that she drove most of the way from Oklahoma to Wyoming.

Their first introduction to Wyoming weather happened about ten miles north of Cheyenne. They were caught in a real blizzard and finally stalled completely. Dude and Clarence set out on foot and followed a fence line until they came to a gate. They went through the gate and were able to locate a house with a large barn. The people were friendly and the men brought a team and wagon to rescue the rest of the family. The people were very kind and kept our family for ten days before the roads were passable again. They slept in the hayloft and ate with the generous family.

They pushed on, fighting snow and mud, until they reached Lost Springs where Dude's brother, Frank, met them with a team and lumber wagon and took them on to the homestead, about 28 miles north of Lost Springs, in the Twenty Mile Community.

They lived in tents until the men could build a large log house and dig a well. They loved their new home, especially the children, as they had never been around so much snow before.

Thomas and Lucy Young and family did not stay long and soon returned to Oklahoma. Dude, Hattie and family remained on the homestead farming, raising cattle, chickens and pigs. Hattie always had a large garden and preserved food for the upcoming winters. She also had a large strawberry patch.

About 1920 Sylvia Ann married Ralph Glen Reed, son of Jacob and Nancy Reed. They homesteaded nearby and were blessed with three children: Ruth Faye, born in 1924, Donald Keith, born in 1927 and Marvin Glen, born in 1932. Ralph Reed was killed in a coal mine cave-in on



December 23, 1932.

Dude and Hattie made many very dear friends during the years and attended the community church, picnics and barn dances. Dude was often asked to call the square dances.

Times were very hard and after they proved-up on the homestead they moved to Colorado where Dude had a team of Clydesdale horses and worked in construction until they had built up a "Grub-Stake" and they moved back to their "home" in Wyoming.

Ralph Andrew left Wyoming in the mid '20s and followed the circus for a while. He eventually ended up in Payette, Idaho where he met and married Nina Bias. They had one daughter, Barbara Ann, 1928.

Dude and Hattie (to the surprise of everyone) also had a daughter, Lucy Myrle, born in 1928.

Audrey Mertie married James Edward Porter in 1931. They had three children: Patricia Ann, born in 1932, James Edward Jr., born in 1936 and David Andrew, born in 1949. Patricia died in 1934.

About 1934 or 1935 Dude took a job at the Fiddleback Ranch, near Dry Creek, and his wife, Hattie, cooked for the hired hands. Things were going well for them until Lucy Myrle got scarlet fever. The owner of the ranch "let them go" because he was afraid the hired hands would contact the disease.

Finally in 1936 Dude, Hattie and Lucy Myrle moved to Douglas. Dude went to work for the PWA and Hattie managed what they called the "Pest House." It was a nursing home of sorts, where they sent people with contagious diseases so they wouldn't infect other people.

In later years Dude was foreman of a "Cricket Gang." The men formed lines and walked through the fields with sprayers to kill the crickets.

Sylvia married Marian Faye "Junior" Whiting in 1936. They had one son, Thomas Alvin, born in 1937. Junior died when Tommy was just a few months old.

Sylvia became very ill and she and her children moved to Douglas with her parents. She was bedridden about three years and died in 1941. Her four children remained with their grandparents until they were grown.

During World War II Dude worked as a guard at the Prisoner of War Camp west of Douglas. In 1946 Hattie died and Dude, Lucy Myrle and Tommy Whiting went to Brookings, Oregon to make their home with son, Ralph, and his second wife, Irene, (formerly Irene Hoffman, a sister to Harry Hoffman).

Lucy Myrle met and married John William Dawson there in 1946. They had one son, Richard Lee, born in 1947. Later Lucy married Fred Ireton.

Dude spent his remaining years visiting his children and grandchildren with frequent trips to Wyoming to visit family and friends. His home base was with Jim and Audrey Porter in Longview, Washington. His twin brother, Anderson, and another brother, Frank, lived nearby and they spent many enjoyable hours fishing and reliving old times.

Dude Young died at his granddaughter's home in Bonita, California in 1957. He was preparing for a trip back to Wyoming the next day.

Lucy Myrle Young Ireton

## Young, Ellen Family

Lancashire, in the northwest county of England, where Robert and Ellen Young lived, was a county of coal mines and knitting mills. Children started working at an early age — boys at nine years of age in the mines was not an unusual circumstance. Ellen, herself, had worked in the knitting mills at the age of eleven years.

A momentous decision to join relatives in the new world prompted Robert and Ellen to bring their families to join them. In 1883, steerage class, they covered the rough Atlantic Ocean, often locked below decks when storms were fierce. They had three children: John, the eldest; Salena, who wore kid leather shoes because of weak ankles; and Florence (born April 29, 1881) in wooden shoes. Florence was listed as the child of another couple, since only two children per family were allowed. Middle names were not commonly given to children.

Robert settled his family in Creston, Iowa, near his brother, who was a doctor. There, a son, Henry, was born, and Robert died of typhoid fever. With a family of four in a new country, the young widow worked. She was adept at many jobs, including sewing, janitorial work in schools and churches and also homes. She also served as a midwife, often receiving just a pretty plate from families who had no means to pay her. Young John quit school and went to work to help support the family.

Hearing of coal mines with better pay in Glenrock, Wyoming, and also having relatives there, Ellen moved her family. They settled in Sleepy Hollow. Ellen continued working to raise her family, with the help of John, who worked in the mines.

John later invested in sheep with his brother-in-law, Frank Rate, and secured land in the Big Horn Mountains. He never married. Ellen kept house (camp) for him in the summer when the sheep were on the mountain range. The nearest post office and general store was at Nowood, also Manderson. John gave up mine work when he had sheep. It was an enjoyable way of life, and both Ellen and John looked forward to the rough wagon trip taking them to the mountains. In the fall, they would gather the sheep



Ellen Young



and start down for lower country around Lysite and Lost Cabin, where they wintered. John never owned or had driven an automobile until after his mother's death. He bought this first car when in his late fifties, and such an erratic driver, honking at the crest of a hill, nearly stopping on the side of the road to let oncoming cars pass, and then speeding up! But in later years, he became accomplished enough at driving to travel to California, Washington, etc. without incident.

Ellen spent winters with her two daughters: Salena, at Lost Cabin, and Florence, west of Douglas. She loved travelling: with "me hat" and luggage she would go by train to California, Iowa, and Arizona. She rode a burro to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. She went back to England on the Lusitania, the last round trip the "Floating Palace" made before it sank in 1915. One of her greatest pleasures was hearing the great singer, Sir Harry Lauder, who was the ship's entertainer. She loved the Rose Parade at Pasadena. She had many friends, and letter-writing and walking were among her favorite pastimes. Her hands were always busy, sewing or crocheting.

Ellen gave up her home when her children were grown, but there are still relatives living in Glenrock. She died in September 1933 and is buried in the Glenrock cemetery.

Salena married Frank Rate, a sheepman. They made their home at Lost Cabin and had land in the Big Horns for their sheep. They had two daughters, both deceased now.

Henry and his wife, Grace, had one son, Robert. He worked at Casper, and they made their home there.

Florence received her education in Cheyenne and Fremont, Nebraska, and became a teacher. Often she was much younger than some of her pupils. She was a teacher at the Olin-Sullivan School in the mountains southeast of Glenrock. School was held in the summer time, as the winters were too harsh for the children to attend school. Then in the winter she taught in a school east of the Fetterman Station on the Northwestern Railroad. Riding side-saddle, she got to school from where she boarded with patrons. When she taught the Gore School, she and some of the pupils used a light buggy, which she drove, crossing the swift, swollen waters of the mountain streams. One time she had a run-away with the buggy overturning, and it injured her quite badly. She received commendations from the State Superintendent of Schools, then Mr. A.D. Cook, father of Mrs. William Smith.

Florence married Charles Slichter on October 31, 1905. (See Slichter, Charles and Florence story.)

Hazel Slichter Lewis

## Zaichkin, Peter and Anna Family

Peter (Pete) Zaichkin was born February 2, 1885 in Russia. He served in the infantry as a peasant in East Siberia. After he was discharged from the army he resided in the village of Piatnitskaya, township of Karacmayerski, county of Orlovskaya.

While Peter was in the service he was married to Anna Andre Pervix. He was discharged from the army on

December 23, 1909 but stayed in the reserve army. Anna was born in the central part of Russia on February 2, 1887. She was about 17 when she married Peter.

Peter first came to the United States in July of 1913. He sailed by boat from Crimea. The passport cost 15 rubles. His second passport was dated February 1914. At this time he brought his wife, Anna, and their three children who had been born in Russia: Nicholas was born November 5, 1910, Mary was born March 24, 1912. They were both born in Kovnoc in Lithuania, Russia. Elizabeth was born in Karachev, near Orel, in White Russia on October 22, 1913. When they came to the United States, Nicholas "Nick" was three, Mary was one and Elizabeth was six months old.

Peter and Anna's first home was in Hemingford, Nebraska. Somehow, Peter had heard of Wyoming and decided that he wanted to settle here someday. Peter worked in Hemingford for several years and then homesteaded on King Creek with his brother, Constantine. While the family lived in Nebraska, a son, John, was born on November 15, 1915 and Paula was born on the Wyoming homestead on December 25, 1918.

The Zaichkins left Nebraska in 1917. Their daughter, Mary, remembers that they packed everything in a covered wagon. Peter and his brother, Constantine, had applied for a homestead south of Douglas. After arriving in Douglas, they traveled up Bedtick Road and by Sheep Mountain. Mary's first memory of this area was seeing a large flock of sage hens just as they topped the ridge.

Constantine and Peter built a two room shack for their first homestead. This homesite proved to be a mistake because they could not find water. Soon they moved the shack to another place and later built a log cabin. They dug a 40 foot well here. Their homestead had a garden, animals, etc. They dry farmed and raised chickens and turkeys.

The children started school at Poison Lake School. Their first automobile was a Model T Ford. If there was much of a hill they had to back up because it had a gravity flow gas tank and it would quit if they went the other way.

Once asked if there were many rattlesnakes on the homestead, John said "Yep, I have two cigar boxes of rattle buttons."

Pete worked for ranches and for himself until his death on June 21, 1950. His wife, Anna, passed away on January 21, 1949.

Mary married Adam Mueller March 30, 1929 at Table Mountain Ranch. This had been Adam Schmeidlein's place. Mary and Adam had three children: Babette was born March 11, 1930, Laurence was born March 4, 1934 and on December 16, 1939, Kathryn was born.

Adam's Uncle Schmeidlein owned the Table Mountain Ranch. When he died Adam inherited it. During this time of working and raising their family, Mary and Adam were involved with several community things. Mary belonged to LaPrele Homemakers, Farm Bureau and they participated in community affairs like plays, etc.

They made many trips to Casper selling chickens and turkeys. Many of these were sold to the Henning Hotel. During the next year they milked 26 cows and shipped milk to Casper.

When Babette was one and one half years old, their



Zaichkin family 1921. L. to r. Elizabeth, Nick, Peter, John, Anna, Mary and Paula in front of Anna.

house caught fire and burned, destroying everything they owned. This was a terrible setback. Since it happened on December 17, 1932 it destroyed a doll house complete with little wooden furniture that Adam had made for Babette's Christmas present.

When asked what her worst memory was, Mary replied "Pumping water for the garden, and the house burning down."

Mary's goals were doing things that she liked such as gardening, reading and helping other people. Some of the things that stand out in her mind are: Money being short, but otherwise not too bad during the depression; having 1200 to 1500 chickens at all times; canning pickles, sauerkraut and smoking meat; eating a lot of "free meat" such as rabbits, pheasants, prairie chickens, fish and pork; the blizzard of 1949, when the national guard went out and helped people get food, etc; and having a lot of fun at parties that were held during this time.

Mary said that Mrs. David Roush had a great influence on her life because she taught her many things.

Adam died September 5, 1951. Mary married John Metcalf on April 23, 1955.

John's parents were Luella (Jones) and Edward Metcalf. Edward died on May 25, 1935. They homesteaded near Orin. They had twelve children. John died July 23, 1981 in a Cheyenne hospital. In 1985, Mary married George Carothers.

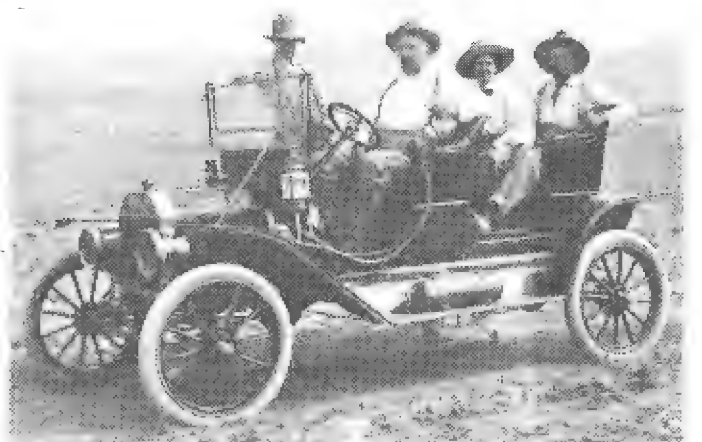
Elizabeth married Lyle Hildebrand, son of Fred W.A. Jr. and Ada Pexton Hildebrand on April 12, 1945. They have three children: Jeneva, Ann (Rex) and Fred. She worked for Jennie Chamberlin before serving in World

War II as a WAC. After her marriage to Lyle she worked for Jennie again until Jennie's death. She also worked for Albert Sims until his death. Lyle was hit by lightning while windrowing hay south of Douglas. He survived the incident but was burned very severely. He died on March 10, 1979.

John worked as a roughneck and ranch hand and is retired now. He was married to Edith Horton Young.

Paula was a housewife and waitress.

Mary Zaichkin Carothers  
Elizabeth Zaichkin Hildebrand



First car in Glenrock 1911: L. to r. George McDonald Jr., George McDonald Sr., Mrs. Fred Ohlman and Fred Ohlman.



Early day bicyclists



Early day picture of Ayres Natural Bridge.



"Red" Markley and Douglas football team



Harold Anderson and Converse County bull dozer in Poison Lake Pass after 1949 blizzard



Converse County 4-H youth judging livestock 1953.



Band stand in the Douglas park 1930s



Converse County 4-H youth getting ready for 4-H camp in front of the county courthouse, 1952.

## Cole Creek Wreck

The water snatched at her clothing. Her head reeled and sand filled her ears. He pulled her with him as the churning water swept them away in the darkness. The rain was of no consequence in the raging torrent but the brilliant lightning flashed across the September sky and gave them glimpses of their plight. The swirling maelstrom carried the pair toward the Platte River just a few hundred yards away.

Then, all at once, it tossed them into a shallow bay, carved out by the overflowing stream. H.M. Gallagher and Mrs. Nicholas Schmidt still clung to each other as they wandered through the cold stormy night, attracted by the bleating lullaby of bedding sheep. The shepherd clothed and warmed them at his camp and they told him how their train had plunged into Cole Creek.

Gus Phillips felt himself hurled from his seat in the smoking car. Rain pelted him and clouds of steam enveloped the hissing train as it shuddered and fell from the splintered trestle into the black night. Time halted. The jagged lightning revealed a scene of horror; the huge locomotive sliding from the collapsed bridge into foaming water was followed by the smoking car, mail car and chair car, leaving a Pullman teetering at the shattered edge. Lights were extinguished. Heat swiped at his face as he tumbled about in the dark. Climbing and scrambling over the tangled wreckage Phillips staggered through the rain to Lockett where section foreman Keline administered to his injuries and reported the tragedy. Simultaneous reports were made that night, September 27, 1923, by Dan J. McQuaid and Casper businessman, Henry Wyatt, passengers who also escaped and managed to swim, wade and walk to safety. The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy train number 30 from Casper to Denver had wrecked.

The drizzle that began at noon on Thursday had changed to heavy rain and thunderstorm by eight o'clock.

At Casper's Burlington Depot only 66 tickets had been sold for the Denver run, the smallest passenger list in many years.

Ed Spangler, a dedicated and respected freight engineer would replace the assigned engineer, Roy Jackson for the scheduled 8:30 p.m. run. Jackson laid off after he brought in number 29 Thursday morning. The storm was intensifying and had already closed some roads in the area when the locomotive and seven cars departed from Casper on time.

The continuing rains were causing a high run-off. Every dry gully was a running stream and Burlington personnel carefully checked the tracks. In the Cole Creek drainage area water tumbled from the north country into the Platte River as roadmaster Haygood took his work train over the route just northeast of Glenrock. Inspecting the tracks and bridge he reported an unusually large volume of water with conditions satisfactory despite the weather. Engineer Spangler was informed of the findings and advised to "take it slow."

Section foreman H.G. Keline and his work gang had also passed over Cole Creek, walked the tracks and inspected the wooden trestle spanning the draw. He found conditions to be good with water depth in the creek less than 16 inches. There was no evidence that the rain was having any effect on the safety of the structure.

But at a quarter past nine, reports of a train wreck had reached Glenrock and the dispatch office in Casper. The news was flashed across movie screens and over radio stations throughout the area. The worsening weather, the isolated location and darkness slowed rescue efforts. Before morning, a rescue train arrived and people came by all possible means to assist.

The rain continued. Roads in the area became impassable with stalled vehicles and washouts. Rescue operations, which had been hampered by darkness, improved with illumination from the light of the rescue train only to be halted again by a flash flood as Friday morning dawned. Water and sand poured into the wreck-



Cole Creek train wreck





Cole Creek train wreck

age totally burying the engine and the smoking car.

Despite this agonizing setback, determined workers intensified their efforts. One young volunteer from Casper, M.M. Gray, arrived at the crossing before five o'clock Friday morning. Young Gray, fearing that his father had perished in the crash, was an inspiration to all who came to help. He braved the swift cold water again and again to rescue survivors from the chair car. Risking his own life, he gave encouragement to the hopeless and exhausted victims as they awaited help. Barely escaping death themselves, a Burlington conductor, a passenger named Robinson and a porter on car number 20 joined Gray in pulling people from car number 19 as it too, finally slid from fractured timbers into the watery grave.

Another of the volunteers who worked diligently at the scene was the father of mail clerk, W.E. Hinrichs. For days these folks stayed, working beside railroad derrick crews. Medical personnel and relatives of the victims offered their services to treat and transport survivors. Others helped in the difficult and heartbreaking recovery of bodies or personal property while some worked to sandbag the upper portion of the site. Despite these heroic efforts, casualties mounted and it was soon apparent that this would be the worst train wreck in the history of the Burlington system.

A three-man coroner's jury convened on Saturday, October 6, in Douglas and traveled 37 miles where the hearing was resumed at the site of the wrecked train. After hearing testimony from as many as 15 witnesses the jury concluded that the Cole Creek train wreck was accidental and unpreventable. More than a month later, the Interstate Commerce Commission inspectors reported that there were no defects in any Chicago, Burlington and Quincy equipment. But October 20, 1923, the Burlington's tenth anniversary of service from Casper, was observed by the solemn arrival of the company's claims agent, R.W. Gaines. He joined general manager, Edward Flynn, already at the scene, and began settlement of

damage claims.

An Arkansas man, Gus Phillips, who was still in Glenrock recovering from burns received when he was thrown from the careening train, was awarded the first settlement of \$3,875.00, "The largest I every obtained out of court," according to John D. Dawson, Phillips' attorney.

The grim search for missing victims continued as the railroad made settlements of almost \$60,000.00 to survivors and heirs of the known dead. By the end of November, 21 bodies had been recovered and identified. One unidentified body was buried in Glenrock and ten persons were listed as missing. Chicago, Burlington and Quincy began settling claims for missing passengers presumed dead.

In December, as 1923 came to close, the Pullman Company, manufacturers of sleeping cars involved in the Cole Creek disaster, honored two Burlington employees for heroism. Conductor L.D. Coburn and porter D.L. Littleton received rewards of \$1,000 each.

M.M. Gray quietly left the scene when railroad derricks arrived and took over rescue and recovery operations. William E. Hinrich's father and a brother accompanied the mail clerk's body to Cheyenne for burial. Mrs. Nicholas Schmidt returned to Douglas to bury her husband and H.M. Gallagher continued on his interrupted trip home to Denver. M.A. Robinson, whose wife had to be hospitalized in Casper, remained at her bedside to await the birth of their child.

The bodies of two more Burlington employees would eventually be recovered. Conductor Guy Goff's body was discovered on May 29, 1924 when it washed up on an island in the Platte River and Edward Spangler's body was at last recovered when workmen building the new Cole Creek Bridge found it on January 22, 1925. Another body discovered at the construction site five months later could not be retrieved before the muddy spring run-off reclaimed it.

Railroad crews remained at Cole Creek for many months. The powerful one hundred ton engine had to be freed from the grip of the sand with the aid of picks and hammers. Then it and the damaged cars were moved to Denver for repairs costing nearly \$98,000.00. A new bridge was constructed at the site and the renovated locomotive was returned to service on its regular evening run from Casper to Denver. But the human anguish along the route would continue long after searchers gave up their searching and bereaved families received claim settlements.

In Converse County alone, five lives were lost, including those of Nicholas Schmidt, Mrs. Minnie Owens, Charles A. Guenther, Edward F. Hines and J.P. Jensen. Miss Eva Boyer, Glenrock, Mrs. Nicholas Schmidt, Douglas and John Christie, Parkerton all survived the tragedy.

Lee Ann Siebken

## Fiddleback Ranch

The Fiddleback Ranch had its beginnings in the late 1800s. It touched many lives in Converse County until its demise in the 1940s.

George H. Cross Sr. tells how the ranch came to be in his memoirs. "The Taylor brothers established their Fiddleback Ranch north of Fort Fetterman, where they ran several thousand head of cattle. However, they sold out a year or so afterward to Dr. Hoff, the army surgeon and Ephriam Tillotson, sutler at Fort Fetterman."

The Converse County Courthouse records show the following transactions for the land where the Fiddleback Ranch buildings are located: February 27, 1890 - Joseph Pfeifer (F. Rec.), July 4, 1890 - Ephriam Tillotson (W. D.), June 1, 1906 - C. W. Ford (W. D.), July 30, 1906 - William Howe (W. D.), and February 1, 1944 - Mortons Inc. (W. D.).

Also on record at the courthouse are the incorporation records as follows: July 30, 1906 - capital \$50,000 - Shareholders: Victor L. DeMott, William G. Howe and Otto H. Bolln. July 9, 1909 - Shareholders: William G.

Howe, 477 shares, Victor L. DeMott, 240 shares, Martin Madsen, one share and Roscoe Crary, one share. The July 9, 1909 entry was for 1488 acres of deeded land, 9500 sheep, 200 sacks of wool and horses and cattle. The value put on items were \$20,000 on the land, \$55,466 on the sheep, \$15,375 on the wool and \$3,000 on the horses and cattle.

By 1910 a major change of ownership came to be and is evident by the records which show that the Mountain Home Company became the majority stockholder. The records show the following: May 5, 1910 - Roscoe Crary, one share, C. J. Crary, one share, Mountain Home Company, 1,133 $\frac{1}{3}$  shares and Victor L. DeMott 666 $\frac{2}{3}$  shares.

At this point it is of importance to find out who owned the Mountain Home Company and how it came to be. On March 7, 1899 the Mountain Home Sheep Company was incorporated with Noah Young, John A. McDermott, Per Olson and John Heller putting in \$5,000 a piece to get things started. By November 10, 1906 Roscoe Crary had entered the picture with a new company being started. It was called the Mountain Home Company with capital listed as \$100,000 with Roscoe Crary, Ayres C. Scully, and Charles F. Maurer as stockholders.

The Mountain Home Company had its headquarters located west of Glenrock on the North Platte River. A big two-story white house was the residence of its manager, "Mountain Home" Smith. Smith's proper name was Edward W. Smith, his wife was Henrietta. (For more on the Smiths see their story in this book.)

The owner of the Fiddleback Company and its vast empire in Converse County was Roscoe Crary. Mr. Crary was born on April 21, 1867 in Hancock, New York. He came to Chicago in 1892 to serve as general sales manager for the United States Leather Company. He and his father had been pioneers in the leather business in the east and their interests were sold to the United States Leather Company. Crary also had extensive lumber interests. With the late John J. Mitchell he helped to organize the Texaco Corporation. He was a close personal friend of President Grover Cleveland and his son.

Mr. Crary died on April 2, 1937 in Chicago.

It is of interest to note that Henrietta Smith's brother,



Fiddleback ranch buildings on Cheyenne River. 1926



Fiddleback Co. wagons and harness on Second Street in front of company headquarters north of City Light Plant.

George Mohr, was the manager of the Fiddleback Company on Cheyenne River. He assumed the position from Mr. Gleason. George Mohr's son, Carroll, assumed the position upon his father's death in 1923. (For more on the Mohr family see their story.)

By the time Roscoe Crary disposed his sheep interests in 1931 the Fiddleback and Mountain Home Companies had holdings of around 70,000 acres including land on Cheyenne River, Box Creek, Dry Creek, Fort Fetterman ranch on Lower LaPrele Creek, Sand Creek (north of Glenrock), lands north of the home place on the Platte River and lands south of the place on the river going into the mountains around Deer Creek.

The lands were leased to various leasees: Hugh Duncan and Dr. J. R. Hylton got the lands north of Glenrock, Mart Madsen Sheep Company received the lands on Dry Creek and Carroll Mohr leased the Cheyenne River and Box Creek properties.

In 1944 the lands were sold with Mortons Inc. getting the Cheyenne River portion, Carroll Mohr buying the Box Creek end, Elmer Cowell purchased some of the lands north of the Glenrock ranch and Herman Werner getting the majority of the remainder. Bob Boner and Marty Tillard own some of this today. The Valentines purchased the home place on the Platte River. The Jake Johnson family owns the Box Creek lands today.

John R. Pexton

## LaPrele Irrigation Project

The LaPrele Irrigation Project was first conceived in the mind of one of the pioneer surveyors, Albert M. Crafts, who was never able to secure capital for its construction. The project was finally promoted and constructed by Dr. J. M. Wilson, W. F. Hamilton and B. J. Erwin who, in 1905, organized the LaPrele Ditch and Reservoir Company. The first surveys were made in the fall of 1905 and construction was started under the direction of Frank C. Emerson in the fall of 1906. The contract for construction of the main canal was awarded to Pat O'Connor at 14 cents per cubic yard and was practically

completed during the years 1906, 1907 and 1908. Tunnel Number One of the main canal, which is 800 feet long, was constructed on contract by Heller and Olsen of Glenrock, and the Sand Creek Flume was built by John LeBar and Fred Syphers. This flume, nearly 400 feet in length, was later replaced with new iron and reduced to a length of 278 feet.

The main or east side canal irrigates about 8,000 acres of land between LaPrele Creek and the town of Douglas and has a capacity of 170 cubic feet per second. The west side canal was built by small contractors. The tunnel of this project was 1,660 feet in length. This ditch irrigates about 3,200 acres of land, on the west of LaPrele Creek, and has a capacity of 50 cubic feet per second. The total project has about 55 miles of laterals in the distribution system.

The project has a direct flow appropriated from LaPrele Creek, which is supplemented by storage of 20,000 acre feet of water in the LaPrele Reservoir and a second supplemental right from the following sources: Rocky Ford Creek, Gould Creek, Reid Creek and Wagon-hound Creek. The ditches connecting these creeks were built in 1934 and 1935. They have a total length of five miles and a capacity of 100 cubic feet per second.

The LaPrele Dam was constructed by Ambursen Hydraulic Construction Company of Boston, Massachusetts, with N. R. Willard as engineer, except for the top 40 feet which were built under direction of Pat Mulcahy



LaPrele Dam

without engineering supervision. It is of concrete and what is known as the Ambursen or hollow type. It is 325 feet long, 137 feet high and the face is five feet thick at the base and has a slope of 12 to 14 supported by piers 17 feet from center to center, which are also five feet thick at the base and 14 inches thick at the top. It has five, 17 foot spillways which have a depth of five feet. The dam was built during the years 1907, 1908 and 1909. The cost of the dam, including rights-of way for the reservoir, was about \$650,000 and the cost of ditches, diversion works, rights-of-way, etc. was approximately \$350,000, making the total cost approximately \$1,000,000. Approximately \$2,000,000 additional was spent on power development, etc., which was abandoned.

Before completion of the irrigation system, however, the LaPrele Ditch and Reservoir Company was absorbed by the North Platte Valley Irrigation Company which planned to irrigate an additional 10,000 acres adjacent to the original area plus 40,000 acres north of the North Platte River near the town of Glenrock. The latter area was to be irrigated by pumping from the North Platte River. The company constructed the powerplant, pumping plant, and poles for a portion of the transmission line required, but did no work on the proposed distribution system. In 1912, soon after completion of the above works, the company went into receivership. Approximately ten years later the panel boards, switches, transformers, generators and miscellaneous equipment in the power plant and pumping plant were removed and

shipped to a firm in Denver.

The receiver operated the unit until August 1918 when it was purchased by the Douglas Reservoirs Company for \$150,000. In the following year storage of 20,000 acre feet of water was first permitted in LaPrele Reservoir when a settlement was reached with a landowner for right-of-way for the upper portion of the reservoir basin. In May 1919 the Douglas Reservoirs Company and the State of Wyoming entered into a contract for ultimate conveyance of property and transfer of contracts and administration to the project settlers. More capital was invested in order to make necessary repairs to the canals and irrigation structures which had not been properly maintained during the period of receivership. The unit was then accepted by the government as complete under the provisions of the Carey Act. In 1923, after first receiving the balance due on existing water rights and selling additional rights for \$30 per acre, the project was turned over to the Douglas Reservoirs Water Users Association which had been organized to administer the system for the project settlers.

Quite an extensive study was made of the dam and the existing project from 1948 to 1951 by the Bureau of Reclamation. In 1948 there were 75 families living under the project with 11,700 acres irrigated.

The project had been operating under restricted winter storage regulations since 1925 and created a water shortage half of the years up to 1948. These restrictions were lifted in 1956. However, due to drought conditions



Power house at Natural Bridge under the LaPrele Dam.



through the 1950s there was an inadequate water supply. This, along with restricted storage, failed to provide the project with adequate water.

Several proposals developed over the years included: Bringing water over from Boxelder Creek, pumping water from the North Platte River, or turning the project over to the Bureau of Reclamation. None of these proposals became a reality and the project continued with only improvements made in distribution systems with various methods developed to distribute water with a minimum loss.

In the 1970s the Board of Directors developed a plan with the Panhandle Eastern Pipeline to assist in renovating the dam. As a result of this agreement, about 4.5 million dollars was spent by Panhandle Eastern to repair the dam, to build a new spillway and to completely reface the dam. This work was done in exchange for one fourth of the water stored each year to go to Panhandle Eastern for their various projects. These improvements have put the project in a more favorable position for water storage and improved water supply for the project.

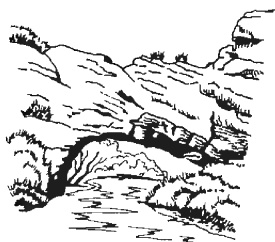
The LaPrele Project has had quite an economic impact on Converse County through the years. In the earlier years there were some sugar beets raised but the project has historically been a grain and hay and livestock type of agriculture with many farmers and ranchers successfully raising their families on the project.

Many of the original farming units have been combined and are now under one ownership, making fewer individual operators with larger operating units. Also some units have been subdivided and the total population in the area is larger than the original project.

Leadership in management is vested with the Board of Directors. This board has been characterized by hard working, dedicated individuals who have worked diligently to maintain a successful operation. Some of these early directors were: Dick Maurer, Judge Brown and Oscar Carlson. Others who devoted many years of service on the board were: Irving Carlson, Henry Gedney, Adam Mueller, Carl Engdahl, Harold Blackburn, Lee Moore, Lloyd Beach, Bill Barber, Jim Stephens, Grover Gallagher and Walt Busch. Oliver Roush served many years as project superintendent and Clark Bishop was a project engineer for ditch layout. The present board of directors are: Leon Chamberlain, Andy Moore, Walt Nicholson, Dick Strock and Mike Anderson.

The project has seen many changes through the years, but the original dam is still in place and continues to serve its purpose. Much of the land ownership has changed since the beginning but the LaPrele Project continues to function as an integral part of Converse County agriculture.

O. L. Nicholls



## Lightning Creek Fight

**Lou Cook, Pioneer Rancher  
Recalls Lightning Creek Indian Fight in 1903**

*(Editor's Note: A Pioneer Sheepman of Douglas, Lou Cook, who was ranging his sheep in the locality of the Lightning Creek Indian fight which took place on Big Lightning Creek in Converse County, October 31, 1903, relates the following incidents from memory.)*

On Big Lightning Creek at Jake Mill's cow camp and sheep corrals, we had finished working Jake's and my sheep Friday night. There were twenty of us including the herders and other help. Saturday morning we left with our sheep. Ed Hunter, one of the help, returned Sunday morning; he had heard shooting the evening before. Eagle Feathers was Chief of the band of Sioux Indians. The Indians were illegally hunting antelope and stealing from sheep wagons of outfits that were ranging in the southern part of Campbell County and the northern part of Weston County.

It was Friday, October 30th, that Sheriff Miller and two deputies overtook these Indians. There were two bands, and they were camped twelve miles north of the Fiddleback Ranch on the Cheyenne River. Miller informed Eagle Feathers (known as Smith by the whites and who was a graduate of Carlisle College in Pennsylvania and could speak good English) that he had a warrant for the arrest of him and his outlaw band. When Eagle Feathers conveyed this information to the band, the bucks immediately surrounded the sheriff and his deputies. The Indians protested that they had done nothing wrong and they asked to be left alone. Knowing that he was outnumbered, the Sheriff with his deputies, proceeded to the Fiddleback Ranch where they spent the night.

On the morning of the 31st, one band of Indians headed toward Newcastle and the other south. At the ranch Sheriff Miller told Johnny Owens and Frank Zerb what had happened. (Johnny Owens was an old-time law enforcement officer who had killed a dozen or more men in the line of duty.) These men joined the posse.

The posse saw the Indians a half-mile above the ranch going south up Lake Creek toward Dry Creek where they crossed at the Alex Ferguson Ranch. When the posse arrived at the Ferguson Ranch they were joined by Louie Falkenberg, a ranch hand who knew the trails to the cow camp.

Foster Rogers, who now owns the Rogers Drug Store in Lusk, was holding some of the sheep that had been cut out at the corrals. Rogers saw the Indians with twelve wagons and 140 ponies coming down Lightning Creek. When the Indians arrived at the pasture gate, Chief Eagle Feathers, who was in the lead, dismounted to open it. The posse was located in the creek bottom where they had selected cover. Miller emerged from cover and demanded of Eagle Feathers that the Indians surrender, but instead they started shooting. Louie Falkenberg was killed and Sheriff Miller mortally wounded in the battle. Rogers, who was coming to the corral with the sheep, hid behind a big greasewood and watched the Indians who ran past him toward the creek crossing. According to



Rogers, the Indians had one wagon with a hind wheel missing which had been repaired by the use of a pole extending from the front axle to the rear. This wagon was hurriedly unloaded at the creek where it was abandoned. They then retreated to the divide between Twenty Mile and Lightning Creeks where additional property was abandoned. The dead Indians were Grey Bear, Black Kettle, and Grey Bear's boy.

Sheriff Miller was taken to a cabin where he died that night. After the battle, while enroute to the cabin, Foster Rogers came upon Eagle Feathers and family. Both the Chief and his Squaw were wounded and were taken to the cabin. At the cabin Eagle Feathers begged his daughter for a gun with which to kill Johnny Owens. Miller's body was in the adjoining room and was taken to Newcastle Sunday by Loren Thayer.

Steve Franklin, one of Jake Mill's cowboys, rode all night and arrived in Lusk early Sunday morning with news of the battle. He first related what had happened to Ral Collins, who was invoicing the merchandise in the Baker Store. Speaking in a low tone, he did not immediately arouse Collins' interest. However, he soon surmised that something was wrong and questioned Franklin who again related his story of the battle. Collins then awakened the C.&N.W. station agent and wired Sheriff McDermott at Douglas about what had happened.

Deputy Williams and John Morton left at once, followed later by John Steffen and other Douglas people. Morton told me later that when they arrived, there was no sign of life, but on Twenty Mile divide they found the supplies that had been abandoned by the Indians, among which was a nose bag with the "Picture Frame" brand of the Morton Sheep Company on it. There were also groceries and other supplies that had been stolen from sheep camps in the locality.

Sunday morning at about ten o'clock, a party enroute to Lusk met a wagon driven by Indians which had a wounded Indian lying on the load. Indians attending the burial ceremony at the State Fair about five years ago informed me this Indian died before they reached the reservation.

Ed Hunter, who is at present working for the town of Douglas, says that later an Indian came and picked up what was left of the food and equipment they had abandoned. Ed said there was a ton or more of jerky dried meat the Indians gave him — about 200 pounds of which proved to be beef as well as antelope.

On Monday I made a trip to the battle ground to look for something to keep as a remembrance of the battle, but the Douglas gang had taken everything loose. However, I did find a very nice peace pipe made from red popstone in a pillow of antelope hair that was under the head of Chief Black Kettle whose remains had not yet been buried. This pipe, with the stem, measures about eighteen inches. It was donated by me to the Wyoming Pioneer Association and is with their collection of pioneer relics at the Pioneer Museum in Douglas.

Nineteen of the Indians, consisting of nine bucks and ten squaws, were captured near Edgemont, South Dakota by a posse headed by Lee Mather of Weston County. Sheriff McDermott, of Converse County, brought them to Douglas where they stood trial for the murder of Miller and Falkenberg. Ben Wheelock, who was the interpreter

at the trial, told me later that they were unable to find any evidence that would associate any of them with the killing, and they were turned loose. The names of the nine bucks were: He Crow (Chief), Iron Shield, Red Pin, High Bull, Broken Nose, High Dog, James White Elk, Charge Wolf, and Jesse Little War.

Five of us are living at the present time who were at the Jake Mill cow camp when this battle took place. They are Foster Rogers, Gus Cook, Ed Hunter, Roy Brenning and myself.

At the request of my friends, I have assembled the foregoing information as best I could from memory.

Lou Cook  
dictated to Catherine McColl

## Wyoming State Fair

"Wyoming's state fair had its inception from an industrial exhibition held in Casper in the year 1904."

That is what the late Senator Robert D. Carey said in an article written of the fair in an issue of the Douglas Enterprise some years back.

"The old wool warehouse in Casper was the exhibition hall and a race track east of Casper provided the location for the race program," the article by the late ex-governor and senator revealed.

In 1905, through the efforts of the late J. M. Wilson of McKinley, a bill was introduced in the legislature creating a Wyoming State Fair Board of five members, to be appointed by the governor, and Douglas was designated as the place for holding an annual state fair.

The Converse County legislative delegation, consisting at that time of Lyman Cooper, who was the speaker, J. T. Williams, representative in the senate, and John Morton of Douglas and Thomas Bell of Lusk in the house, were able to get the bill through.

The measure called for an appropriation of \$10,000 and this amount was duplicated by Douglas residents for expenses for the first two years. The 1906-1907 legislature appropriated \$15,000.

Wilson was elected president of the first fair board, and the Northwestern Railroad donated the fairgrounds, on condition that a fair be held in Douglas each year.

The first fair was small, but those interested were satisfied and felt it was a success.

The legislature was not too liberal; it was necessary to erect buildings and fix the grounds and when the fair was over, the board was in debt.

At this point it became necessary for Douglas citizens to guarantee notes at the banks in order to meet outstanding bills.

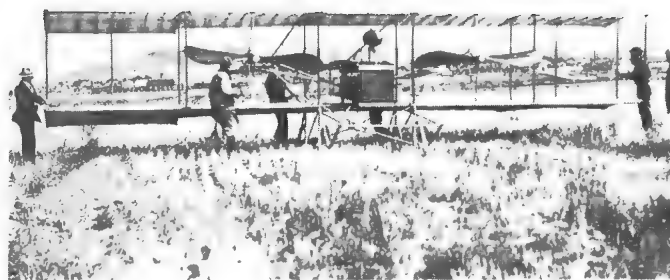
When Carey became president of the board, he found that the two years' appropriation had been expended by the former board, but they were not to blame as the appropriation was too small. In order to conduct the fair, it was necessary for Douglas citizens to contribute funds to the amount of \$4,000 and which was used to hold the fair, although there was a deficit of about \$1,000. Again



Carver's diving horse at early Wyoming State Fair.



Roman race in Douglas, Wyoming.



Airplane at the Wyoming State Fair.

the citizens of Douglas signed notes, trusting the legislature would reimburse the banks and it did.

The deficit worried Carey who said, "Later when one of the fair boards came to Cheyenne when I was governor asking for an additional appropriation to meet a deficit of about \$50,000, I felt that I was somewhat of a 'piker' to have worried about the \$1,800 deficit. The fair deficit became so regular and apparently so impossible to avoid that the legislature in 1921 put the management of the fair under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Charities and Reform, either considering the fair a charity or an institution that needed reforming because of its deficits."

Speaking of the first state fair in 1905, M.C. Barrow, early day publisher of "Bill Barlow's Budget," had the following to say in his October 11, 1905 issue:

"Well, to begin with, the weather was perfect, as though made to order—bright sunshine, warm, and but little wind. The attendance, estimated at about 2,500, possibly a little more than that..."

"The best of order prevailed during the entire four days. There was plenty doing each day, uptown, on the grounds each afternoon and at night a half dozen attractions served to keep everybody amused and entertained according to his or her inclinations.

"The big show was all of that...only five ladies entered the relay race: Miss Maggie Reid of Douglas, Mrs. Guy Newell of Springhill, Mrs. Mott Quest of Newcastle, Mrs. William Irwin of Cheyenne and Mrs. Sturgeon of Casper.

"Refusal on the part of the committee to permit her to ride two of the horses she had brought here for the purpose and the fact that she was thrown twice the first day, resulted in the withdrawal of Mrs. Irwin; later Mrs. Sturgeon also withdrew.

"The race was not decided until the last day and was won by the Converse County Champion, with Mrs. Newell a close second, and Mrs. Quest, third. Miss Reid (Mrs. W. H. Bolln) received \$375 in cash, the \$400 piano given by the city of Douglas, the loving cup given by the 'Denver Post,' one pair of blankets, five pounds of creams, and a handsome cut glass prize offered by J. J. Steffen and valued at \$25.

"Mrs. Newell received \$355 in cash, a pair of blankets and the cream and sugar set given by the 'Cheyenne Leader'. Mrs. Quest received \$230 in cash and a set of solid silver teaspoons."

In preparation for the 1905 opener, the Douglas

Construction Company bid less than \$5,100 to build a grandstand with a roof, an exhibition hall, two horse stables, one cattle and one sheep shed, a poultry house and two thirds to three quarters of a mile of board fence. The grandstand, with a roof, at a \$500 cost, hardly proved to be a bargain. Originally facing west into the afternoon sun, experience and public opinion necessitated it being moved in 1906 to the west side of the track facing east.

Entertainment at these early fairs always included horse races (relay races, trotting races, and a wild horse race, etc.). Rodeos also were held at some fairs. Boxing matches were a feature of several early fairs, as well as, baseball tournaments and many other types of entertainment. State and Federal troops were in camp north of the fairgrounds and the ninth cavalry band entertained in 1911. Billy Fisher's "Ideal Theater" was also entertaining crowds with silent motion pictures in the evening.

The crowning achievement of the 1913 fair was the new brick, agricultural exhibit building just completed at a cost of \$20,000. Reported then as a thing of beauty and promised to be a joy forever, it included a lecture hall, initiated by at least a dozen speeches that first year.

By 1917-1918 a considerable change had developed in the nature of the entertainment when the commission contracted with a Chicago Theatrical Exchange for a number of professional acts. Included were a Chicago Grand Opera Quartet, auto racing, auto polo, motorcycle riding exhibitions. "The Girl in Red," a member of Professor Carver's High Diving Girls, jumped her diving



Rep Race at the state fair.

horse from a platform into a pool below. Baxter Adams was doing airplane stunts and racing motorcycles daily. This appears to mark the beginning of the shift in entertainment competition from the participants who came from ranch and range, to professionals traveling the circuit of fairs, carnivals and similar attractions.

In these early days, premium list advertisers constituted a memorandum of "Who's Who" among



"The Bleachers" at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas.



Mike Henry driving Charlie Irwin's buffalo at an early Wyoming State Fair.

Douglas businessmen. DeLaval Cream Separators, Mica Axle Grease and "Black Leaf 40" or Chloro-Naphtholeum Dip and Disinfectant advertising carried much of the premium list advertising load.

Over the years the state fairgrounds plant was a major community resource in Douglas. The year round facilities have been unusual in a community of Douglas' size.

The stock barns represented an unauthorized winter playground during those years. Facilities, first in the Agricultural Exhibit Hall before 1912 and subsequently in the new brick hall in 1913-1914 enabled Douglas to introduce and enjoy indoor basketball when it first came to the community.

Currently the facilities are used regularly by county and state groups and organizations, for organization meetings, livestock sales, National High School Rodeos, steer roping, etc.

The fair was conducted every year after 1905 until the depression years forced cancellation of the 1935 and 1936 fairs and a polio outbreak cancelled the 1937 event. World War II caused the 1943-1945 events to be cancelled. There has been a state fair every year since the end of World War II (1945) to the present (1986).

Many local people have served in various capacities, throughout the years, in assisting with the state fair. Many of the pioneers have been actively involved during the fair each year for most of their lives. They serve as

superintendents in each department, clerks, security and many other capacities necessary in conducting a state fair.

Since 1923 the management of the fair has been vested in the Wyoming Board of Agriculture, an able group, representing all of Wyoming with a Douglas resident now and then a member. This is a departure from the 1905-1920 arrangement providing for a five member Board of Fair Commissioners appointed by the governor. During these 15 years, 47 of the 70 member years were served by Converse County residents.

Beginning in 1911 a modest start was made in paying the commission secretary as the chief administrative officer. Prior to that, the only paid workers were clerical staff members, grounds workers and temporary help during fair week. 1915 marked the first year the secretary was a full time employee and not a commission member, an arrangement which continued until 1921 when there was a board of fair managers operating under the control of the State Board of Charities and Reform. People serving as chairmen of the Board of Fair Commissioners



Bare back riding?

from 1905-1920 were: Dr. J. M. Wilson, Edward David, Robert Carey, John Flynn, Luther Freeman, Russell Thorpe, Wm. C. Irvine, Dr. B. F. Davis, Joe Garst and Otto Bolln.

Early day secretaries or directors were: Henry Hern, 1931, Lem Carmin, 1939-1942, Joe Sullivan, 1946, Vance Leeper, 1947, Earl Farnsworth, 1948-1950, Jim Roush, 1951-1955 and 1960-1978, Floyd Tetreault, 1956-1959, Lyle Crosby, 1979 and Bill Ogg 1980-1986.

The latest improvements have been: a new cafeteria, girls dormitories, new grandstand and concession area, in addition to improved areas for parking, hook-ups for recreational vehicles and additional hard surfaced roads. Adjoining land has been purchased to enlarge the entire state fair facility.

Management continues to be under the Wyoming Board of Agriculture, who hires a director to carry out the function of the fair. The board also has an advisory committee to help with planning and recommendations.

There has been a fantastic growth since the first fair in 1905; however, you still find the cooperative effort of Wyoming people working together to make the state fair a success.

O. L. Nicholls



Wild horse race in Douglas during Wyoming State Fair.



# Water Wheels

The water wheels that I am writing about were located along the North Platte River between Douglas and Guernsey. They were used by the farmers and ranchers in the river valley from the mid teens through the mid 1930s as a means of supplying irrigation water to their meadows and fields. Few locations throughout the world were as adaptable as the North Platte River to this water wheel, designed and used for irrigation.

The water wheels varied in size with the diameters varying from 18 to 32 feet and the lengths varying from 16 to 24 feet. The water wheels were constructed predominately with 12 paddles although there were a few with 16 paddles. The paddles were three to four feet in width and extended the full length of the water wheel. Each paddle was supported by six spokes radiating from the central shaft. Bracing to the adjacent paddles around the perimeter gave the water wheel its required rigidity. The blades extended beyond the spokes at each end of the water wheel by about three feet. A wooden bucket was built between the adjacent paddles at each end of the water wheel so that they were beyond the outer most spokes. This allowed the flume to be nested within the water wheel cylinder and under the bucket to catch the water as the buckets emptied. Three steel cables were placed around the periphery of the water wheel, one at each end and one at the center and tightened with turn-buckles to hold the water wheel firmly together.

As the river's current turned the water wheel the buckets dipped water from the river and delivered it to the flume near the top of the wheel. The flume in turn carried the water to an irrigation ditch in the river valley.

Two log cribs (generally made of stripped cotton-

wood logs knothed and fitted like house logs) filled with river boulders supported the wooden bearings at each end of the water wheel's axle. The cribs were diamond shaped being about 30 feet long (with the rivers flow) and about 15 feet wide. One of these piers was placed at the bank and the other out in the river roughly perpendicular to the river's bank.

The bearing that supported the water wheel's axle was a "Vee" knotch in the top of the wood support column. Over the axle at each bearing support was a wooden bottomless grease bucket that was fit to the axle and the "Vee" knotch. This arrangement served as a self lubricating device.

Each site for a water wheel was carefully chosen and the design of the water wheel varied with each location. The height that the water had to be lifted above the river to be delivered to the field governed the diameter of the water wheel. The speed of the river's current and the amount of water required for the fields governed the width of the water wheel. A swiftly moving river did not require as long a wheel as a slower current and a need for a large volume of irrigation water required more paddle area.

It was desirable to locate the water wheel in a cove at the edge of the river. A cove often has a faster current during moderate river stages than the center of the river and during high river stages the faster moving current moves out to the center of the river. A cove of this character was sought to provide some protection from the fast moving drifting debris at high river stages. Other factors considered when designing a water wheel were:

- (1) the length of the flume
- (2) the size and slope of the field to be irrigated
- (3) the composition of the soil in the field
- (4) the anticipated crops



Water wheel on the Nylen-Gillespie ranch.



(5) the prevailing wind.

The timetable for building a water wheel was crucial. It was carefully planned and material stockpiled in readiness. Pier sites were excavated or leveled for construction below the lowest water level. As the lower pier logs were placed, ballast was added to prevent them from floating away. After the piers came the placement of the bearings and the axle. The water wheel's elements were constructed in place by swinging the first spokes from the axle with the final sections being assembled at the very top. The rain, snow, wind, temperature and river fluctuations each had an effect on the construction.

The function of Wyoming's water wheels was unique due to the control of the river's waters by the upstream Pathfinder Reservoir near Alcova. When the released irrigation waters reached the water wheels the river's flow would turn the water wheel and irrigation water was delivered to the fields. When the reservoirs stopped releasing irrigation water, the river level would drop and the water wheel would stop turning. The water wheels were designed with a mechanism so that by using jacks it could be moved vertically about three to four feet. This vertical adjustment allowed the water wheel to be raised out of the river during low flows (ice forming), but would not allow the water wheel to be raised above the irrigation flows in the river. It is to be emphasized that there was no possible way to stop the wheels turning during the irrigation water releases.

Water wheel maintenance was a never ending job. The axle had to be greased twice each day that the water wheel was in operation and a constant attempt was necessary to keep drifting debris cleared from the water wheel. Often a water wheel would be destroyed, or nearly so, by drifting debris as the owner watched helplessly from the bank. It was not uncommon, during high river stages, to see a team of horses or a tractor and a man proficient with a lariat; lasso and drag drift from in front of the wheel.

Another element of disaster was the river flooding by excessive rains or snow melt below the reservoir. When a substantial flow was being released from Pathfinder Reservoir (which would take a couple weeks to travel to the water wheels) the addition of excessive rain water could be disastrous.

The following is a list of people who had water wheels built on their property. These locations are known and have been verified. There were others that I have heard mentioned but I could not verify their existence. Because a positive location for them could not be identified they have not been mentioned. The water wheels described in this article were all in full view of Laramie Peak.

Roy and Laura Willey built a water wheel around 1925. It was located just above Sand Creek on the north side of the North Platte River (about three miles upriver from Orin). The flume was longer than most and that added to the maintenance, but under the Willeys' care the water wheel worked well for many years.

Walter and Martha Cakebread constructed two water wheels. Walter, being a carpenter as well as a dairyman, built the water wheels with great concern for details and perfection. One was located near the farmstead straight south of the Orin School House and the other located across from the pyramid shaped hills. Both were located

on the north side of the Platte River. Mr. Cakebread built a dike to protect the upstream water wheel and help direct the river's flow under it. This arrangement created a deep pool that became the "swimming hole" for the area. The Cakebreads allowed everyone to come, swim and picnic at this gathering place on the North Platte.

The Nylen and Gillespie ranch built four water wheels all on the south side of the North Platte River. The first was at the old ferry of the 1880s (this is about one half mile up stream from the present Burlington Northern Railroad bridge just south of Orin). As this water wheel deteriorated a second was built a few hundred feet downstream. This second water wheel performed so well at this location that a third water wheel was built on the river side of it. This resulted in two water wheels sharing three piers. The fourth water wheel was built below both the newly constructed highway and railroad bridges one mile southeast of Orin. This water wheel was very productive and was one of the few that withstood the 1934 flood on the North Platte River.

Byron and Bess Wilson, owners of the Platte Valley Ranch near McKinley, Wyoming, built three water wheels on that property. Two were located on the north side and one on the south side of the North Platte River. The largest water wheel was 32 feet in diameter and was located just below Shawnee Creek and irrigated a meadow below Shawnee Hill. It was a well constructed water wheel of good craftsmanship, but like so many others it did not withstand the 1934 flood on the North Platte.

The Wilsons also built three water wheels on their Platte Valley Sheep Company ranch. They were all located downstream from the mouth of Muddy Creek on the east or north side of the North Platte River. This area is now inundated by the Glendo Reservoir.

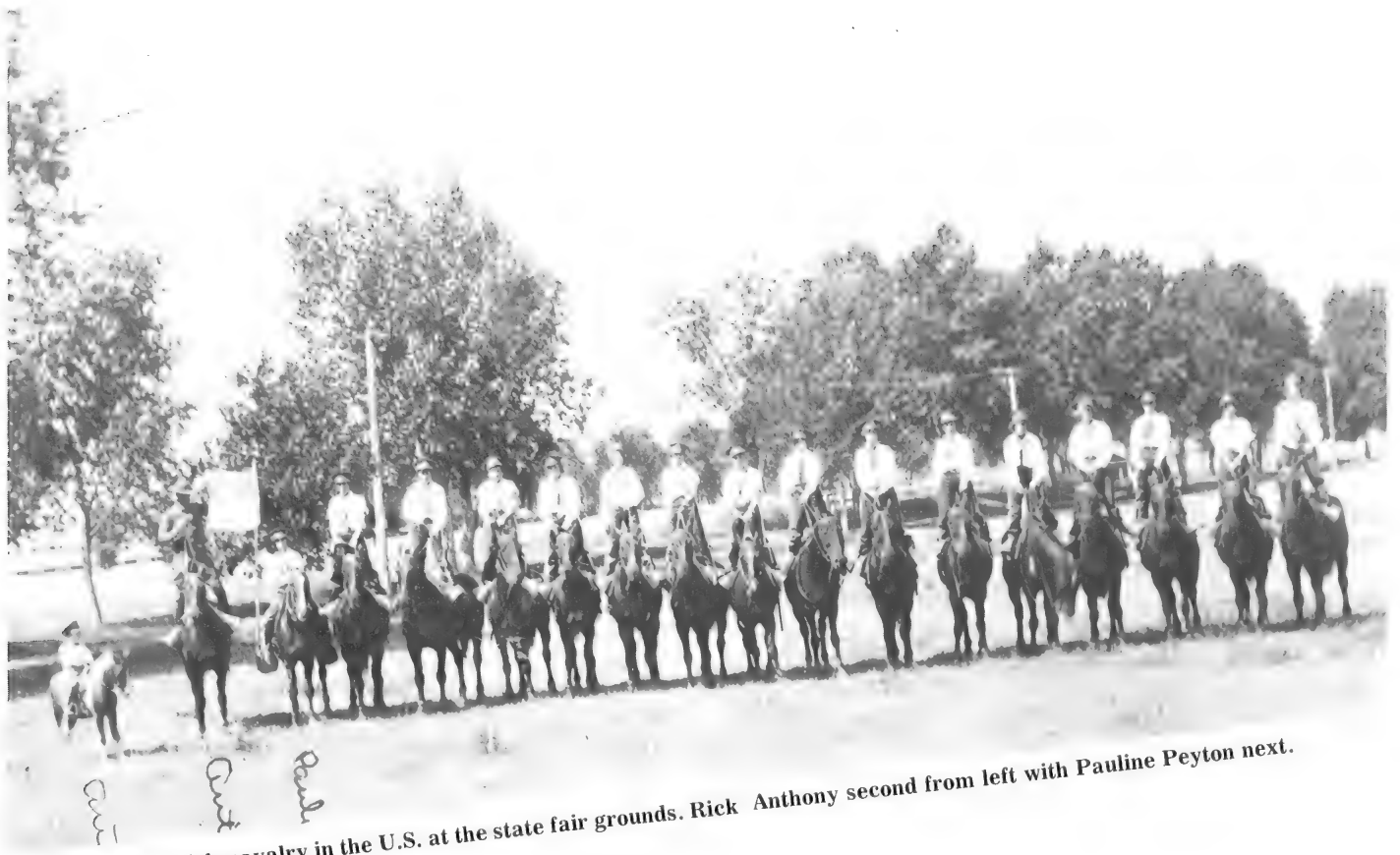
Fred and Lola Roediger constructed a water wheel below the mouth of Elkhorn Creek on the north side of the North Platte River. This location is now under the waters of the Glendo Reservoir.

Charles and Florence Wormwood built an excellent water wheel with a high output of irrigation water. Charles was an engineer and an accomplished carpenter which resulted in a water wheel built upon concrete piers and a water wheel that was in existence until the Glendo Reservoir covered it. It was located on the west or south side of the North Platte River straight north of Glendo, Wyoming.

Walter and Myrtle Cundall built a 28 foot diameter water wheel on the west side of the North Platte River that went into operation in 1924. They received more than twelve years of service from this well-built water wheel. It had 16 paddles rather than the twelve that existed on most water wheels. The flood of the North Platte River in 1934 extensively damaged the water wheel and no major repairs were made on it. It was replaced later by an electric pump. This wheel's location is also inundated by the Glendo Reservoir.

William and Elizabeth Barry constructed a water wheel near Cassa, Wyoming. It was one of the earliest wheels built and was located below the present Glendo Dam on the west side of the North Platte River.

Earl Gaylord



The first girls cavalry in the U.S. at the state fair grounds. Rick Anthony second from left with Pauline Peyton next.



Lamb brothers threshing crew 1911



# First Baptist Church of Douglas

The First Baptist Church of Douglas began services in January of 1915 and these services were held in the Chapel Car "Glad Tidings," one of a fleet of seven such railroad cars which rolled over the rails throughout the west, stopping off at towns which had no regular churches. These Chapel Cars were church and parsonage combined. One part was complete living quarters for a minister and the other part was a church equipped with a brass lectern, organ and sufficient pews for about 125 persons. The Chapel Car in which our church first held services was located in the vicinity of what is now the Gene L. Payne Company.

On March 25, 1915 a regular (Missionary) Baptist Church was organized. Charter members were:

Mrs. Flora Bunton	Mr. Asa Reece
Mrs. Ida Ballard	Mrs. Betty Reece
Mrs. Will Edwards	Mrs. Eva Shaw
Mrs. Maude Fowler	Mrs. A.M. Smith
Mrs. M.A. Grimes	Miss Minnie Smith
Mrs. Sarah Hammond	Miss Zada Wisdom

Later in the year of 1915 the corner lot of Fourth and Oak was purchased for \$1,200 but no immediate plans for building materialized and services were continued in the Chapel Car. Attendance was growing rapidly and Rev. Davis, who was pastor at the time, held the first baptismal service in an empty garage building, the "pit" being used as the baptistry. About twelve people were baptized at this time.

In February of 1917 the church was incorporated.

There was a great need for the Chapel Car elsewhere so the Lodge Room of the Unity Temple Building was rented. In October of 1918, work was started on a church parsonage but due to poor health of several pastors, the war, flu epidemic and lack of money nothing was accomplished until August of 1923 when our first church building was completed. It was dedicated in May of 1924 at which time the State Baptist Convention was held in Douglas.

There followed a series of pastors until the arrival of Rev. John Falconer whose faithful ministry all during the depression years of the 1930s was a great blessing to the church.

In 1938 a hot air furnace was installed, basement remodeled and the kitchen enlarged; but the need of more space became urgent, and in 1946 the church purchased one of the buildings at the old Prisoner of War Camp and moved it to the lot to be used as Sunday School rooms.

In May of 1947, Rev. Clyde Thompson accepted the call to be pastor and under his leadership the church continued to grow and plans went ahead for an adequate sanctuary which was completed in March of 1957. This same year we began broadcasting some of our Sunday morning services. During 1965 our last bond was paid off and the church was debt free. This was the 50th anniversary of the church.

After 30 years of faithful service, Rev. Thompson gave his last sermon on Mother's Day of May 1977. The attendance at Sunday School and Church has continued to grow and in the fall of 1979 a decision was reached to have two Sunday morning services. To give more room for growth, the house and lot immediately south of the



First Baptist Church 1915 Chapel car.

church building were purchased in 1978 and paid off in 1980.

First publication of a monthly newsletter was issued in September of 1980. We became even more active in mission work, supporting Bill and Kathy Bacheller in Trinidad, West Indies and other missionaries in the U.S. and Thailand.

"Elective" Sunday School classes for adults started in 1981 and this brought immediate and large increases in attendance.

March of 1983 brought a decision to build additional space for Sunday School classes and morning worship. Our 11 o'clock worship service is now broadcast every Sunday.

Val Keiter took up duties as our first full time Administrator of the church in September of 1983. This will relieve our pastor of some of the heavy workload he has been carrying.

The addition to our sanctuary plus more classrooms were begun in midsummer of 1984. As usual, our goal is not to build buildings, but to use buildings, as we invite people to Christ and as we build up Christians in their faith.

Grace V. Hardy

## St. James Catholic Church Douglas

The first priest known to have come through Douglas, Wyoming was Father Patrick Brophy. In a letter received from him he writes, "I visited Douglas in June 1887 and Mass was celebrated for the first time in Douglas on Sunday, June 5, 1887 in a public hall in the western part of town. It was the end of the road at that time. I also said Mass at old Fort Fetterman on this occasion. The fort was then being dismantled."

"When I was preaching the first Sunday, a short-handled heavy ax came flying through the door. The congregation became excited and was going to administer treatment. The poor fellow was on his way home to his dugout in a sandhill further west. This was a form of salutation in those 'wet early days' in Douglas.

"I visited Douglas again in August 1887 and said Mass in the same hall. Then in October, Wyoming became a diocese. My last trip was in 1896, a little while before the arrival of Bishop Lanahan. On this last trip to Douglas, I found very few Catholics there and the town looked like Goldsmith's Deserted Village."

In June 1898 Bishop Thomas M. Lanahan confirmed the four O'Brien girls, Margaret Ferguson and William Henry in the old Town Hall, then situated on Third and Center Streets.

Father James Keating of Casper began to come to Douglas regularly for services in the fall of 1898. That same year, he erected a small church at 127 North Fifth Street. The total cost of this church was \$876.45. The last payment was made in 1901.

During the next several years, priests again came to Douglas sporadically. Beginning in December 1902, Father George Bryant of Casper visited Douglas regularly. In the spring of 1905, he succeeded in preparing several Catholics for confirmation by Bishop James John Keane.

Bishop Keane saw the need of stationing a priest in Douglas. Father Neil Brennan, Chaplain at Fort Robinson, was the first to fill the position on a full-time basis although he remained only a few months.

In 1907, the church on North 5th Street was sold to J. A. McDermott who moved it to 222 South Sixth Street where it was made into a residence and remains there in 1986. Assumedly Masses were said in Unity Temple.

Toward the end of 1909, Father Ignatius Berna, a teacher at Trenton College, Trenton, New Jersey, became the first Franciscan pastor at St. James in charge of 10,000 square miles of mission area including Lusk, Wheatland, Glenrock, Van Tassell, Manville, and Salt Creek. His assistants were Father James Hermes and Father Dominic Miller.

Father Ignatius' first task was erecting a new church and rectory. Property including a seven room house was purchased from Harry LeBar at the southeast corner of Fifth and Elm Streets for \$4,000 in October 1910. Mass was said in the house; and on Sundays, a late Mass was held at the Unity Temple.

The cornerstone of the new St. James Church was laid at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 14, 1912. The new church was estimated to cost \$8,000 and could seat 175. The dedication was held June 1, 1913 with Bishop Patrick McGovern officiating. A Solemn High Mass was sung. Father James was celebrant, Father Dominic deacon, and Father Ignatius sub-deacon. Bishop McGovern delivered the sermon.

Father James succeeded Father Ignatius and remained pastor until October 1916. Rev. Father Mathias was then appointed as acting pastor and continued in this capacity until November 1918 when Father Adolph Bernhoiz was sent to Douglas as pastor. During his administration the brick St. Louis Church was built at Glenrock at a cost of about \$10,000.

Records show that in 1935 Bishop McGovern donated a new automobile to the parish. This must have made the assistants' travels a lot more bearable and much more dependable. In the year 1939, St James church held 20 baptisms and ten marriages. Just for comparison, in 1979, the last year before the new church was built, there were 54 baptisms and nine marriages.

During the '60s the home of Elizabeth and John Flynn was moved from the southwest corner of Fifth and Elm to its present northeast corner to be used as a convent. St. James Center was erected on the vacated land. When it was built it was intended that it would be staffed with sisters and become a regular school. That never did become a reality, but it has given the parish classrooms, a parish hall, and a kitchen.

The end came about when it was no longer possible to ignore the fact that Douglas had tripled in population and that St. James Church was bursting at the seams. In 1979 an architect was selected, plans were solidified, pledges were made and the old church came crashing down. The next spring a hole appeared in the ground and the new St. James Church began to rise. On March 22, 1981, on a windy and cool day, the cornerstone of the newest St. James Church was laid.

Donna York



## Congregational United Church of Christ

In August 1886, two young theological students representing the Congregational faith came to Douglas and held the first services in the dining room of the hotel at Fort Fetterman. By the next month, the "Tabernacle," a shack-tent, was built in the permanent town along Antelope Creek. It housed Congregational, then Presbyterian, then Congregational congregations once more.

The first Sunday School was organized November 14, 1886 with H. R. Paul as superintendent, Mrs. Lane as his assistant, and C. O. Davis as secretary. Thirty-six scholars were enrolled.

The first pastor of the yet-to-be-organized church was Reverend Bross from Chadron, Nebraska who arrived in December 1886 and formally established the Congregational Church.

The Ladies Aid was organized in March 1887 with Mrs. Lee Moore as president.

On July 10, 1887, the first building committee was appointed to find a suitable building for worship. On July 25, 1887, the First Congregational Church was located on Center Street where the Episcopal rectory now stands; the pastor was Rev. Benjamin Stanton.

During the years 1889-1890, the church met in the Methodist Church rooms every other Sunday. In 1891, rooms were secured in the Lageir Building on Center Street. On February 11, 1893, the Congregationalists moved into a new church, 32 feet square, costing a total of \$1,455. This building was on the site of the church recently vacated on North Fourth Street between Center and Walnut Streets.

On April 11, 1899, the church was officially recognized as the First Congregational Church of Douglas, Wyoming.

By 1912, the little white wooden church was not large enough; and for another two years, another building was used for worship. In 1915, yet another building committee was formed to plan a new church facility on the same site.

The cornerstone of the new church was laid on July 6, 1916. The building cost \$15,000 with members raising \$4,000 and the Congregational Building Society loaning \$350 to begin the project. During the years prior to 1937, many pastors came and went.

Reverend Lewis Gale became pastor in 1937; and during his pastorate which ended in 1952, the mortgage was paid and burned, except the loan from the CBS. Renovations were made which included accoustical tile, a new organ, and wood floors for the Fellowship Hall.

Prior to the 70th anniversary, under the pastorate of Reverend Dr. Herman Linderman, another renovation program took place - such things as new lighting, remodeling the kitchen, a new roof, and a new brick front stairway entrance.

In the summer of 1977, the church was given its final face lift with paint and cleaning for its 90th anniversary.

A gift of land during the winter of 1983 prompted the members to realize that a new church was possible. Large gifts from several families gave the building program a big boost. Eddie Moore, Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee, led the way followed by Earl Scott, Chairman of the Building Committee. After

months of planning, working, committees and more committees, the ground for a new church at 605 North Sixth Street at Poplar was broken. Griffin Construction and Design submitted the low bid of \$509,225; and ground-breaking took place on a bleak March 4, 1984. Nine months later, the first worship service was held in the new church.

Much of the latest progress of the Congregational Church can be credited to the leadership of its present pastor, Reverend Robert W. Nuhn, who has served the church since 1976. The present congregation has a membership of 230 which continues to grow.

Carol Highfill

## Christ Episcopal Church of Douglas

When two theology students held the first church services in Douglas in May 1886, their church was a saloon in one of three moveable tents where a card table served as an altar. And in Chicago that year a new missionary district was created on the western frontier by the Episcopal Church, and a young priest from Missouri was elected to serve as bishop.

Bishop Ethelbert Talbot arrived at his appointed district, Wyoming and Idaho Territories in July of 1887. By then Douglas was a thriving frontier town and church services were held regularly in a building known to all as "The Tabernacle." Denominational congregations were organized in those early years, but occasional visits from circuit riders and ordained clergy were long awaited events and attracted townsfolk of all persuasions.

Bishop Talbot made his first visit to Douglas in the spring of 1888. Finding an enthusiastic hunger for God's word and a strong desire for an Episcopal Church, he arranged to preach there whenever possible. By 1890 he had a considerable following, so it wasn't surprising when a meeting of the bishop and interested families of the community resulted in the purchase of the Congregational Church building by the Episcopal Church of the Missionary District of Wyoming and Idaho.

Dr. Mortimer Jesurun, Messrs. George, Fred and Harry Foxton, George Metcalf, DeForest Richards, L.J. Swan and John T. Williams served on the first vestry and J.S. James was the first rector. Pastor James had recently immigrated from England and was new to the Episcopal Church. He was unaccustomed to the services, but it being difficult to attract priests to the western territories, the bishop sent for him anyway.

The bishop's apprehension concerning his new priest was realized at their first meeting. The only vestments that could be found to garb the diminutive fellow were from the boys' choir room, his knowledge of the Prayer Book was non-existent and he had the peculiar habit of addressing the bishop as "Your Lordship." However, after two days of tutoring, he was probably about as familiar with the service as his varied flock whom, according to the bishop, did not have an Episcopalian among them. Rev. James remained at Christ Church for three years, passed his examinations and was ordained to the priesthood. His ministry was followed by Reverend John Leal and in 1896 Reverend J.H. Dodshon was called.

By 1897 the congregation had outgrown its building. Reverend Dodshon, Bishop Talbot and a six-man building committee began to draw up the plans for a new Episcopal Church to be built on the corner lot next door to the existing building. The proposed site would face onto Fourth Street and adjoin the presently occupied property east of it on Center Street. The members of the building committee, DeForest Richards, Dr. Jesurun, George Metcalf, L.J. Swan, F.S. Knittle and Mr. Foote received bids, finally accepting one for \$2,190, submitted by T.A. Littleton.

Construction began in July 1898 and the cornerstone containing several timely articles was laid on August 9. The town's Opera House was secured for services to accommodate the growing congregation and it was here that Bishop Talbot preached his farewell sermon on September 7, 1898 for he had been elected Bishop for the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania.

The new church was completed soon after the bishop's departure and dedication Sunday was held on the Feast of Christ the King, November 20, 1898. A total of five services were held that day and among those present were guest musicians and visiting clergy from Laramie, Lusk and other towns in the diocese. The celebration continued on November 13th when the choir hosted a party and fireworks display to commemorate the historic event. Many of the money raisers organized to help pay the debt on the new church were established as social traditions and held annually. The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper in February is one special event that is still carried on. Concerts, lectures and fancy balls were sponsored. A turkey dinner in November and a summer craft fair became traditional community events even though the church was no longer the sponsoring body. Election night balls and Easter Monday dances were held for years, but originated as projects to help raise money for a new rectory.

Reverend Dodshon stayed on at Christ Church until after the turn of the century, but left before the rectory was realized. He must have kept a special place in his heart for Christ Church, though. He returned on Novem-

ber 18, 1912 to observe dedication Sunday and conduct services. At that time, he was the Archdeacon of the Diocese of Ohio.

When Reverend J. Arthur Tancock came to Christ Church in 1903 he began the first rural ministry which is carried on to this day. He and his family were beloved in and about Douglas and during his eight year ministry the church continued to have an important role in the life of the community. In 1909, during Tancock's time as rector, the new rectory was built on the lot where once stood the little Episcopal Church that was purchased in 1890.

Except for a change from the original pale green to a white exterior, most of the changes that have taken place in more than 85 years have not altered the appearance of Christ Church. In 1946 a basement was excavated. Six years later the steeple and bell tower, which had been condemned as unsafe, were repaired and restored to their original height. In August of 1979 a new parish hall was added on the south grounds and is a testimony to an ever growing Christian enthusiasm. On November 17, 1980, the church and rectory were entered in the National Register of Historic Places by the Department of the Interior. This designation guarantees the preservation of the church as the only remaining wooden church in Douglas which still represents the Gothic Revival Architecture of the mid and late 19th century.

Adding to the history of Christ Church while preserving its functional purpose as a place of worship, the interior was remodeled in the summer of 1981. Changes included arranging the sanctuary with a free-standing altar and removing the rood screen. None of the changes made were such that the original interior could not be restored if desired. In the summer of 1982 white steel siding was applied over the wooden exterior, thus protecting the original building.

Whether a brand new church in a tiny pioneer town or a quaint little church in a modern Wyoming community, Christ Church, Douglas, is a proclamation by Christ's people to all who pass through town or tarry.

Lee Ann Siebken



Steffen Drug Store - Center Street, Douglas, Wyoming



String teams on Center Street by C. H. King Store - 1886



Douglas Budget Office 1886 - Douglas, Wyoming, Tent Town, north of Antelope Creek. L. to r.: Frank Barrow, Minnie F. Barrow, Helen Barrow, M. C. Barros and Sam Slaymaker.



Douglas, circa 1915.

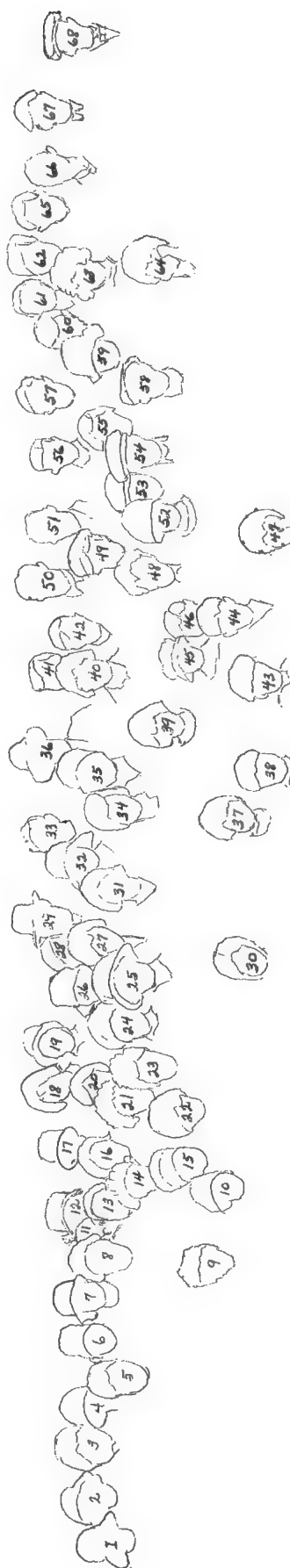
# COMMUNITIES



Douglas looking north on Sixth Street.



Community Hall,  
Sunday school,



- |                        |                        |                       |                     |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Mrs. Doc Cross      | 37. Margaret Federer   | 49. Willis Walton     | 61. Sam Brockmeyer  |
| 2. Mrs. Lon Walton     | 38. Paul Walton        | 50. Louie Federer     | 62. Ernest Steinle  |
| 3. Mrs. Louie Federer  | 39. Dorothy Federer    | 51. John Wohlford     | 63. Frances Huff    |
| 4. Mrs. George Peake   | 40. Mary Riehle        | 52. Fayne Hilton      | 64. Huff            |
| 5. Mrs. Simmons        | 41. I. V. Wallace      | 53. Bertie Oakley     | 65. Clinton Owen    |
| 6. Mrs. Rubie Wohlford | 42. Doc Cross          | 54. Raymond Riehle    | 66. Doctor Lynch    |
| 7. Mrs. Jacob Riehle   | 43. Harris Federer     | 55. Mrs. Clyde Reeves | 67. Carroll Ballard |
| 8. Mrs. Jacob Riehle   | 44. George Riehle      | 56. Vern Kuykendall   | 68. Herbert Riehle  |
| 9. Earl Brockmeyer     | 45. Wilma Hilton       | 57. August Riehle     |                     |
| 10. Mrs. Ross Owen     | 46. Mae Oakley         | 58. Rowland Riehle    |                     |
| 11. Rosina Owen        | 47. Pauline Reeves     | 59. Mrs. Amos Stone   |                     |
| 12. Mrs. Ross Owen     | 48. Francis Brockmeyer | 60. Amos Stone        |                     |



## Bill

Before the Dry Creek community had a post office we waited until someone was going to Douglas and then neighbors would ask whoever was going to town to bring the mail. Often the visitor to Douglas would bring the mail for six or seven, maybe ten families along with needed supplies—sugar, coffee, thread, etc.

In April 1919 a group of neighbors who were living in the vicinity of the present Bill Post Office and north along the Cheyenne River area met at the Fairview School. The purpose of the meeting was to establish a Grange. Granges were being organized at this time by farmers who believed agriculturalists should unite. The attendees at this meeting on April 9, 1919 at the school soon decided a post office was more important. As I remember, Bill Dorr, Bill McMann, Bill Barker, Bill Howisay, "Bob" Featherston and Harry Russell were some of the staunchest promoters for the post office.

It was necessary for the community to provide some funds before the post office could be established. One project I remember was a "Sock Social." The idea was the same as a Box Social excepting that the women packed the lunches in stockings instead of boxes. The stockings were auctioned to the highest bidder and the man who bought the stocking ate with the lady who prepared the lunch. My what a display of ideas! Some lunches were packed in a pair of men's work socks, some in ladies silk hose, some had tassels and bells on the heels and toes, some had fancy garters. I remember whispers among the women about "What was Bill Dorr going to do with seven pairs of socks he bought?" He had only two sons and I don't know what happened. I believe he and his two boys sat with the women and had a picnic.

Another event was an evening entertainment. The young people in the community put on a play. The stage was built outside the Fairview School House and the actors used the school room for dressing and the windows as entrances to the stage. The stage was lighted with gasoline lanterns and the audience sat in the yard on benches. The young Steinles and the Bushey girls were the actors. Elisabeth and I thought Betty and Rose Steinle and Nina, Emma and Marie Bushey were the prettiest young women we had ever seen and that Fred and Ernie Steinle were handsome young men.

The post office became a reality on September 12, 1919. It was located on Bill Barker's homestead which is



Bill, Wyoming community hall 1920s

perhaps three miles east and a mile north of the present Mary Steinle ranch headquarters. The name first chosen for the post office was Barker. When it was learned that there was already a post office with that name, the name of Bill was proposed because so many of the promoters were named Bill.

And it was accepted. The first Postmaster was Bill Barker.

Mrs. Tom Hamlin was the next Postmistress. When they moved to Idaho, the post office was moved to the Dry Creek Store and Roy Lynch became the Postmaster. It is still located at this place. James McCall was the first carrier.

Bill Barker was quite an interesting fellow, a bachelor who prided himself on his bread making and always had it in the oven when the mail came. He had a violin which he was always ready to play. I can't remember if he knew any tunes other than "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" and "Listen to the Mockingbird."

Anna Ballard

## Douglas

An article in the June 23, 1936 edition of the Douglas Enterprise written by A. R. Merritt tells the following about the founding of Douglas, "In April 1886, there were three tents pitched on the shore of the Platte River just north of where Antelope Creek empties into the stream. One was occupied as a general merchandise store by C.H. King and Co. under the management of J.F. McReynolds, who afterwards became our first postmaster, one by a restaurant and the other a saloon.

"People came in slowly until June, when arrivals were very rapid and pitching their tents wherever there was a favorable spot. Later in the same month when the construction company began building the fill and grade, nearly all were obliged to move on the hill just above Antelope Creek.

"There were three streets in this tent town, all classes of businesses, including a newspaper, "Bill Barlow's Budget," many saloons and two large dance halls. The proprietors furnished the dancing girls and after each dance you set up the beer to your partner at the



Bill, Wyoming store 1920s



Douglas 1886 - Looking west from David Hill

cost of a quarter. With so many saloons one would think that this would be a very disorderly community, which was not the case.

"Fort Fetterman had been the supply point for the stockmen, but hearing of the larger stocks of merchandise in the new tent town, people came here more and more to do their trading.

"Many a time we would hear at the breakfast table that C. H. King and Co. sold \$500 worth of goods before breakfast.

"August 29, the first passenger train arrived loaded with people. The next day the sale of lots began, the town having been platted during the summer.

"The first lot sold brought \$760 and sold to A. R. Merritt. (This lot is owned by Higgins in 1985.) The First National Bank corner (Third and Center Streets - Gambles in 1985) brought \$1,200. In all there were 242 lots sold at public auction for \$70,405.

"Erection of buildings began immediately and for the next 60 days you would hear the pounding of hammers from daylight until dark.

"In October an epidemic of typhoid fever developed. Dr. Barber had gone east for treatment on account of contracting blood poisoning. Dr. Wilson at one time was visiting as many as 60 patients daily. During this epidemic we lost our first school teacher, Cora M. Rice, and two other persons.

"Jim Bury built a two-story structure, the lower part of which remains standing just south of the light plant. Here were held the first schools, churches, lodges, public meetings, dances, and other entertainments.

"During the fall of 1886, great numbers of cattle were driven in from Texas. The range was very much overstocked. When the March storms came on, there being very little feed and cattle thin and poor, half of them laid down and died. This calamity put a crimp in the community and from a settlement of at least 1,500 it gradually dwindled down to less than 400."

From "Bill Barlow's Budget" anniversary edition, 1907, we learn: "Coincident with removal from the temporary to the permanent townsite a move was made looking to incorporation; but the proposition was voted down at a mass meeting held September 19, 1886. Those favoring the proposition made a census in March 1887, and listed 805 souls, and at another mass meeting held March 10th it was decided to incorporate and a committee comprising F.E. Caffey, C.M. Garver, J.A. Bennett, Tim Higgins and M. C. Barrow were named to take the necessary legal steps. This application was finally granted by the commissioners of Albany County in September, and at a mass meeting held October 3rd it was decided to ignore party lines, and C.M. Garver was nominated for mayor, F.E. Caffey, C.E. Clay, J.M. Wilson and W.F. Miller for council; L.C. Nash treasurer, M.C. Barrow clerk and J.W. Overman marshal. Although another ticket was placed in the field all were elected, and at the first meeting of the council held October 7th M.B. Camplin was appointed city attorney and J.H. Hutchison assessor."

A census taken in the winter of 1888 by Judge Maurer and M. C. Barrow showed less than 300 people in Douglas. Those remaining had courage and energy and a firm faith in the future. Boosters who not only believed but

who made others believe as well - who evolved the municipal slogan of "Knock the Knocker - Douglas Does!" And so through the years - slowly at first - Douglas regained population until it had reached almost 2,000 people in 1907.

Many changes were taking place by the time the twentieth century arrived. In 1902, the Unity Temple Building (Bolln's Food Market) was built. The second floor was used for a place to hold dances, meetings, etc. E.E. Russell tells of the time when a cowboy decided to crash a dance on his horse. He rode his animal up the stairs onto the dance floor; then after surveying the scene, and his horse slipping around on the dance floor, he rode his horse back down the stairs. Many masquerade balls and dances were held there.

The Wyoming State Fair was organized in 1905 as noted in the Fair article in this book. One of its attractions was the first car in Douglas. It was a chain-driven, two-cylinder Rambler owned by Friday Nelson. Tickets were sold at 50¢ each to ride in the car.

A landmark still around is the LaBonte Hotel (Inn). It was built in 1913.

The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy R.R. was built through Douglas in 1914.

On July 4, 1924, one of the largest crowds ever to gather in one place in the State of Wyoming congregated at the Wyoming State Fairgrounds. An audience of 6,000 people came to hear Madame Ernestine Schumann-Hienk sing. She was a world reknown Wagnerian contralto who had been engaged by the Douglas American Legion to perform for one of its fund raising efforts to raise money for the local airport.

The event was described in a July 1924 edition of the "Douglas Budget," "When asked what was the climax of her career, Madam Schumann-Heink replied, 'Yes, I know, it was in a little town that has not yet found its name registered on the map - Douglas, Wyoming.

"I had been asked to sing there, and I had expected to greet a small audience but to my astonishment I had an audience of 6,000 people.

"Some had motored-for others the railroad had run special trains-while the great mass of the audience were cowboys.

"The concert began! I gave the best I had to give. I gave them thrills, coloratura and bravura.

"In return they deafened me and themselves with applause. One cowboy, with a wild yell, leaped from his saddle, dashed over to me, hugged me, kissed me, and presented me with his whip and sombrero. At this there was almost a general stampede.

"And then I decided to give them something from my soul-I sang them that simple little song in which lives the whole of life - 'The Rosary'.

"As I finished there was no applause-but that of a big sob from 6,000 throats. That was the biggest moment of my life-the greatest success of my career."

The Woodruff Seed Company built a two-story building on Center Street between the two railroad tracks to process seeds of many agricultural plants. It was a source of employment for many people until they shut the doors in the 1950s. The building was moved south in the 1960s to house the present livestock sale barn.

The population of the town stayed fairly constant

until the 1970s when the energy boom came to the county. The census showed Douglas to have 3,000 in 1970 and 6,000 in 1980. New annexations were made, some of them are: Clearfield, Riverbend, Frontier Village and others.

New public buildings were also built during this time. A new County Courthouse, Hospital, High School and Middle School are among them.

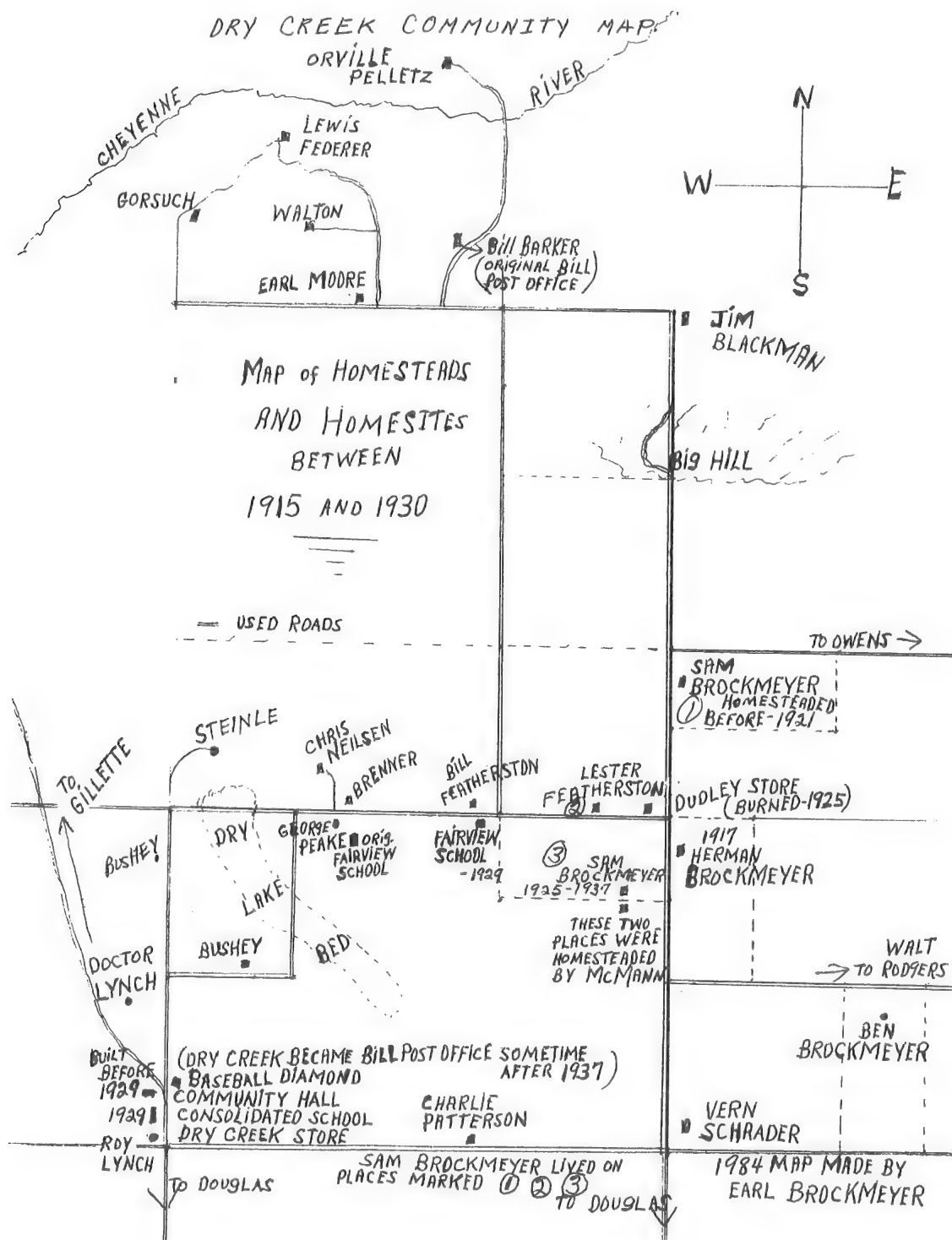
Dick George is presently serving as Mayor with Brad Johnson, Tracy Gentle, Mac Payne and Russell Kueck as councilmen.

John R. Pexton

## Dry Creek

The Dry Creek Community takes its name from the "dry" stream - Dry Creek that runs past two miles south of Bill. Settled in the late teens and up to the 30s, the Dry Creek Community included an area of about six to ten miles radius from the present Bill Store. Now it takes in most of northeast Converse County, including the old communities of Bill, Verse, Dull Center and Cow Creek.

Verse was said to be the end of the county so they took





the end of the name "Converse" for its name.

The Dudley Store sprang up early on the corner bordering the Brockmeyer and Featherston farms. It did rather scant business because no one had enough cash to buy much. The store also included a garage and gas station right next to it. The most excitement that Dry Creek ever had was one night in 1925 when someone was short of gas and the store was closed. The prospective "buyer" checked to see if there was any gas by lighting a match and the whole gasoline supply caught fire! The whole community soon showed up and carried water in buckets from a nearby pond. By soaking the roof of the store they managed to save it but the garage was lost. The store soon closed up. The Lynch Store near the Community Hall started up and is still in operation.

The speed of communication got a big boost in north-east Dry Creek when some hand-crank telephones were brought in. The unbelievable part of the operation was the use of the barbed wire stock fences as the wires connecting each family's phone to his neighbors. How rusty barbed wire could be wrapped together and still conduct a current is still a miracle! Whenever the "telephone line" came to a gate, an extra piece of wire had to be run up on poles and over the gate high enough to clear any load that came through the gate. It was even more difficult to get the wire to cross the main roads but it was done. Every time a cow tore down the fence the telephone wouldn't work!

The Dry Creek Community Hall was built in 1927. 116 families and businesses donated from one to ten dollars and labor to build the hall on land donated by Dr. and Mrs. H.G. Lynch. First priority was to be Sunday School and Church, then it could be used for other community gatherings. Earlier, Sunday School was held in schools. The tree windbreak was planted in 1930 or 1931.

A "Dry Creek Home Harvest Festival" fair was started in 1927. People brought exhibits of vegetables, field crops, flowers, clothing, fancy work, food and 4-H projects. There was a picnic lunch at noon, then a baseball game, foot races, penny toss for tiny kids, wrestling, boxing and pie eating contests, followed by a dance lasting until daylight. The "stand" was open all day to sell ice cream cones, pop and hot dogs. These fairs continued until the mid 1950's.

The first Fourth of July celebration, rodeo and dance were held in 1928, with the chute being built in 1930. Prize money paid out was:

Bucking Contest (\$1.00 per head entry fee)	\$52.00
Horse Race	6.00
Ball Game	10.00
Girls Foot Race	.75
Music for Dance	30.00

One celebration ended up with six inches of snow.

In the early 1930's, Dry Creek had a baseball team and in 1932 they won the Converse County Farm Bureau Baseball League Championship. Eldon Alvord was manager, Olaf Hanson, captain and players were; Emmet and Melvin Ballard, Wm. Dixon, Ivan Crouse, Babe Reed, Wm. Reed, Paul Sevier, John Lofstead, Rodney Funk and Howard Dickson. They played ball at the Dry Creek ball diamond nearly every Sunday afternoon in the summer.

The hall was a place for literary gatherings. Literary

musicians in the late 20s and early 30s included Red Githens on guitar, Olaf Hansen on violin and Anna Lynch on the piano. Every month or so there would be a Saturday night dance with local people playing the music. Ray Henry was one of the square dance callers.

There were various clubs: 4-H, a Men's Club, Extension Homemakers, Grange and Farm Bureau. The Dry Creek 4-H Club celebrated its 45th anniversary in 1977 with a prize winning float in the state fair parade. It featured a huge birthday cake on a horse drawn wagon driven by two of the first members and followed by many others who had been members over the years.

The highway between Dry Creek and Douglas was moved to its present site and built up in 1935 and 1936. The "shoulders" were finished with horse and fresco. Many local people took their teams and worked on the new road. A lot of coal was trucked from the Antelope Creek coal mine during those years. It was oiled to Dry Creek in 1939 and the highway on to Gillette was straightened, built up and graveled at that time.

Many changes have taken place through the years. Cattle and sheep still graze, but people have given up trying to farm unless they can irrigate. People now travel in nice cars, four wheel drive pickups, and airplanes. Many of the roads are all-weather (more or less). Electricity arrived in the south part of the community in 1960, telephones in 1976, although there had been various "fence line" phones for years. The railroad started hauling coal in 1979, a school bus now runs from Bill to Douglas for high school students and others desiring to ride it.

The one thing that hasn't changed is Mother Nature. She still shows who is boss when she comes through with an "equalizer" blizzard like the one in April 1984.

Jewell Reed  
Earl Brockmeyer  
Elizabeth Heibert  
Harvey Brockmeyer

## Esterbrook

Tales of turn-of-the-century mining claims at Esterbrook, while seldom heard these days around the Laramie Peak region of eastern Wyoming, continue to interest many old timers and newcomers alike.

Perhaps the first person to actually settle in the Laramie Peak region was Jackson "Jack" Newell, a trapper and big game hunter who, in 1876, came into Wyoming Territory from Iowa to hunt elk for supplying meat to eating houses along the Union Pacific.

While hunting one day Newell reportedly came across an out-cropping of galena (lead ore) in some rocky ledges near Laramie Peak. For him prospecting at that time was merely an avocation. But in 1879 Jack was joined in Wyoming by his brother, Harrison Newell, who, although having come west primarily for his health, also became interested in mining. Not until Harrison stumbled one day upon a large gold nugget, however, did his prospecting take on a fevered pitch.

With this discovery the Newells reportedly sent east for their brothers Jim and George and together the four



of them developed the Silver Tip Mine near Eagle Peak. When, after five years the venture proved unprofitable, the brothers turned to ranching for a livelihood. The area they worked, however, is known yet today as Miner's Hill, although no work has been done there since the turn of the century.

Esterbrook at this time was yet to be founded. In the years since, however, five generations of this pioneering family have lived in this north Laramie Peak region.

Mining activity in the area known today as Esterbrook reportedly had its beginning in 1897 when General W. "Ginny" Johnston began digging with pick and shovel on a barren crossing of two rocky trails about eleven miles north of Laramie Peak.

An earnest prospector, Johnston managed to dig a hole ten feet deep. Even more amazing he had unearthed an impressive showing of lead, copper and some gold. Now, no longer able to throw his diggings to the top, Johnston hired Tommy Barnes to operate a hand windlass, a venture which continued for several years.

According to recorded documents Johnston and Barnes were associated with three other pioneer residents of that area (namely Lyman B. Cooper, John "Jack" Foxton and M.B.O. Rutherford) in the early promotion of four mineral claims. These were sold to the Esterbrook Mining Company on July 1, 1897 for \$10,000. The company was incorporated August 31, 1900 with a capital stock of \$125,000. Foxton at this time was reportedly appointed mine superintendent.

Under corporate management and with additional capital derived from the sale of stock to eastern interests, the Esterbrook Mining Company flourished during the winter of 1902-03. A large shaft house was built and equipped at the mine site.

About this time A.R. Kelly of Queens County, New York became an active promoter of the venture. He reportedly took up residence at Esterbrook in order to assume alternate around-the-clock shifts with Foxton, the two of them firing the big boiler which supplied steam for the compressor that powered the drills and hoist.

While Foxton and Kelly are credited with getting a post office for Esterbrook it was actually Merdy Coffee's voluntary rides, horseback, the four miles between Springhill and Esterbrook every weekday that finally convinced the U.S. Postal Department in Washington that the new mining camp had enough cancellations to warrant mail service.

At first the camp's post office was located in one end of the company owned boarding house run by Frank Tinkham who served as the mine's head cook. While Kelly and Foxton are listed on the "official" roster as Esterbrook's first two Postmasters, it is Tinkham who followed third in 1911 that is best remembered by the area's old timers as actually having tended to post office duties.

Esterbrook was named for Esther Cooper, wife of Andrew Cooper.

Drillers, muckers, blacksmiths, woodcutters, firemen, tool dressers, hoist operators and handy men all were part of the settlement that grew up around the Esterbrook Mine with a work force of about 20 men at the time operations reached a peak in 1906. Other major mining operations adjacent to Esterbrook, most of which had their heyday between 1900 and 1929, included the Hobo Mine, the Maggie Murphy, the Three Cripples, the Tenderfoot, Saul's Camp, the Snowbird and the Trail Creek Mine. Each of these, with the exception of the Hobo, is discussed, in depth, in a journal published in 1916



Esterbrook Lodge 1930

by the U.S. Department of the Interior, copies of which are now rare.

In September 1907 the Esterbrook Mining Company sold to Kelly and two New England partners for \$39,000. Legal documents show that the company, in turn, was resold a month later to the Boston-Wyoming Copper Company of Tie Siding, Wyoming, for a reported \$1,199,850. Kelly served as secretary of this latter firm.

For years optimism ran high with regard to the mine's future. The ore never ran out but operations repeatedly had to fold for six months or longer as the money dwindled. The mine's promoters, however, continued to believe paying quantities of ore would eventually be found.

By 1910 the Esterbrook Mine had a main shaft 300 feet deep with two major drifts and several lesser ones running in various directions. The north drift reportedly extended some 170 feet. Two "stations" excavated at different levels along the main shaft housed pumps and tools. Ground water from springs was one of the major problems constantly dealt with at Esterbrook.

Recorded documents show that the Esterbrook claims were repurchased by sheriff's sale on June 21, 1916 by Kelly, Hency C. Hall and Frank E. Woodruff for \$4,100 and, in turn, assigned on February 7, 1917 to the Esterbrook Copper Company, a Delaware corporation with a capital stock of \$100,000; trustees Omar Powell, E.W. Stevens and G.J. McNeill. Powell reportedly forced the Boston-Wyoming Company to sell the mining claims to settle his judgment against them for 100,000 shares of capital stock.

Woodruff redeemed the property on January 13, 1925 for a \$7.19 tax sale from Albany County (Esterbrook did not become part of Converse County until 1956), with the land being transferred at that time to the Esterbrook Lead & Mining Company, a Delaware corporation. Woodruff and his family during these years occasionally vacationed in Esterbrook and are well remembered by that community's older residents.

When work was again resumed at the mine in 1925 under Woodruff's direction, it is said that two weeks were required to pump the shaft dry before work could begin. When operations finally ceased many of the miners settled in the region as homesteaders and ranchers.

On October 11, 1941 ownership of the Esterbrook mining claims passed to Luther Freeman whose heirs hold the property today. The last work in the mine was reportedly done the summer of 1943 under the supervision of Dean Butler of Lusk. Of all the buildings once a part of this mine complex only two are said to remain; the old powder house in which mine explosives were stored and the Kelly house (residence of the A.R. Kelly family during the mine's heyday) now partially dismantled with the remaining portion leased as a summer cabin.

As the mines around Esterbrook, most of them within a ten square mile area, began to falter in the early decades of this century, some of the community's residents began catering to a resort trade as a means of livelihood. Thus, Esterbrook soon became a popular retreat for summer residents. A business which, in recent years, has grown to year-round status.

Peg Layton Leonard

## Glenrock

Located at the confluence of Deer Creek and the North Platte River, Glenrock has the distinction of setting astride three of America's most famous pioneer trails.

Glenrock's first recorded brush with destiny came on December 1812. Robert Stuart with a group of American trappers, bent on escaping an Arapaho war party crossed a creek later to be called several names before being named Deer. They were "Deep," "Fish," and finally "Deer." Stuart recorded in his diary his crossing on December 18, 1812.

Mormon stalwarts, the first destined to go to Salt Lake Valley under the leadership of Brigham Young, stopped at Deer Creek on June 10 and 11, 1847.

In the spring of 1849, the great gold rush was underway. From atop the Rock-in-the-Glen a continuous stream of wagon trains could be seen.

On October 9, 1856 Hyrum Kimball, a Utah Mormon, was awarded a postal contract from Independence, Missouri to Salt Lake City. Early the following spring, Kimball began constructing the Deer Creek Mail Station three and a half miles up Deer Creek from where the Oregon Trail crossed the creek. By July a corps of 76 men had planted crops, built two irrigation ditches, erected a mill, constructed a fort, and were in the process of erecting 42 houses when without warning or Congressional approval, President Buchanan declared war on the Mormons. The mail station was immediately abandoned with all workers fleeing to the safety of the Salt Lake Valley.

In this setting, Joseph Bissonette moved his trading post to Deer Creek in the fall of 1857. Following close behind was Major Thomas Twiss, Indian Agent for the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the Upper Platte Agency. Taking over the abandoned Mormon mail station on October 29, 1857, he shortly entered into a treaty with various Indian chieftains, which had it been ratified by Congress would have created an Indian Reservation on Deer Creek.

In 1859, German Lutheran missionaries wintered at the "Twiss Agency" along with two companies of troops under the command of Captain William F. Raynolds, all guests of Major Twiss. That Christmas at the Agency, the Lutheran clergy celebrated the first formal Christmas ceremony ever held in what ten years later would become Wyoming Territory.

A station for the Overland Stage near Bissonette's trading post came into being in 1859 with Joseph Bissonette being named Postmaster. The following spring a relay station for the Pony Express was erected. In the fall of 1861, the transcontinental telegraph was completed and a relay station was built. By 1862, a military outpost named Deer Creek Station was added. It had a military surgeon and on occasion, an officer with the rank of colonel carrying out sorties against renegade bands of Indians.

John Bozeman used Deer Creek for his original point of departure when he blazed his Bozeman Trail in 1863.

Shortly after the Indian attack on Platte River Bridge Station on July 26, 1865, the Deer Creek military

outpost was abandoned. Bissonette moved his trading post closer to the sanctuary of Fort Laramie and the following summer on August 18, 1866, the Indians burned the Deer Creek telegraph station. The Lutherans fearing attack, abandoned their Indian Mission and returned to Iowa in 1867. Gradually, Deer Creek's activities diminished - then grew silent.

Settlers began to locate in Deer Creek Valley; and by 1884, a voting precinct designated "Deer Creek" was listed in the Wyoming Territorial records. Two years later, on November 2, 1886, Territorial records for the first time lists a voting precinct called Glen Rock.

Although tradition has it that Glenrock came into existence with the coming of the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad in 1887 this writer finds no evidence to support such a belief. Similarly, nothing tangible exists to support the claim that Glenrock was once called "Mercedes" or "Nuttall."

In searching through the old Albany County records, Glen Rock was definitely in existence by 1886. The records show that Joseph McNeely mortgaged the "Olsen and Heller Livery and Feed Stable" situated on Lots 16 and 17 of Block 2 in the Town of Glen Rock on November 11, 1886. Territorial records for the Glen Rock precinct nine days earlier show that in the race for Justice of the Peace that A.A. Abbott garnered 48 votes, while M.D. Hershberger tallied 44 and F.A. Woodson came in last with 28.

On January 19, 1887, the local newspaper mortgaged all equipment "belonging to the 'Glen Rock Graphic'." The earliest copy in this writer's files is April 18, 1888, printed as "Vol. 3, No. 15." This would place the first edition as published in January 1886.

The "Glen Rock Bridge Company" was organized as a toll bridge across Deer Creek in February 1887. A bridge had previously been built by John Richard and other French fur trappers in 1852.

In May and June of 1887, the field notes of William Owen make reference to "a point just East of the buildings in the Town of Glen Rock which is wholly on the reservation" while making an official survey of the Fort Fetterman Hay Reservation for the government. Glenrock appeared on legal documents on December 7, 1887 for the first time as one word instead of two.

Upon the arrival of the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley survey crews, they were chagrined to find a townsite already laid out. After bargaining in vain with the subdividers and the Deer Creek Coal Company, it was decided to lay their own townsite further west. The depot was built close to the Rock-in-the-Glen and wasn't moved back to the original town of Glenrock until years later despite the town father's pleas.

When the railroad construction crews moved on, the town's population dwindled to a few hundred citizens. Some continued to work in the mines while others operated businesses. In Col. Emerson Kimball's "Glenrock Graphic," the local merchants aggressively advertised for new business. Some of them were: The Stroud Brother's Elkhorn Livery Stable, Bird and Post's Maverick Saloon, Lord and Payton's saloon and pool room called "Lord's House," E. J. Well's Confectionery Store, W.S. Peck did "Watch and Jewelry Repairing," P.C. Hubbard sold "Pure Drugs and Medicines," A.D.

Chamberlin peddled "Everything in the Building Line," Druhling and Co. had the "Meat Market," John Kirby ran the Sutphin Hotel and John E. Higgins owned a General Store.

A spur line was built by the railroad to the tippie of the Glenrock Coal Mine and a second spur was built to the Stone Quarry southeast of Glenrock.

Ed Shaffner built the first telephone line through Glenrock shortly after the turn of the century. The first electric plant and sewer system was built in 1918. Glenrock was on the map for sure when the "Atlantic-Yellowstone-Pacific Highway" came through town.

Two attempts to incorporate the town failed. One was defeated by the coal company because Glenrock's boundaries took in too much of its property. The second effort failed because the railroad filed complaints for the same reason. In 1909, having deleted most of the coal company and railroad lands, the vote was in favor of incorporation.

When coal mining was at its best, Glenrock's population held at about 500, but from 1906 to 1915, it dropped to hardly more than 200 citizens. Then in 1915, Parker & Whiteside discovered oil in the Shannon sand (at 1,000 feet) west of Glenrock. The following year, A.C. Humphrey completed a good producer in the Frontier sands - and the "Big Muddy" oil boom was underway. Wildcatters frantically bunched cable tool rigs so close their wooden derricks almost touched each other. By 1919, two hundred producing oil wells had turned Glenrock into a boom town once more and lots were selling for 20 times their normal value. Five miles west, the town of Parkerton sprung up as a housing and service center for the oil workers.

During the boom years, the IOOF, Commerce Block, Lincoln buildings, the Higgins Hotel, the Baptist and Catholic Churches, and most of the finer homes were built. The Episcopal Church was rebuilt on the same site as the original building which dates back to 1887.

To absorb Big Muddy's production, in 1917 the Mutual Oil Company built a refinery adjacent to Glenrock on the west. Shortly afterward, Standard Oil of Indiana followed suit with a second refinery. About that time, officials of Continental Oil began negotiating with the Yellowstone Park Transportation Company to supply lubricant and gasoline for a fleet of motor touring cars as partial replacements to their horse-drawn carriages, the only means at that time by which tourists could view Yellowstone. An agreement was reached whereby refined products would be delivered to Continental's bulk plant at Gardner, Montana. To accomplish this, teams hauled the fuel, twelve to fourteen barrels per wagon. Once the gasoline reached Montana, it was sold at four separate locations in the park by dispensing it through a piston which metered out one gallon at a time at a price of 47½¢ per gallon. In this unique way, Glenrock contributed in popularizing one of America's greatest attractions Yellowstone Park.

By the 1930s a marked reduction in oil production was evident. The pools of shallow oil were being pumped dry. An effort to drill into lower sands commenced in 1927, resulting in a second comeback. Then in 1949, rotary rigs capable of drilling to much greater depths, struck new pay sands and Glenrock experienced yet another boom.

In the mid-50s, Continental Refinery shut down



Glenrock 1880s



Glenrock Coal Mine 1880s



(Standard already had done so several years earlier) and Glenrock again looked for some form of revitalization. It came in the form of the Dave Johnston Power Plant, completed in 1964. Pacific Power's new coal-generated power plant employed a work force of such proportions that a housing development was needed to handle the influx of new residents. The old Badger coal mine, 15 miles up Sand Creek to the north was acquired. A railroad to haul the coal was built from the mine to the power plant.

The 1970s saw the uranium industry impact Glenrock. North of town the Highland Uranium District attracted major producers: Exxon, United Nuclear, Kerr-McGee, Teton Exploration, Bear Creek Uranium and others. Huge pits were dug and two mills were built, one at the Exxon facility, 20 miles to the north and the other at Bear Creek's mine on the old Ross Road.

The Glenrock-Parkerton High School (built in the 1920s) was replaced with a new facility, completed in 1967. That in turn became the Middle School upon completion of a new high school in the Oregon Trail Estates in 1981. Two years later the Administration Building and Oregon Trail Elementary School were added; and in 1984, major expansion of the Middle School was accomplished. With the Fred Grant Elementary School in place, Glenrock can accommodate a total of 1800 to 1900 students.

Yes, times have changed, but Glenrock's heritage lives on. Proud of her past - confident of her future - she remains a community steeped in tradition - a part of the heritage that made America great.

Eugene Potter

## Hyland Community

If it hadn't been for the availability of coal, the homesteaders would have left sooner than they did. The winters were so cold and there was a lot of wind, so fuel was very important.

We had 14 miles to haul coal from the head of the Cheyenne River. It took about 16 double box loads of coal to get us through the winter. We had to take off the overburden so we could get to the coal and sometimes the overburden would cave in and cover the coal. Generally, several people would go with fresno's on the same day to get the mine ready. Then we would hurry back before someone else came and took the coal.

After several years of fighting the overburden, Domsallas leased the mine from the state and, since they were miners in Illinois, opened up the mine. They would load the coal for us for one dollar per load. This made it pretty nice and more and more people came for coal. Mr. Domsalla, the father, would get dinner for everyone. He raised hogs and lots of potatoes, so he set a pretty good table. While the Domsalla boys would load your coal, you went to their cabin and enjoyed a big meal and lots of conversation and beans, beans, etc.

Coal hauling for winter became a pleasurable pastime instead of a dreaded chore. Neighbors brought cake and cookies to help with the dinner and everyone had a good time. Years later, Domsallas got a big truck and delivered coal to anyone wanting it.

In about 1928 the Farm Bureau was very popular with regular meetings held in the communities and a large monthly meeting of all locals. Each month, one community would handle the entertainment for the general meeting so the Hyland Community chose a meeting several months in advance so we could prepare a program. We chose a minstrel show because we thought we would have a lot of fun rehearsing for it. We contacted Scott Layton, a grocer in Douglas, to be the director. It was surprising to see all the local talent and their voices were pretty fair. There were about 20 people in the show, including Dan Reeder, Richard Reeder, Bill Vollman, Earl Schlichting, Lee Fowler and Elmer Cowell. The women blacked up and were in the chorus. We didn't have a piano so once a week we would fill the back end of my truck with cushions and robes and load everyone up to go 30 miles into Douglas to Schlichting's, where we could practice. We did this once a week during the winter. We had a hard time writing the script, so many changes were made. But, finally it was ready and we put the show on in the old high school. We also did shows in Esterbrook, Orin and Glenrock.

In the late '20s we talked about getting mail delivered to this community. Mrs. Eula Spellman seemed to have a lot of interest in it and she did a lot of leg work to locate a route. She invited the commissioners out to her home for Sunday dinner along with several other people from the community. The county had put in several culverts north of the shearing pens. They were not included in the survey so sometimes the water would go around the culvert instead of through it. On one occasion, it had rained the night before. The commissioners became stuck in the mud and had to walk about three miles to Spellmans to get a team to pull them out. Needless to say, they were in favor of a road capable of handling the mailman. We all looked for road location. Harry Gillespie, a commissioner, had the county grader grade a temporary route and also mark spots for culverts. Times were tough and the county had no money, so on the road through Hyland, the people brought four horses and a fresno and moved dirt to cover the culverts.

In the meantime, Mrs. Spellman had contacted the Postal Service and they sent out a man to go over the route. He approved and we had an old fashioned barn dance in Spellman's big barn to celebrate Route 7. Without a doubt, Mrs. Spellman deserves the majority of the credit for getting the mail route started. She gave of her time and drove many miles getting everything put together.

Around 1930, A.E. Hyde, the County Agent, organized a country league of baseball teams. There was one team for each community; Verse, Dry Creek, Hyland, LaPrele, Flat Top, LaBonte, Walker Creek and Shawnee. Every Sunday we had four games. Bylaws were drawn up and rules and regulations were achieved and an exciting summer was enjoyed by all. I had a new Chevy truck and we would put cushions in the bottom and covers and a load would go to the games in it. It got harder to get people out to play. Some were leaving so the teams were consolidated. Dry Creek and Verse, Hyland and Orpha, which continued as the Orphan Annies and got suits for years. Flat Top and Walker Creek threw together. The league lasted several more years and certainly gave the





Hyland Homemakers Club I. to r. Mrs. Gertrude (Henry) Numerich, Mrs. Dugan, Mrs. Fowler, Fredricka Vollman, Mrs. Cowger, Mrs. Kurtz, Mrs. Domsalla, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Spellman, Mrs. Conrad Numrick, Flo Vollman, Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Hornbeck.

dry farmers something to do during the dry years as well as something for all of us to think about besides the drought and hard times. There was a lot of competition between teams. Thomas Meisner, a rancher in Walker Creek, brought in two ball players from Nebraska to pitch and catch for Walker Creek and, of course, they were good. LaBonte teams would put on a fish fry on July 4th for all players in all teams. The two best teams would play and everyone had all the fish they could eat.

The social life of the Hyland Community started around 1930. It was centered at a school house which was small for meetings, etc. Finally the children of school age outgrew the eighth grade and we made a deal with the school board of District 17 and the people bought the building from the school district.

Mr. Archie Bruce, a carpenter from Douglas, was contacted for ideas on enlarging the school house. They cut it in two, lengthwise, moved the sections apart twelve feet and then enclosed it. They also put in a new floor. The building was kept very busy with dances on Saturday night and also Church Services and Sunday School. Once or twice a month we had a potluck dinner and the whole community would come. The Leuenberger brothers played for the dances and the men would put in 25 cents each to pay for the music. The women would fix sandwiches and cake for the midnight lunch. The dances always started before dark and lasted until daylight because the lights on the Model T cars were not too dependable. About 60 people in the community would attend the dance with hardly anyone coming from town. The young people of the community always attended and we were glad to be able to entertain them in their home community. This was especially nice because we couldn't

afford to go to town for our entertainment. Several years later, Mr. Domsalla said that you couldn't get \$20 out of the whole dance crowd. Now everyone has \$20 but no time to visit.

Elmer Cowell

## Janet Post Office

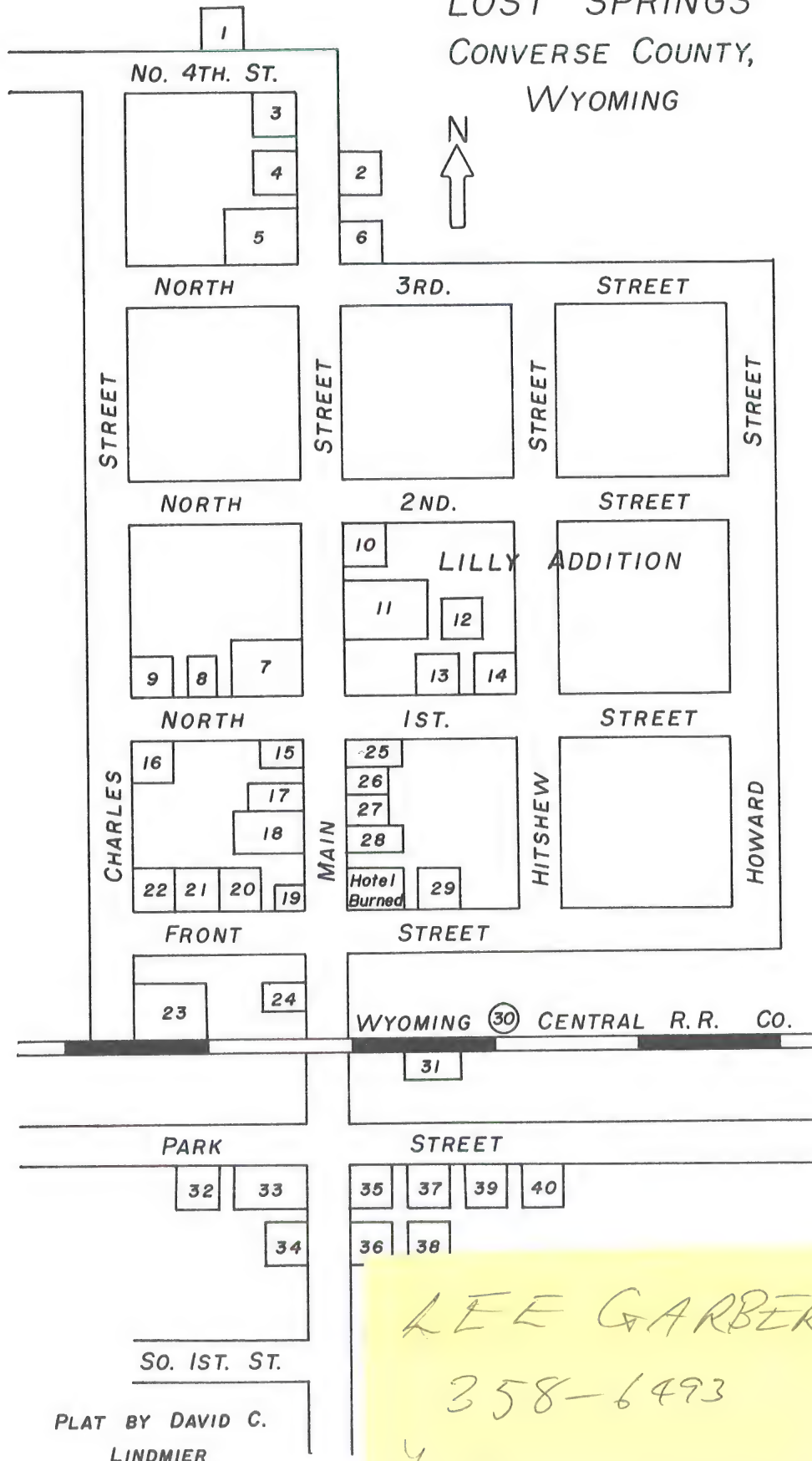
In 1912 LeRoy Moore started the Janet Post Office. He named it after his daughter, Jane. It was located at the Moore ranch northwest of Douglas at Skeleton Springs near Walker and Lightning Creeks. Later it was moved to the William Burbank ranch on Walker Creek and still later to the Bill Kinders, Earl Pounds and finally Lores.

To establish a mail route the mail had to be carried by someone for six months free of charge. In the Walker Creek area the mail was carried by Lewis Hanlin and a neighbor. Each homesteader or rancher had two mail bags made of canvas, one for outgoing mail and one for incoming mail. Twice a week the mail carriers would pick up the mail bags, take them to town to the post office and then leave the bags on their way home. Lewis had 18 gates to open on his way. Rural Route #4 was established in their area and the post office was abandoned.

Jack Hanlin



# LOST SPRINGS CONVERSE COUNTY, WYOMING



## LEGEND FOR MAP OF LOST SPRINGS

1. School House (erected about 1917-1918)
2. Hitsheew Residence (Hitsheew was a rancher)
3. O. E. Moss Residence (Moss was employed as Station Agent-Telegraph Operator)
4. Condray Residence (Condray was a rancher)
5. Beehive (two story building; Mercantile; housed printing office before Times building was erected; Apartments on second story)
6. Rental property belonging to Hitsheew
7. Citizen's State Bank (second location; G. C. Butterfield, Manager)
8. Ostrander's garage
9. Ostrander Residence (Ostrander employed as pumper for railroad water tower)
10. Lost Springs Times (Art Buffington, editor)
11. Community Hall
12. City Jail (Built in 1912; O. W. Case, contractor; size, 9 x 10 feet)
13. Original School House
14. Logan Residence (Logan operated Billiard Parlor)
15. John Whitlock's Store
16. Bellock's Residence
17. Bowell's Garage, operated by Clyde Bowell and Earl Stickney
18. Freeland's Mercantile (Two-storied building; later housed a hotel, cafe and bar)
19. Kandy Kitchen (I. M. Coggeshell, proprietor)
20. Bellock's Restaurant and Saloon (Stores their liquor in cave to rear of saloon)
21. Snyder-Boyd General Store
22. Ruhl Blacksmith
23. Stockyards
24. Vandegrift Grain Elevator
25. Ladigan's Blacksmith
26. Methodist-Episcopal Parsonage, Reverend James Barrs, Pastor, 1920; services held in the Community Hall
27. Logan Billiard Parlor -also site of the first bank
28. Fogarty's Mercantile; enlarged in 1915  
Hotel; burned on the night of the grand opening
29. Bowell Hotel
30. Water Tower (location probably erroneous-should be south of railroad)
31. Boxcar Depot
32. Turner's Meat Market
33. Site of the first building in the city limits (Spaugh livery, post office and hotel)
34. Vandegrift Residence
35. Coggeshell Residence
36. Chauncey Onyon Residence (C. W. Onyon co-operator of the Onyon Coal Mine with brother, Everett; C. W. also chairman of school board for several years.
37. Walker Lumber Company
38. Walker Residence.
39. Pennington Residence (Pennington operated a dray service and livery barn)
40. Fenton's Livery Stable

Much of the information for this article was obtained from Wilbur and Ada Wright, Harry Turner and from the files of Mary Engebretsen. Plat furnished by David Lindmier.

LEE GARBER

358-6493

Letterman  
History

# Lost Springs

In 1880, the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company engaged the services of the Sioux City and Pacific surveyors to plot a route for a railroad line beginning at Lusk and extending, eventually, to Casper, Wyoming. The principal objective of the line was to service the cattle industry which had been shifting northwards from the Texas-Kansas area into the high plains country east of the Rocky Mountains.

That first survey map indicated a spring of some magnitude located in the eastern part of what is now Converse County. When the construction crews reached the area, they were unable to find the spring, but the engineers platted the proposed town, complete with named streets and a depot in the immediate vicinity of the spring's location on the original map. Later on, the spring was found on the homestead of H. B. Card which was located about one mile south of the townsite.

The track was laid in 1886 for the parent company, the Chicago and Northwestern, by a construction crew owned by the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad. The new line was known as the Wyoming Central Railway Company. It was completed to Douglas before the winter of 1886-87 set in. However, it could not be extended further until permission had been granted from the federal government to cross the Fetterman Military Reservation northwest of Douglas. In 1903, the titles, rights and franchises of the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad were sold to the Chicago and Northwestern. The line which had been completed as far as Casper by that time, was extended on to Lander, Wyoming.

For approximately five years, a boxcar served as a depot. George Watts Wright acted as the first depot agent and telegraph operator. The sign on the end of the depot read "Lost Springs" during those early years, but when the new depot was constructed in 1913, the name was changed, through error or by intent, to "Lost Spring". Spur lines connecting the coal mines north and west of

Lost Springs with the main line were in operation until 1923.

When Charles and Lillian Hitsheew dedicated the land for Lost Springs, there were not a sufficient number of electors to incorporate the town, the required number being 30. Therefore, the ranches which lay within a given radius were included in order to provide the number of electors needed. A map which can be found in the Lost Spring Town Book of Ordinances shows a red connectional line from one ranch to the next, all situated in a rough circle, having the town as its center and its radius about one mile. The line begins at the ranch of R. C. Willey, extends from there to the Howards, from the Howards to H. B. Card, on to G. W. Wright, then to William VanDine, on to George A. Fenton, from there to C. W. Case, on to O. L. Vincent and ends at the starting point, the Willey ranch.

After its incorporation in the fall of 1911, Lost Springs elected its first mayor, William Snyder. Ordinances were passed to govern the citizens. The first provided for the officers of the town including a town marshal for carrying on business and keeping law and order. Other ordinances dealt with public health; speed limits for both horses and cars; one pertaining to disorderly horses and their riders which forbade inebriate or boisterous persons using sidewalks for riding or from entering saloons or other places of business on horseback. Provisions were made for the humane treatment of dumb animals. One must purchase a license for his dog, and licenses were also necessary for places which housed gambling games at the rate of \$5 per year for each game table. Theatrical troupes, menageries, and circuses must purchase a license before performing. An ordinance concerning the carrying of concealed weapons, specifically firearms, was passed to prevent persons from settling arguments with knives or pistols.

Since the town was bisected by the tracts of the Northwestern, an ordinance was passed concerning trains of cars which, when stopped across Main Street, obstructed the flow of traffic from the north to the south sides of town. Chimneys, or the lack of them, seemed to be a



Lost Springs 1911



Lost Springs 1907 Hotel built by A. A. Spaugh

problem for there are regulations governing their construction.

By 1915, Ordinance No. 17, listed offenses in the nature of misdemeanors, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100. Included were assault and battery, reckless driving, instigating or causing a riot which could end in a fine of 30 days in jail, or both. It was also illegal for person or persons to disquiet or disturb any congregation meeting for religious worship by making noise or by indecent behaviour within or near the place of worship. Profanity and intoxication were also listed as misdemeanors.

About 1907 a building believed to be the first in the city limits was constructed by Ad Spaugh. It was located south of what is today U.S. Highway 20. This building was a combination livery stable and hotel which also housed a post office. It was constructed for the convenience of cowhands and supply wagons used on the immense roundups in the area. It served as a supply depot for them and offered a chance to have a hot bath and a clean bed.

The post office located in the Spaugh building was not the first post office, however. Records indicate that there was a post office of sorts established in 1896 and that the first postmistress was Maggie Holdorf. It is probable that the post office occupied a part of one room in the home of Claus and Maggie Holdorf. Their homestead was located about one and one-half miles north of Lost Springs.

The first bank, called the State Bank of Lost Springs, occupied a corner of the building which also housed the local billiard parlor. To substantiate this statement, there is an old photograph which has a sign reading in large letters "Billiards", and beneath, in much smaller letters, "State Bank of Lost Springs." The charter was granted in 1911, and cancelled in 1927, according to records at the County Clerk's office.

The Citizen's Bank opened its doors October 15, 1916, having G. C. Butterfield, formerly of Pilgen, Nebraska, the principal stockholder and president. Fogarty, Clyde Bowell, Charles Hitschew, William Howard and John Mills were shareholders. This bank was located across the street from the first bank. It was located on the corner of North First and Main Streets. The Butterfield family lived in the rear part of the bank building. Mr. Butterfield is remembered as a heavy set, dark haired individual, his

wife, a small petite woman. It was jokingly said of Butterfield that when he died and arrived in Hades, the Devil had better put him in a kettle and put the lid on quick, or Butterfield would have a mortgage on Hell.

The Butterfield Bank purchased the Bank of Shawnee in December of 1925. After Butterfield's death in 1926, John Mills took over the disposition of the bank after it went broke. It was through his efforts that all depositors were paid in full, 100 cents on the dollar. The examiner's office in Cheyenne can verify this statement.

The map which accompanies this account of Lost Springs attempts to indicate the locations of buildings which were erected both north and south of the highway. It is meant solely to provide the reader with a more vivid picture of the town in its early years. It is certainly inaccurate in some respects since it reflects the memories of persons living today who were only small children then.

Actually, though, it is not buildings nor the location of businesses which make a town. It is the people who lived and worked there. Remember "Cheap John"? He had a homestead near Lost Spring and operated a very small General Store in town. He was of Jewish ancestry, a dark-complected man with a long black beard. He was a bachelor, and, reportedly, none too clean. When asked why he did not change his very dirty shirt, or wash it, he would reply that it cost 10¢ to have it washed, but he could buy a new one for only 9¢.

John's tiny 12 x 16 foot store building was located south of First Street on the corner of Main. Since the building was so small, he was obliged to put part of his wares out on the sidewalk in front of his store during business hours. On one occasion, he had placed several jugs of syrup there. Harry Turner, then a small boy, was coasting down First Street in his little red wagon. He turned at the corner in front of the store. Syrup and Harry ended up in a sticky mess.

Another time, John's horse had disappeared from his homestead. Cody Shippen, whose home was northeast of town, found the strayed animal. He went to John and asked him for a complete description of the missing animal. John supplied the information, to which Cody replied that he had a horse which was a "dead ringer" in his pasture. It was John's horse, all right, and the beast



was very "dead."

One day Cheap John vanished, never to be seen or heard from again. No amount of searching turned up any clues. What happened to his store, his wares and his belongings? Harry Turner could not remember.

After the town incorporated, the mercantile store belonging to Boyd and Snyder housed the post office. In 1912 the receiver of the first long distance telephone connection was located in that store.

Elmer E. Turner built his meat market in 1910. Elmer, his wife and their two sons lived in a two story house located behind the market. Elmer traveled to local farms or ranches to buy both pork and beef. He slaughtered the animal at the farm, butchered it out, and hauled the carcass back to his market. He carried a tripod and other necessary tools of his trade in his wagon. Elmer had constructed a specially built cooling house. It was about 8 x 12 feet, and had an attic room above. On the attic floor he placed blocks of ice to cool the room below in which he hung his meat.

Art "Colonel" Buffington is remembered as an old, thin man who liked to play poker and drink whiskey. He was the editor of the local newspaper, the "Lost Spring Times." Evidently, he was incarcerated in the town "lock up" regularly to sleep it off. At these times, he would become very loud and somewhat violent. Local youngsters, Harry Turner, Marshall Kamp, Three-rail Posey and the two Fenton boys, Joe and Herbert, took great delight in tormenting the poor man when he was in jail, though when he was out, they were afraid of him. They would go to the jail to "sing" to the colonel, infuriating the man, and causing him to shout even louder. According to Harry, the caterwauling could be heard all over town.

Teasing Art Buffington seemed to delight older persons as well. Once, a bunch of cowhands saw Buffington and his old sway-backed nag standing outside Fogarty's Mercantile. Now the Colonel was very proud of his horse. The men got some itching powder, rubbed it on their hands and went over to the Colonel and his horse. They rubbed their hands over the animal, on his neck, shoulder and hip all the time telling Art what a fine animal he owned. When Buffington mounted the animal a short time later, the horse, almost loco from the intense itching, pitched the hapless Colonel into the street. Said the Colonel, sitting in the dust, scratching his head, "The damned old fool never did that before!"

The home of Bob Howard, who was married and the father of seven children, was located near town. Bob was a strict disciplinarian towards his family and was thought, by the townspeople, to mistreat his family. Rumor has it that they once decided that Bob should be chastised for his treatment of his family and subsequently he was summoned to appear in court to answer for his actions. Mrs. Prudence Howard was in the room to testify that she had been repeatedly beaten by her husband. When asked about it, however, she calmly stated, "If Mr. Howard wants to thrash me, he has a right. He is my husband." Case dismissed.

Bob was known to drive into town in a one-horse buggy. A little while later, Mrs. Howard would come in on foot, carrying whatever produce she had to trade at the store. Later, Mr. Howard would be seen going home in

the buggy, and still later, Prudence would go by on foot, carrying the groceries she had purchased.

J. J. Freeland had gas lights installed in his store on Main Street in 1912. That same year, Malcolm and Donald Campbell, sons of Malcolm Campbell, the first sheriff of Converse County, purchased the Fenton Livery Stable.

Remember to visit the Kandy Kitchen when you are in town. You will be sure of a square deal at the hands of Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Coggeshell, proprietors. They carry a full line of drugs, stationery, confectionary and baked goods, and serve lunch on short orders. Ice cream is kept on hand at all times.

Another well-known person in the town was Sadie Fenton. She was a very large woman, weighing some 300 pounds. Unable to buy a chair large enough to fit her comfortably, she had Harry Ruhl make one for her. She must have had a natural flair for nursing since Dr. Hylton, when called from Douglas to attend some ailing citizen, always went by to get Sadie to help him with the sick. Sadie smoked at a time when women were not known to do so. She used Bull Durham and it was said of her that she could roll a cigarette faster with one hand than any man around.

A short distance to the east of Lost Springs, there is a tiny cemetery. The land once belonged to Bob Howard. There are only three small graves there, those of William Davies, born 1911 in Des Moines, Iowa, died 1914 in Lost Springs; Alvin White, stillborn in 1914; Baby Vincent, whose grave has no date. It is of interest to note that the cemetery in which Lost Springs residents buried their dead lies further to the east and south in Niobrara County and that two of the three children buried in the Lost Springs Cemetery were offspring of families living in the Shawnee area, five miles to the west.

Of all the businesses in the town, only one has the distinction of having operated without interruption since it was started so many years ago. This is the General Store which first belonged to Mr. Fogarty. It has been enlarged, the owners changed, but it still is open for business. Lost Springs also is the smallest incorporated town with a post office in the United States. In 1929, according to records of the town council meeting, a Mr. Meinger tried to have the town unincorporated, but failed in his attempt.

The town was incorporated as Lost Springs and all official documents past and present and the town seal reflect this spelling. When the post office came into being, it was also named Lost Springs. Evidence indicates that at some point in time, the postal department changed the spelling to Lost Spring; in the 1950s, the post office once again became Lost Springs.

Lost Springs, a town which over the years has played host to calloused-handed miners, rowdy cowhands, cattle barons, wandering gamblers, stout-hearted homesteaders and aspiring politicians stands today with but five old buildings to mark its place. It was a city born to fill the needs of those who came to settle, to work, and sometimes to proper in Converse County at the turn of the century. Though it is no longer a thriving, bustling community, it seems that the town refuses to become a "ghost town" to be lost in the dust blown by the Wyoming winds.

Ruth Grant



# SHAWNEE CONVERSE COUNTY, WYOMING

LEGEND — MAP OF SHAWNEE (This map was made in 1918. The original drawn on oiled silk belongs to Don and Shirley Martin of Shawnee. The Preuitt Addition was not included.

## BLOCK I

1. Haas Store and Post Office
2. Printing Office
3. Lumber Yard  
Store  
Dr. Earle's Clinic  
Community Hall
4. Home of E. J. Sinn  
R. Gifford, Fred Darbe, Fred Krone and Burton owned lots in this block.

## BLOCK II

1. Blair Residence
2. Frank Nelson Residence
3. Trostle Residence
4. Sowers Residence
5. Moffett Residence  
Joe Koch, Jon Russel, Dr. Earle, Noal Harkins, Harry McDonald and J. Spaulding owned lots in this block.

## BLOCK III

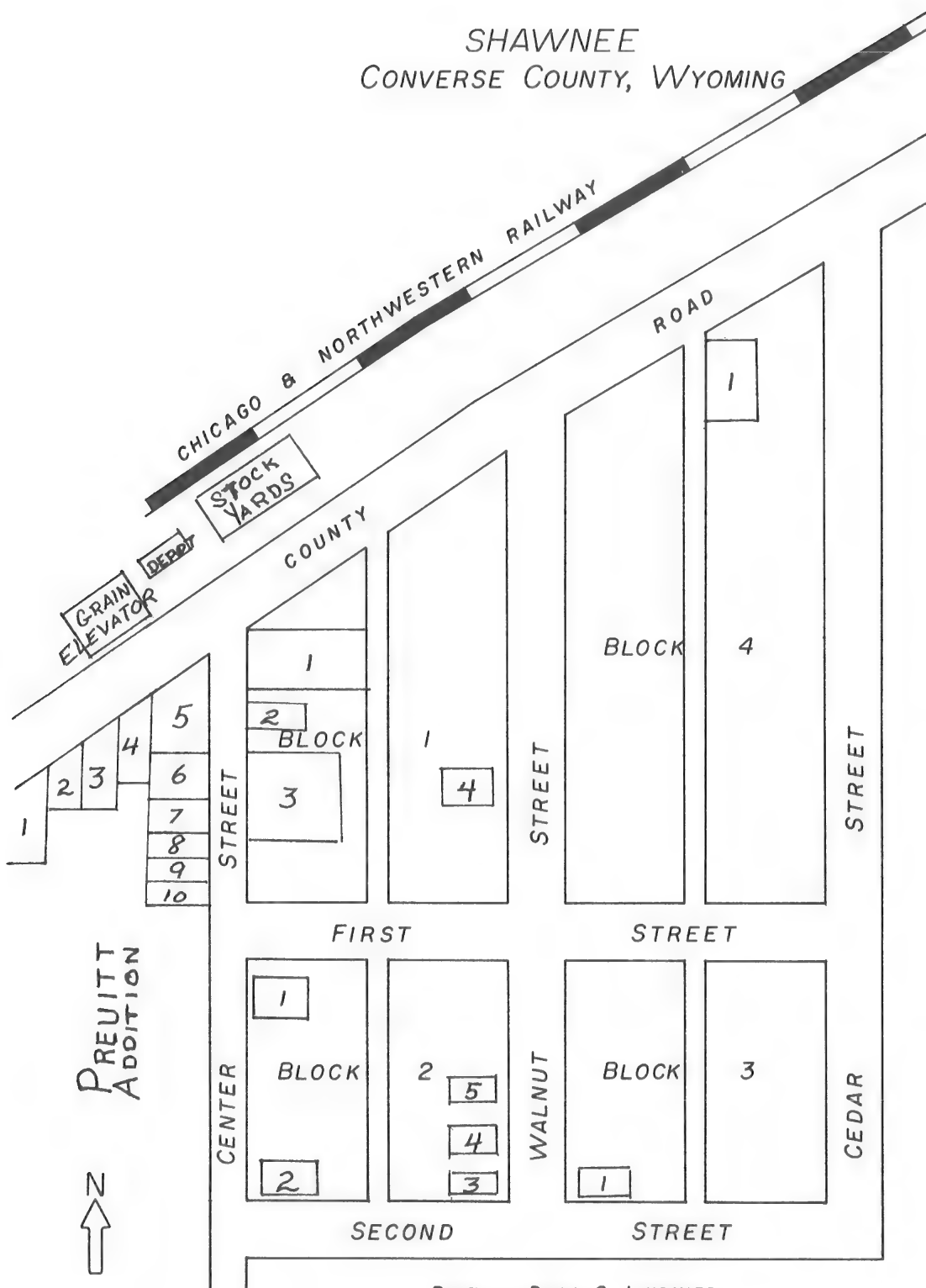
1. Nason Residence  
Pickinpaugh, Swickhamer, and Shoopman owned lots in this block.

## BLOCK IV

1. School Complex  
Custer Oil, E. Peterson, Cullison, C. G. Lindley, E. P. Bevins, Tom York, J. Runge, B. Covington owned lots in this block.

## PREUITT ADDITION

1. Livery
2. Meat Market
3. Preuitt resident (later Hotel of Shawnee)
4. Cafe
5. Blacksmith
6. Bank of Shawnee (1923)
7. Dr. Masek  
Chiropractor
8. Cafe
9. Jack Wright Mercantile, residence in rear
10. Building which housed the lower grades of the school at one time.



# Shawnee

In 1886, Spencer Moore purchased 80 acres of land from the Wyoming Central Railroad, described as the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ; SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 15, Township 32, Range 68. Spencer and his wife, Edith May, had homesteaded about half a mile north of this property.

At this time there were few homesteaders in the area, but during the next decade more and more families were attracted to the community. Coal had been discovered by Everett Onyon in 1904 about three miles northeast of the Moore homestead and the Onyon brothers were developing a working mine which offered employment to persons coming into the area to file claims.

In 1910, a group of six families, those of John Swickhamer, Noal Harkins, Tom and Henry York, Charles Elgin and his father, Tom Elgin, came to Wyoming from Bates County, Missouri to take up homesteads. More families arrived shortly afterwards. The Haas store, located close to the railroad tracks, became the center of the community. In 1911, a post office was established, housed in the store. Chauncey Onyon of Lost Springs, became the first postmaster. The post office was there for only a year, being moved to Lost Springs in 1912. The railroad changed ownership, as well, being sold to the Chicago and Northwestern.

According to abstracts, the 80 acres of land which Moore had bought from the railroad were transferred to Thomas Blair in 1918. Thomas Blair then dedicated this parcel of land to the public for the townsite of Shawnee, hoping that a city would spring up on the empty prairie. He sold lots for houses and businesses at a price of \$25.00 per lot. The average size of the lots was 20' wide by 132' deep, which would seem too small for a building for business purposes. In fact, some persons purchased several adjoining lots in order to have sufficient room for their establishments. With the purchase of the lot, the buyer received all the mineral rights.

Blair worked diligently to convince the residents that the town should be incorporated, but his efforts were in vain.

The streets were laid out measuring 60 to 66 feet in width, with the exception of Center Street, which measured only 40'. Evidently, the reason for this was that the land lying west of Center Street was a portion of Section 16, a State School Section.

On December 26, 1918, a patent for the northeast five acres of the N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , and the southeast five acres of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 16, Township 32, Range 68 was issued to Mrs. Ida Preuit, having been sold to her by the state for the sum of \$150. She divided the acreage into lots, the first of which she sold in March of 1919. This parcel of land was known as the Preuit Addition, but whether it was ever within the city limits of the town is unknown.

Abstracts also indicate that Rosa Blair, wife of Thomas Blair, dedicated an addition to the town in 1920. After the death of her husband in 1924, Mrs. Blair moved to Yakima, Washington, later disposing of her husband's interests in the town.

The accompanying map and legend show the proba-



Shawnee 1949 blizzard.

ble locations of the various businesses, schools and dwellings. This information was provided by descendants of the early inhabitants of the community.

The most imposing building was that of E. J. Sinn, owner and operator of the local lumber company. It was a two storied affair, having the office and supply room of the lumber company on the ground floor to the north and on the south a mercantile store. The two businesses were separated by an enclosed stairway which led to the second floor. On this floor was a large room used as a community hall to the front and to the rear were several small rooms which housed a six bed clinic run by Dr. Earle, physician and surgeon. The clinic was closed after several years, and the rooms were remodeled into two rental apartments. The hall, which was available for many functions, served as gymnasium, dance hall, town meeting hall and was the place where the townsfolk held box socials to raise money for worthy causes, one of which was the purchase of the bell for the school house.

South of the railroad tracks stood the boxcar which served as the Shawnee Depot. The stockyards were nearby and to the west a short distance was the Blair grain elevator. Shortly after its completion, the elevator was destroyed by fire, but another was constructed to take its place. Before it was torn down in 1982 when the Chicago and Northwestern upgraded its tracks to ship coal from Gillette eastward, it was owned by the Gene L. Payne Company of Douglas.

John Masek, a practicing chiropractor, was proving up on his homestead south of Shawnee. He opened a small office in the Preuit Addition where he served the community.

There is a small cemetery located north of the town about half a mile. Some of the graves have been moved to other locations, some are untended, but still others are cared for today. As late as the 1930s funeral services were held in the Community Hall and interment was in the Shawnee Cemetery.

In order to establish a school in the early 1900s, seven pupils between the ages of seven and 18 years were required. Due to the fact that only four of the local children qualified in the year 1910, the resourceful

citizens enrolled the two Elgin girls, Blanche, who was just past the age of 18, and her sister, Nora, just under 18, but already married. Dee Harkins, the seventh student was only five years old. The classes were taught by Eva Thesher.

The first school building measured 14' x 28'. It was constructed in 1911, with all the labor being donated. John Swickhamer supervised the work.

By 1912, a sufficient number of qualified students were living in the community. Three children of the Harkins family, three of the White family and the son of John Swickhamer, Lee, made up the student body. Classes were held in the small building for eight years until 1919, when the new building was erected. Then the small building was sold to Mrs. Guy White and was moved to the White homestead, where rooms were added. It was a great improvement over the tiny log building in which the White family had lived when they first homesteaded.

Land for the school was leased to the district in 1917 by Charles and Lulie Seymour and Spencer and Edith Moore, each couple leasing one acre. The leases were to run for 99 years unless the school went unattended for a period of two consecutive years, or was released by the school trustees. In the late 1930's, the acre leased from the Seymours was cancelled and the school stands today on the land which once belonged to Spencer Moore.

The building which was built to house the high school is used today by the community for public gatherings. A new modular building houses the school which is located a short distance west of the old building.

During the years in which there was a high school at Shawnee, the elementary grades held classes in a small building next door to the Jack Wright store. The elementary grades were also housed at one time in the Community Hall. In 1925 two buildings were brought to the school grounds for the elementary grades, one for primary, one to four, and the other for intermediate grades, five to eight. At this time, the enrollment was the largest, listing between 150 and 200 students. Fred Logan, who had taught in Shawnee for some years, was appointed as superintendent. His teaching staff consisted of two teachers, Nancy Jones and Helen McCartney.

In 1928 the first class graduated from the Shawnee High School. It consisted of three students, Britton "Harry" Crosley, Lorena Johnson and Gladys Crosley. Bus routes were established to bring the children from both north and south of Shawnee. The length of the routes was determined by the location of the homes of school-aged children.

Competitive sports were a part of the school curriculum for many years. The first boys basketball team was organized in 1922 with Fred Logan acting as coach. The first girls team was organized in 1932. Towns which competed against Shawnee were Glendo, Manville, Sunrise and Lusk. The adults in the community were also sports minded. They organized a baseball team which competed with other small communities in the area such as Orin, Lost Springs, Manville and Keeline.

Not many buildings remain in Shawnee today, nor are there many persons living there, but it served the area well in those early days, providing a convenient place to purchase supplies, pick up the mail and educate

the children. As with so many other towns, it thrived only as long as it was useful.

The range was open at that time. The large cattle herds grazing in the area belonged, for the most part, to Tom Bell and Jim Shaw, while H.B. Card owned most of the bands of sheep. These stockmen had an imaginary line running north to south close to Shawnee and agreed among themselves that the cattle could graze on one side of the line, the sheep on the other, but neither could invade the other's territory.

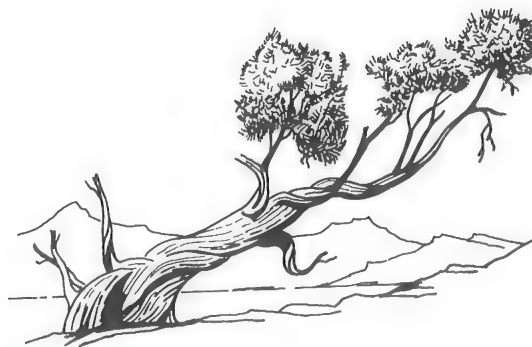
The Moore homestead north of Shawnee lay within the open range and was unfenced at the time. They had a real problem with loose cattle and sheep trampling and destroying their crops. Mrs. Moore was a heavy-set lady, noted for her home brew beer which was in great demand by the cowhands tending the stock. Her reputation was no insurance against the invasion of her property by loose stock however.

On one occasion, Mrs. Moore in desperation took drastic action. She hitched her horse to a two-wheeled cart, and enlisting the help of a neighbor to act as driver, she planted her ample personage upon the seat. She was armed with a double-barrelled shotgun loaded with rock salt. Whipping the horse into a gallop they went bumping and bouncing across the sagebrush covered prairie in pursuit of the offending cattle. Mrs. Moore peppered the cattle with salt till their behinds were raw, but she protected her precious crops.

Of interest is the fact that there was no saloon or pool hall in Shawnee in the beginning which is unique. During the 1934-1936 depression and drought years, the local meat market in Shawnee accepted and butchered some of the slaughtered livestock, which they then returned to the persons who had owned them for food. The owner of the market was a man named Hicks. His wife, Faye, canned much of the meat to keep it from spoiling.

The Jack Wrights were the parents of eight children, all of whom died before reaching legal age excepting one who lived to the age of 32, when he died of pernicious anemia.

Ruth Grant





Lost Springs Coal Mine.  
Co. mine miners posed  
with wrecked coal cars.

# MINES



Lost Springs Coal  
Co. mine miners'  
homes with mine  
tipple in back-  
ground.



Lost Springs Coal Mine  
Co. mine near Lost  
Springs, Onyon family  
owned and operated the  
mine.



# Antelope Coal Mine

The Antelope Coal Mine is located near the Antelope Creek in the north central part of Converse County 55 miles north of Douglas on the Gillette Highway and ten miles northeast on graveled road.

It consists of 120 acres of state land leased February 1, 1931 by Jesse Morsch and operated under the name of Antelope Coal Co.

A small tonnage of coal was sold for a couple of years, then increased each year for a number of years.

The lease expired February 1, 1936 and Jesse Morsch obtained a new lease for ten years, operating under the name of Best Coal Co.

It showed steady gain in tonnage each year. It sold for \$1.00 a ton when Jesse Morsch first took over. The peak years were from 1942 to 1946. Yearly tonnage these years were around 10,000 to 11,000 tons.

All work at the mine was hand labor until 1944 when power shovels were used to eliminate most of the hand labor and coal hoppers were built for lump and pea coal which gave better service to the public.

From 1947 on, the production started to be less each year and when the mine was sold to Ernest Ireton on March 1, 1951 production was about 7,000 tons a year selling for \$3.50 per ton.

It was a strip mine and the coal vein maximum thickness was 38 feet. When the mine was sold March 1, 1951, the coal vein was about 22 feet in thickness.

Ernest continued the operation of the mine under the name of Best Coal Company. When the lease expired in 1956 Ernest obtained a new lease for 99 years and carried on the mining operations until 1964. Due to ill health he sold the mine to his step-son, Kenneth Brannan.

Kenneth had been in the mining business about a year when the disastrous flood on Antelope Creek destroyed everything at the mine on June 14, 1965 and took Kenneth's life.

Kenneth had gone to the mine in the late afternoon to blast down coal so he would have it ready when Herman Werner's hired man came early the next morning for a truck load of lump coal.

A neighbor living near by reported seeing a few heavy black clouds to the west that evening, but nothing that should cause anyone to be alarmed.

Kenneth had no doubt retired early and was sound asleep, when without warning at about eleven o'clock, allegedly a 60 foot depth of swift rushing water carrying a mass of conglomeration (tree branches, rocks, clay, sand and other debris) filled the mine pit. Its next destruction was the living area north of the pit. The cook house, main house, where Kenneth lived, and other buildings were torn and crumbled to pieces as were many more things, which were carried along with the swift rushing current of water, as it sped downstream for miles.

When the water subsided the next day, Kenneth's body was found about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile downstream in a mass of debris and fence wire. The men who found the body predicted that when the fence that crossed the creek collected more debris than it could hold, the wire, under the pressure, suddenly broke, throwing the fence and debris, with Kenneth's body, on higher ground.

There were very few things salvaged. The machinery and equipment remains covered in the mine pit with conglomeration deposits and water. The weight scales were found leaning against a tree a mile downstream. Household furniture, refrigerators and other items were found half buried in packed sandrock. Boards and other building materials were found among debris lodged against trees, and scattered in other places as far as 20 to 30 miles downstream. The valuable receipts, debit record files and the cash register were never located.

All that is left of the mine are the cement foundations where the buildings once stood and a pond of water that covers the pit.

Where there was once a well known producing coal mine and landmark may in the future be another landmark that will be a thing of the past, "Lost and Forgotten."

Velma Phillips Steckley

# Burning Mountain Home Coal Mine

(As remembered by August Riehle and dictated to the author, Mrs. Velma Steckley)

The mine is located east of the Dry Creek Store near the Mountain Home Coal Mine and about two miles from the August Riehle homestead. The description being given is Township 39, Range 68 West of the 6th P.M., Section 22: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The origin of the burning mine has never been determined. However, it is believed that the heat from the sun caused a combustion of the coal below the surface.

In 1919 August Riehle helped haul poles and timber across the area that later became a burning mass of flames. At that time when they were hauling poles from the timber land east of the mine to his father's ranch near the Dry Creek Store there was no sign of any burning area. In 1924 the Riehles attempted to use this road again but discovered that the once traveled road was now a burning pit. The ground was sunken 10 to 12 feet with deep wide cracks in the earth and bursting forth from these cracks were flames of all colors; red, yellow, orange, bluish-white to a deep blue. The cracks were sometimes a foot across. It is definitely agreed that it started burning sometime in the early '20s, probably about 1921. The government, several years later, attempted to put out the fire but failed.

The site became a spot for picnickers and historical interest. Hundreds of people flocked there each year to observe its significance and beauty. At night the brilliant flames could be seen for several miles. People who dared to venture close enough to peer between the cracks were forced back by the intense heat.

Years went by and the burning pit became larger until it covered approximately 60 acres of land and an enormous amount of coal was being destroyed every day.

In 1950 the government finally realized the vast amount of coal that was being wasted each year by fire



and put up for bids to contractors to have all burning mines put out. The Isbell Bros. of Riverton got the bid for this mine and began work on it in the summer of 1950. It took them three to four months to complete the job. The mine was surveyed, holes drilled around it to determine how close workers could get without running the risk of losing their lives. The crew took large bulldozers and smoothed the rough country around it for working, then they hauled dirt in and pushed it over the burning area until they had it completely covered and smothered out. The extermination of this one mine cost the government approximately \$80,000.00. Other mine fires throughout Wyoming were put out the same year.

Velma Phillips Steckley



Niemcyk Mine

## Niemcyk Mine

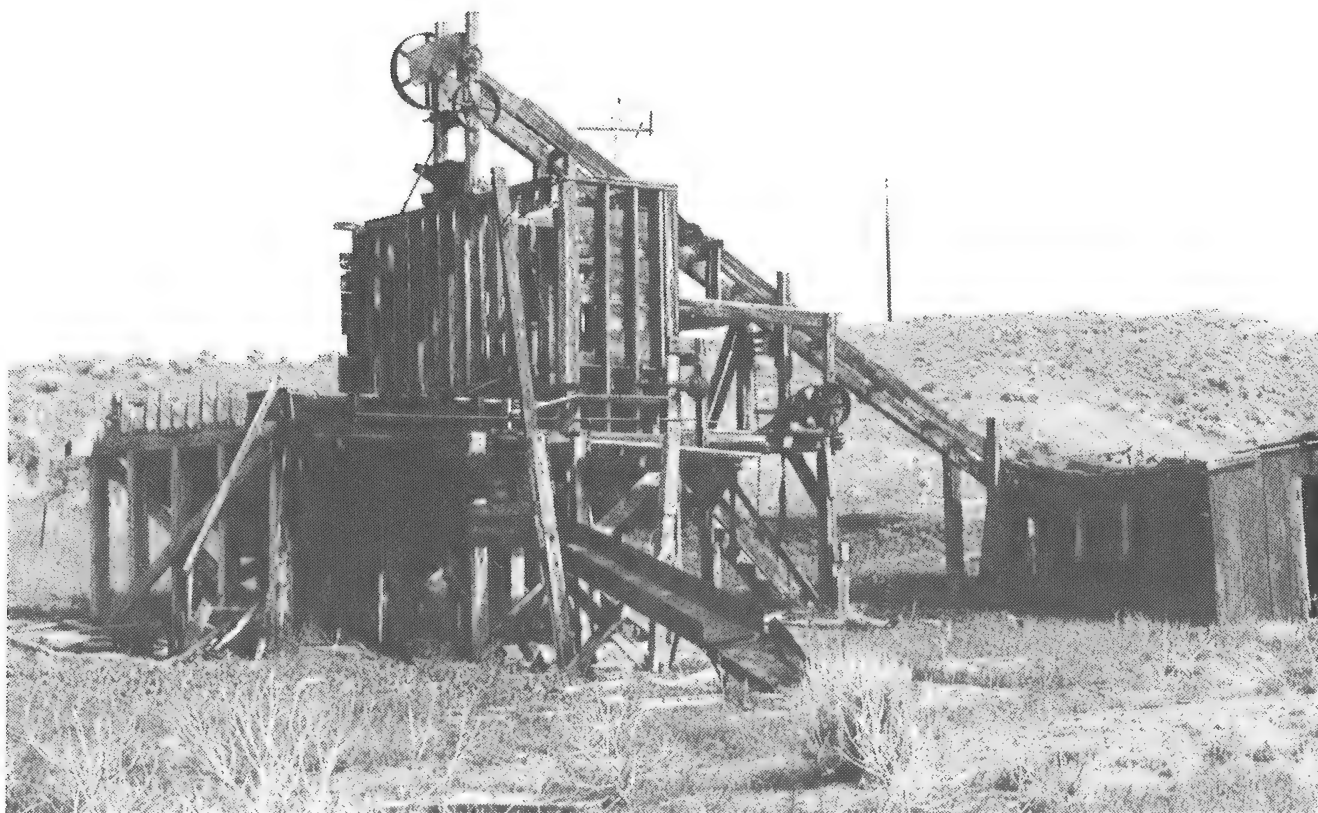
There is another coal mine located near the Antelope Creek about a mile east of the Best Coal Company Mine, on Antelope Creek. In the 1920s it was called the East Antelope Coal Mine operated by Elmer Gladson and his brother.

Felix Niemcyk bought this mine from the Gladsons in 1933. He obtained a state land lease in 1933 and operated the mine under the name of Niemcyk Coal Mine. He car-

ried on the operation of the mine up until the time of his death on April 7, 1943.

Felix's wife, Hazel, with the help of Felix's brother, Albert, whom Hazel later married, continued the operation of the mine for several years. Hazel then sold the equipment, closed the mine and moved to Newcastle, Wyoming.

The mine was not in operation for about 20 years after Hazel and Albert left. After the flood, which destroyed the Best Coal Mine in 1965, Wayne Brannan,



Niemcyk Coal Mine - Harry Putnam and Lou Steckley loading coal on the conveyer and Lyle Coleman at top arranging coal on truck, 1942.

step-son of Ernest Ireton, reopened the Niemcyk Coal Mine in the fall of 1965. Wayne operated the mine, selling stoker and lump coal. It was in the 1970s that the Federal Government passed strict regulations concerning mine equipment. If Wayne were to have continued to operate the mine he would have had to purchase the equipment required, which would have been costly and useless to a one man mine operation, so Wayne closed the mine in 1975.

The mine has been purchased by NERCO Coal Company, and coal is again being mined at the site in 1986.

Velma Phillips Steckley

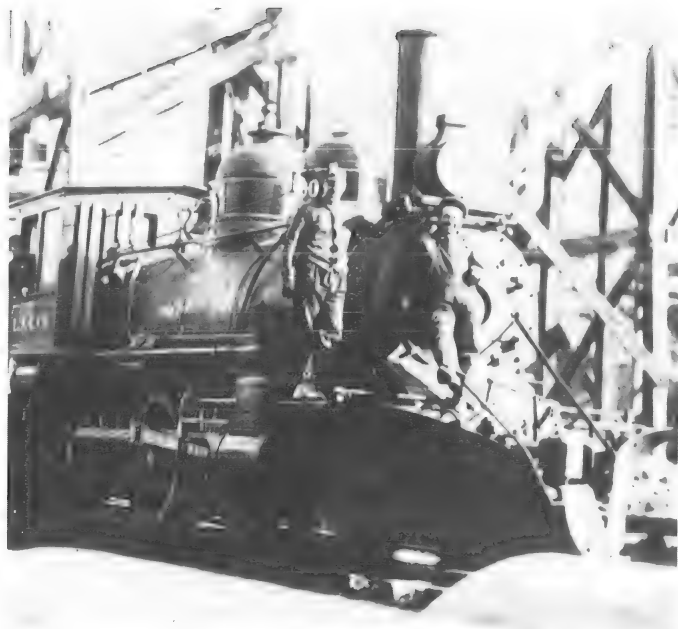
## Onyon Coal Mine

In the month of August in 1904, Everett Onyon was riding across some open range when he noticed something which appeared to be the den of some animal. Curious, Everett dismounted and began to dig. After enlarging the opening, he discovered it led to a sizeable room which proved to be a deserted coal mine. The old shaft was in good condition and there were mining tools lying about. Everett was elated! He was convinced that there was an excellent chance that the mine could be developed into a profitable operation. He lost no time filing the necessary prospector claim.

The mine was located on land which belonged to the State of Wyoming, being the W $\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 36, Township 33, Range 68. Evidently, Everett entered into some sort of agreement with the state in order to begin the development of the mine.

The Onyon brothers, Everett and Chauncey, had come to Wyoming in 1895 and had taken homesteads. One tract was located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 2, less than a quarter mile from Everett's discovery. They had built a ranch house there made of hand hewed logs, which was considerably larger and more comfortable than the average homestead dwelling. Near the house they drilled a well and struck artesian water. The Onyon brothers raised cattle, horses and later sheep on their holdings.

The operation of the mine began on a small scale, probably sometime in 1905. At first a short span of rail-



Onyon Coal Mine - Chauncey Onyon on the left.

road track was laid into the mine, extending only a little distance outside the mine entrance. Carts, traveling on the tracks, were pushed into the mine, loaded and brought out by a steam powered winch where the coal was then loaded into horse drawn wagons by hand. A three sided windbreak, eight or ten feet high, made of hand hewed logs, offered some protection from the elements to the boiler and winch. Outside of the enclosure, but close by, was a wooden water tank which stored the water for the boiler. The open end of the enclosure faced the entrance of the mine.

When the brothers decided to expand and form the Lost Springs Coal Company, their father, Baxter Onyon, and their uncle, William Sprague, participated in the venture.

The track beds and the grades were built using four horse fresnos to move the dirt. Culverts, made by placing two large fresnos about 30' long parallel to each other and joining them by nailing 3' sections of slab wood across the top, served to drain the water away from the fills.

As the business grew, buildings and better facilities were added. A basic tippie was built so that the loaded cars could be dumped directly into the wagons, thus eliminating much of the hand labor. The windbreak surrounding the winch and boiler was replaced by an enclosed building. Several dwellings were built for the convenience of some of the miners and their families. These were located in a cluster some distance from the tippie.

In 1908, both Everett and Chauncey Onyon returned to Harvey, Illinois to marry. Upon their return to Wyoming, the Chauncey Onyons lived in the town of Lost Springs, while Everett and his wife, Sabra, lived at the ranch. The brothers built a phone line connecting the two residences the telephone being of the hand crank variety. In October of 1910, Vera O. Onyon, Chauncey's wife, was granted a homestead patent on 151.24 acres of land which adjoined the ranchland.

In order to facilitate the shipment of the coal, the



Onyon Coal Mine, grading for the railroad. Everett Onyon on the left, Chauncey Onyon on the Fresno.

Onyon brothers built a new tippie which would accommodate railroad cars. They constructed a spur line from the main Chicago and Northwestern Railroad to the mine, a distance of about three and one quarter miles. The loaded cars from the mine then could be pulled up on the Tippie and the coal emptied into grading screens and then into the railroad cars. They also purchased a railroad engine which pulled the loaded railway cars to the main line.

The coal from the mine did not ship well. It tended to "slack" or become powdery when exposed to the sun and air for long periods of time. Chauncey wanted to try to make "brickettes" of it, but the company never achieved the financial status to venture into that operation.

It is of interest to note that among the documents provided by the Onyon family for this history are several having to do with G. D. Butterfield. Butterfield owned and operated the Citizen's State Bank of Lost Springs. He came to Wyoming in 1911. A prospector's lease to mine coal on the W½ of Section 36 was held by Mr. Butterfield in 1919. He assigned the lease to C. W. and E. F. Onyon on the 16th of June in 1921, with the approval of the Commissioner of Public Lands. It is not clear how or why Butterfield held the lease.

The lease was quite detailed. It was to run for five years with a yearly rent of \$100 per year, in advance, to be applied upon the royalty of six cents per ton due on all coal mined from the premises. Lessee agreed to make a true and correct statement of all coal mined during each month of the term of the lease; statements were to be accompanied by a remittance of the royalty on all coal mined during the preceding month, except where such remittances had not as yet equalled the advance payment. Only such portions of the surface as were necessary to properly conduct mining operations should be disturbed, and the lessee should fully protect the rights of all grazing leases which had been heretofore granted or which would be hereinafter granted, by erecting fences, and keeping closed all gates in all fences, and enclosing and keeping covered all shafts, holes, or open cuts, for the protection of stock grazing upon said premises. The lease could be cancelled at any time by the lessee, by giving 30 days written notice thereof to the Commissioner of Public Lands. The document shows that the brothers made a yearly rental payment in 1919 and one in 1920.

Various problems such as cave-ins and flooding helped to halt the mining operation coupled with the fact that a late May blizzard in 1922 decimated their livestock. That same year, the Onyon brothers mortgaged all of their remaining stock, 40 head of horses and 44 head of cattle for a sum of \$1750 indicating that they were in poor financial shape. The mine closed and the elder brother, Everett, returned to Harvey, Illinois to make his home in 1925. Chauncey moved to Midwest to work in the Salt Creek oil field there.

The mine, while in full operation, employed about 25 men. It was of great benefit to the people in the community, providing a source of income to homesteaders who were in the process of proving up on their land. There is little evidence today of the extensive operation carried on by the Onyon brothers. The hand of time has erased all traces of their ambitious undertaking.

Ruth Grant  
from information given by Edward Onyon

## Poison Lake

The Natural Epsom Salts Company's project located approximately 20 miles southwest of Douglas created quite a stir in the community in 1916. The company intended to extract the mineral sulphate of magnesia out of the natural lake located nearby and process it into the product Epsom Salts. The lake was known locally as Poison Lake. The effect of the water on livestock who drank it was well known by stockmen of the area - death was the result when they consumed too much. Stockmen fenced the lake to keep cattle from drinking the water. While on a tour of the area in latter years, owner Silas Guthrie told his son, Rodney, "We hauled the wire from Rock Creek, Wyoming in the 1880s to fence out the cattle."

The Natural Epsom Salts Company was incorporated on August 30, 1916 for \$100,000 with William A. Bell, Jefferson H. Darris, William S. Jackson, Jr., Henry J. Arnold, and John E. Lunstrom as directors.

An article in the June 22, 1916 edition of "The Douglas Budget" had the following to say about the project. "An analysis of the water shows that the principal ingredient is sulphate of magnesia from which comes the commercial Epsom Salts. A company, which has been promoted by W. P. Spaugh of Manville, has been formed and started operations at the lake for transforming the "poison" waters into the salts. A plant will be built immediately.

"At the head of the company is Dr. William A. Bell, one of Denver's prominent citizens. Associated with him is W. M. Arnold of Denver, one-time Mayor of that city.

"Dr. Bell is one of the interesting figures in the building of Colorado. To him more than anyone else is given the credit of the building of the Denver and Rio Grand R.R. of which he was vice president. He was the man who secured the English capital to finance the project, bringing to Colorado \$20,000,000 of English money. He was one of the builders of Colorado Springs and laid out the town of Manitou."

Another article in "The Douglas Budget" in 1916 said: "The supply of Epsom Salts has heretofore come from Austria-Hungary and Greece. 30,000 tons are used in this country every year."

It was at this time that a road was laid out over Poison Lake Pass. Previously the road had gone down Wagonhound Creek.

Evidently the project was a failure as little more was heard of it, and the company was dissolved on July 20, 1927 by Wyoming's Secretary of State.

All that are left on the site in 1985 are the fence around the lake that is kept up by owners of land surrounding the lake and a forlorn run-down cement building.

John R. Pexton



# Rosin and Sunset Coal Mines

Orville Vincent established the Rosin Coal Mine as a private business venture in 1909. Later, being unable to finance the business, he sold stock in the Rosin Coal Company. The stockholders were Nebraska farmers for the most part. The Rosin was productive for some three years, but was shut down in 1912 for some reason. A caretaker by the name of Hoge was hired to look after the premises. The mine was re-opened in 1914, and was in operation for a year or more before it was closed permanently. Al Hoge's wife, Ida, was employed to cook for the miners during the latter period.

The Rosin Mine is located about eight miles north and one mile west of Lost Springs, Wyoming. It was a pretentious operation, consisting of numerous buildings, a private power plant to supply electricity to the mine and the buildings, modern plumbing and a telephone line connecting the office building with the city of Lost Springs.

The largest of the buildings, 18' x 24' housed the main office. It was a two-storied structure, the office occupying the main floor and the second floor providing storage space for extra cots, mattresses and supplies. To the south of the main building was a small general store and to the south of that was the cook house, measuring 24' x 30'. There the meals were prepared and served to the miners and other employees. North of the office building were located a power house, a blacksmith shop and a bath house. The bath house was equipped with several enameled bathtubs for the comfort and convenience of the mine personnel.

Northeast of the bath house stood the bunk house where the miners slept during the work week. The bath house was flanked on the north by the main track extending from the mine entrance past the tippie and roundhouse and joining the main track of the spur railroad. A cement cistern completed the building complex. Since there was no water at the mine, it was hauled in tank cars from a pumping station located west of Lost Springs. They unloaded this water into the cistern near the power plant. The water was used for steam power as well as for human consumption.

Many of the men who worked in the mine were homesteaders in the area. Several whose homes were as much



Rosin Mine

as 15 miles distant walked to and from their homesteads each weekend, spending the remainder of the week toiling in the mine. According to Miss Lillie Meinzer, men earned from 85¢ to \$1.00 per day, of which it cost 75¢ per day for room and board.

The men were paid by the number of small cars of coal which they dug each day. When one hired on, he was issued a number with several "Coal Checks". These checks were copper discs about the size of a 50 cent piece. Each was engraved with "Rosin Coal Company" and a large number, and in each was a round hole to accommodate a nail. If a worker's number was nine, then his checks were all numbered with nine. Each time he loaded a car of coal and hauled it from the mine, one check was hung on his nail. At the end of the day, the checks were counted, and the wages for the day then computed.

The work was very strenuous. The main tunnels were five to six feet high and the "rooms" off the main tunnel four to five feet high. Each of the rooms had rails laid on the floor which joined with the main line in the main tunnel. Mules were used in the main tunnel to pull the cars full of coal out of the rooms to the mine entrance. There, an electric locomotive moved the small cars to the tippie located east of the bath house. Due to the fact that the veins of coal were not thick, the miners spent most of their time in a stooped position or on their knees. There was no electricity in the "rooms" so the miners used lamps which burned a special oil. The wicks in the lamps were cylindrical in shape, about as large as a lead pencil. Though they provided enough light for the miners to work by, they gave off a large amount of smoke.

After the coal was hauled to the tippie and loaded on coal cars, it was transported on a spur track called the Wyoming Northern by means of a steam locomotive. West of Lost Springs the spur joined the main line of the Chicago and Northwestern railroad. Upon reaching the junction, the steam engine was turned around and returned to the mine with empty cars. The loaded cars were maneuvered about the yards with mule teams.

The Sunset Mine was smaller than the Rosin Mine. It was located three miles north of the Rosin. There was a large four room house there, a barn, cook house and a bunk house. Mules were used to pull the coal cars out of this mine too, and to deliver it to the railroad spur at the Rosin. Plans had been made to build an additional spur



Rosin Coal Mine

over to the Sunset, but the plans did not materialize.

The primary reason for the dissolution of these mines was probably due to the quality of the coal. It was of the lignite variety, soft, burnt quickly and produced a great deal of ash and clinker. Since the veins at both mines were close to the ground surface, the coal was flaky. Upon being exposed to the weather, it deteriorated rapidly to slack coal or small lumps rather than remaining in big solid chunks. This, of course, reduced its saleability since it must be hauled long distances by rail.

The site of the Rosin Mine is almost obliterated. The main entrance has long since caved in. A tipple about a half mile to the north is still discernable. It was the entrance to a vein which was mined by Henry "Sugar" McGowan for ten or 15 years after the Rosin Coal

Company was dissolved. The cement foundations of most of the buildings lie in the gulleys below the mine and the cement cistern has been almost filled with dirt. The railroad fill which ran from the mine to Lost Springs is still definite. The wooden trestles which bridged the gulleys and creeks are gone, as are the rails and spikes. After the closure of the mine, the building materials, rails, tools, ties and any other thing which the homesteaders in the area felt would "come in handy" were taken away long ago. It is hard to believe that such an establishment really existed as one stands among the jack pine and cedar trees at the site of the mine. It did though, a product of the dreams and efforts of Orville Vincent and his backers, the farmers from Nebraska.

Ruth Grant







Early time Douglas band - 1891. Front row: second from left, Frank Knittle. Second row: left to right, Ed Ruhl, Milton Dean, Harry Ruhl, A.D. Cook, unknown, J.J. Steffen. Top row: far right, Tom Cook.

Girl Scout Troup Dec. 1949  
 Row 1: Shirley Stephanich, Mickie Bartos,  
 Darlene Deuel, Isabell Baker, Matoka  
 Haste, Ardath Hagar, Shirley Sylvester,  
 and Margie Morton. Row 2: Flora Fotes,  
 Catherine Larkin, Donna Bloem, Dorthy  
 Johnson, Elaine Clough, Shelley Joss,  
 Delores Holloway, Barbara Fulton, Helen  
 Poirot, and Celeste Clough, Leader.



Douglas Gun Club 1895 - l. to r.  
 F.W. Rimington, Mortimer  
 Jesurun, A.C. Rice, G.W.  
 Dickson and John Morton.

# ORGANIZATIONS

## Woodbine No. 18 Order Eastern Star

On January 5, 1906, 38 ladies and 39 gentlemen met and signed a petition for a dispensation, solicitating for the organization of a Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star, at Douglas, Converse County, Wyoming. This petition was accompanied by a certification that the names of the gentlemen were indeed Master Masons, in good standing in Ashler Lodge No. 10 A.F. & A.M. This certificate was signed by Frank S. Knittle, Worshipful Master and attested under seal of the Order by Otto H. Bolln, Secretary of Ashler Lodge. There being no fault to be found in the petition, authorization was given for Brother Charles H. Townsend of Fort Casper, Chapter No. 4 Casper, Wyoming to convene the petitioners and confer the degrees and to collect the Charter fee of \$20. This happy event took place on May 16, 1906.

The Charter, which hangs on the south wall in the southeast corner of the Chapter room was granted by the General Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star under date of September 18, 1906 certifying Sister Jennie Phillips Worthy Matron and Archie D. Cook Worthy Patron.

Originally Woodbine Chapter's jurisdiction extended over what is now Converse and Niobrara Counties, but on August 21, 1907 the Chapter was petitioned for a waiver of jurisdiction and for consent to the organization of a Chapter at Lusk, Wyoming. Consent was granted and on September 5, 1907 Niobrara Chapter No. 26 Lusk, Wyoming was chartered.

Election of officers for Woodbine took place on December 19, 1906 and on January 2, 1907 all officers elected and appointed were installed: The Worthy Matron Jennie Phillips, the Worthy Patron Brother J. M. Lowndes and secretary Sister Ella J. Peters.

The last minutes of any meeting of the Chapter in 1918 were dated October 2, 1918 and it was recorded that eleven members were present. Following this October meeting, the next meeting was January 15, 1919. The meetings having been resumed, the officers elected and appointed were installed. No explanation for skipping the meetings between those dates has been given, but it may influenza epidemic prevalent at that time.

At the meeting October 31, 1931, the Chapter commemorated its 25th anniversary, Bessie Leman, Worthy Matron and Floyd Bartling, Worthy Patron. Brother J. M. Lowndes, who had moved away, was present and spoke interestingly and entertainingly of the early history of the Chapter.

During the early 1930s times were very bad. These were dry years, business was slow and finances were low. Many members found it difficult and others impossible to pay their dues. The Chapter Treasury was in distress and the Masonic Building Committee was not receiving all of the rent from many using the Temple. Project Committees from the Chapter were serving dinners, when they had the opportunity, and the charge was \$.50 per plate, proof that money was hard to come by.

In 1934 the Chapter turned over to the Masonic Building Association \$600.00 in Masonic Temple Bonds it had acquired when times were better. This paid the back

rentals and applied a balance toward payment of the 1934 rental.

Sister Leona Bartling presided as Worthy Matron in the year 1935. Plans were being discussed and committees appointed to assist in entertaining The Grand Chapter Meeting which was to be held in Douglas that year.

The Grand Chapter meetings were held in the high school gymnasium during the latter part of August 1935. The Masonic Grand Lodge was meeting on the same dates in Douglas. It should be noted that Brother Floyd Bartling was Master of Ashler Lodge No. 10 at this time. The Grand Chapter Meeting at Douglas was pronounced an outstanding success, splendidly complimented and by many it was said to be the best Grand Chapter Meeting in 20 years. A highlight of the meeting was for Sister Daisy Anderson, a former citizen of Douglas who had organized Job's Daughters the first Bethel in Wyoming at Douglas, was elected Grand Associate Conductress of the Grand Chapter. Sister Daisy became Grand Worthy Matron in August 1937. She was once a native of Douglas.

Sister Leona was presented with a gavel made from cedar wood, taken from a telegraph pole off the line on the Old Oregon Trail, in appreciation of her diligence and devotion to the Chapter.

Following the summer vacation the regularly scheduled meeting September 1, 1935 was postponed due to an epidemic of infantile paralysis and no meeting was held on April 6, 1955 due to a severe storm, but rare indeed are cancelled meetings, even during the severe winter of 1949 all meetings were held at their regular times.

October 17, 1956 Lawana Davis, Worthy Matron and Lee H. Davis, Worthy Patron opened the Chapter to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Woodbine Chapter. There were 150 members and friends present including Past Grand Officers, one of these was Sister Effie Lowndes who was an original member of Woodbine, later affiliating with Fort Casper Chapter No. 4.

In September of 1981, Dorothy Taylor was serving as Worthy Matron, and it was time to celebrate 75 years of sisterhood for Woodbine No. 18. This was 50 years since her grandmother, Bessie Leman had celebrated the silver anniversary.

Something worthy and commendable occurred during the reign of all Past Matrons and Patrons while they were serving in the East, all have served with dedication and devotion for the Order of Eastern Star and all that it stands for: Faith in Christ, Truth, Love, Fidelity, Hospitality, Aid to the Distressed, and Fellowship.

Dorothy L. Taylor

## Extension Homemakers Clubs

Some men won't admit it, but all women are practical! It takes a practical head to manage a household and meet the problems of cookery, comfort and clothing which every housewife must solve.

There was, and is, one problem with which even the most practical nature cannot deal-all women get lonely, and delight in the company of their kind. These are general conditions which faced homemakers of Converse



"Live and Learn" club having a hobo party. Top row: l. to r.: Phoebe Barnes, Mary Brooks, Violet Grabow, unknown, unknown, Hazel Johnson, Hattie Martindale, Ethel Cowell, and Lucille Beaver. Seated, l. to r.: unknown, Nona Oak, Georgia Horton, Etta Hoffman, Lillian Dickau, unknown, Gertrude Falkenburg, Agnes Davis, and Clara Fulton.

County from the earliest date down to September 1984. It is with much anticipation and enthusiasm that women, then and now, look forward to the organization of Home Demonstration Clubs (now Home Extension Clubs) in this area. Now there are active clubs in rural, urban and city.

Converse County Extension homemakers clubs have varied from six to as many as 33 since their organization in 1924. The first two clubs organized were Walker Creek Progressive on April 23, 1924 (now Walker Creek) and Lower LaPrele in June 1924 (now LaPrele). The clubs had noon meals and the first meetings were attended by women on horseback often with a tot both fore and aft or brought by the husband in Model T's. At present, there are eight active clubs: Douglas Homemakers, Dozen Doers, Dry Creek Moms and Tots, LaBonte, LaPrele, North Platte, Sundowners and Walker Creek with 140 members. Over the years there have been male members.

The first recreation camp was held at Careyhurst the summer of 1927. Women from all clubs were present. This practice of having women's recreational camps was continued for several years and proved to be popular and educational.

Beginning in 1929, the first years of extension work, the Extension leaders came to each community to give the club their demonstrations. It finally became necessary for leaders from clubs to meet the specialists through county leader training meetings because request for training had grown so great.

In 1932 a song writing contest was held and Edna Presba of the Orin Club won first place.

#### CONVERSE COUNTY HOMEMAKERS SONG

(Tune: Wearing of the Green)

Our home is out in Converse  
Where there's plenty of room and air,  
Where the fields are broad and fertile  
And the weather is mostly fair.

We have farms and we have ranches  
We have many noble streams;  
We have fifteen club of Homemakers  
We will join to sing their names.

Now there's Sand Creek, Dry Creek, Deer Creek  
And there's Happy Hollow too:  
And there's Walker Creek and Cheyenne  
Which into a river grew.

Shawnee, Orpha, Shawnee Basin;  
Upper LaPrele makes nine;  
LaBonte, LaPrele, Hyland, Orin,  
Boxelder - makes it fine.

We have learned a home to manage  
We have learned to bake and do;  
How to serve and save and clean and sew  
And can a cow or two.

We are proud of Converse County  
Where this little song was born;  
Of our clubs and our Farm Bureau  
So we'll loudly toot our horn.

If you'll join us in our meetings  
Then we'll tell you of our plans  
How we've filled with fruits and jellies



Rows and rows of empty cans.

Converse homemakers are happy  
and her clubs are hustlers, too;  
And we greet you at this meeting,  
For we like to work with you.

Extension work was discontinued in 1933 with no County Agent or Home Demonstration Agent to carry on the work. For seven years this caused many clubs to fold and become only a memory. However, six clubs carried on and held regular meetings without assistance from Extension personnel. During these seven years Eula Brockway served part of 1933 and Edna Presba 1933-34 as County chairman. Nora Wilkinson served 1935-40.

Whether by accident or design, home demonstration groups solved the problem of companionship for the ranch wives. No distance was too great, no means of conveyance too ignoble to keep these women from their monthly club meetings.

The first homemaker clubs in this area were begun in 1924. Mary Rokhar from the university and County Agent A. E. Hyde helped the clubs organize. The charter members of Walker Creek Progressive were Charlotte Anderson, Frances Beaver, Lorinda Cram, Mrs. Willard Vernon, and four other ladies. Lower LaPrele charter members were Caroline Curtin, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Roush, Mrs. Brown, Lillian Pexton, Ica Beach, Eula Brockway, Mrs. Mitchell, and Mrs. Prickett.

Since 1940 Converse County has had a County Agent and Home Demonstration Agent (now called Extension Home Economist) with on-going Extension programs.

Club meetings not only lead to fact and food but to fancy as well. LaBonte Club put on two plays "Coming Around the Mountain," 1952, and a three act comedy play "Arrellia Bridge from Hemlock Ridge," June 1954.

LaPrele Club had a memorable "Amos An' Andy." North Platte presented various skits. Dry Creek had an active literary branch which gave plays. Various clubs in the county presented comedy skits. One of significance is "Little Brown Jug".

On October 18, 1947, the Converse County Homemakers, cooperating with the townspeople of Douglas, planned and organized the "Shoppers Lounge." The first Shoppers Lounge was located in three rooms in the back of the Converse County Bank building. Mrs. Sarah Bushey was the first matron. Mrs. Ela Good was matron for 29 years. At 101 years of age she still worked two days a week, until the lounge was closed on July 1, 1984 due to the lack of a need for it. The average number of visitors per day since 1947 was 20. Over the years, there have been visitors from as far away as Canada, Libya, France, England and Scotland.

National Home Demonstration Week, now called National Extension Homemakers Week, has been observed the first week in May since 1945 and Converse County Homemakers have participated in the activities during that week each year.

A wide variety of projects and activities have been carried. Among those are: Achievement day since 1931 - gives members a chance to review their work and see how their club compares with others in the area; County Spring Tea during the first week of May; Hobby Day

-where members display their hobbies and have demonstrations; Culinary Fair - a display of their culinary work; Consumer Day - a showing of new items and techniques; Annual Smorgasbord - serving 500 to 750 people to support the American Heart Association of Wyoming from 1964-1986, (the smorgasbord also supports the local Throat Culture Program since 1970 - 1986; participation in the County Health Fair; and the homemakers current project is child seat belt rental.

A number of teaching projects have been given. A few of them are: dress forms, hat making and sewing contests, cheese making, soap making, water refrigeration, pressure canning, and many, many more too numerous to mention here.

The County Homemakers adopted a Japanese boy, Kiyomitsua from Yokahoma, Japan in 1963-1964.

The County Homemakers started and used a point system in 1967 to credit clubs for their activities. This was used for several years.

#### Homemakers Clubs

Name	Organized
Walker Creek Progressive	1924
now Walker Creek	1951
Lower LaPrele - now LaPrele	1924
Hyland	1925
Home Economy - changed to Dry Creek	1926
Shawnee	1928
Deer Creek	1928
Glenrock	1928, 1949
Orpha	1929
Orin	1929
Jolly Dozen Homemakers - now LaBonte	1930
Sand Creek	1930
Boxelder Bridge	1931
Cheyenne River	1931
Shawnee Basin	1931
Verse	1934
Douglas Homemakers	1941
KYN Homemakers	1942
Cheerful Homemakers	1943
Live and Learn	1949
Fair View (South Douglas)	1949
North Platte	1951
Deer Creek	1951
Gay 15	1957
Escape	1958
Tumbleweed	1959
Dozen Doers	1959
Sagehens Homemakers	1964
Northwest Homemakers	1980
Hopeful Homemakers	1980
Kids and Chaos	1982
Dry Creek Mom's and Tots	1983
Sundowners	1983

Who's Who In Converse County Homemakers - Those serving on the Wyoming Extension Homemakers Council: Eva Hunter, 1945-46; Gayle Armstrong, 1949; Jo Carothers Martin, 1968; Mae Ann Manning, 1966-68; Ruby Burks 1970-76; Gilberta Pexton, 1984-85; Dorothy Clausen, 1980-82 and Betty Shelden, 1982-83.



The Quealy Award was started by Susan J. Quealy in 1946 to honor homemakers who have been outstanding in leadership and activities in the Extension homemakers program and in community service. Converse County Recipients are Addie Marburger, 1947; Mary K. Bruner, 1954; Rosalind Haefele, 1960; Viola Rogers, 1966; Gilberta Pexton, 1972; Irene Wallis, 1978; and Dorothy Clausen, 1984.

Man's Eye View - And what do the men think of home demonstration club activities? In the beginning, charter members found some husbands distant, or even cool toward the entire project. Perhaps they tended to look on the organization as another of "those women's Tom fool notions". The ladies not only overcame this minor thorn in their determination, but developed their husbands into ardent supporters.

All they did was invite the men along, provide loads of their famous food, and club days became as much a part of the male social calendar as it was with the homemakers and children. Still today, some clubs meet for a noon family meal.

This information was researched by Mary K. Bruner, Gilberta Pexton and Betty Cole Shelden.

#### GRANDMA'S LYE SOAP

2 cans lye	1 10# pail melted fats
1 box 20 Mule Team Borax	1 10# pail cold water
1 bottle citronella	

Melted, strained fats should be hot but not boiling. Pour water into an earthenware crock. Carefully add lye. Stir with a long stick. Keep as far away from fumes and vapor as you can and still be able to stir it. Stir until lye is dissolved. Add hot fat, borax and citronella, then stir at an even steady pace. Stir until soap is the consistency of cooked cereal.

At this time, a drop off the end of the stick will leave a mark in the mixture. Pour into a large enameled pan. Cover and wrap tightly so as to keep steam inside. Let set overnight. Next morning cut into bars, set out before storing or grinding.

#### DEPRESSION FLOWERS

Take an ordinary clinker, or a chunk of coal may be used. Put the clinker in a large bowl and pour over it a mixture of the following: Two tablespoons of water, bluing and salt. The next day, add two tablespoons salt; third day, repeat the first mixture and in addition, sprinkle a few drops of mercurochrome and iodine over the top. Then let stand, away from the sun. If the plant becomes dry, add water to the bowl and occasionally some salt.

Betty Cole Shelden

## Converse County Extension Service

The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 created the framework for the Extension Service followed by the Enabling Act of the Wyoming State Legislature which provided for a contract agreement between County Commissioners and the University of Wyoming.

A. F. Scott was appointed the first County Agent in



4-H camp at 1920's state fair; Beryl Hornbeck is one of the delegates.

Converse County on February 18, 1918. Converse County had long been dominated by big sheep and cattle men, but the coming of the homestead ended the era of free range. The new homesteaders welcomed the coming of a County Agent as they needed his advice. The ranchers felt that if the agent would let the dry farmer alone he would soon starve out and leave. Thus, the stockmen were slow to accept the agent and many opposed the county spending money for his support. Mr. Scott resigned after six months service. The following spring the Board of County Commissioners cancelled their contract with the university.

Four years later, with a change in County Commissioners, a new contract was negotiated and on May 1, 1922, Glen McBeth was hired. McBeth started 4-H club work and introduced home economics work for rural women, as well as working with farmers. He resigned in February 1923 to farm for himself. A. E. Hyde was transferred to fill the vacancy. He had been serving as County Agent in Niobrara County. Hyde served for about ten years and is best remembered for developing leaders in agriculture, home economics and 4-H club work. Mr. Hyde also did pioneer work in organizing a Farm Bureau; in the planting of trees and shrubs in Douglas and on farms and ranches; and in organizing farmers cooperative marketing.

Gayle Neubauer was the first Home Demonstration Agent in Converse County. She began work on April 1, 1929.

In the '30s, as the great drought and depression started, stockmen began to demand a cut in taxes and county expenses. The County Commissioners again cancelled the contract and in June 1933 Mr. Hyde and Miss Neubauer left the county.

With the government's cattle and sheep purchase program in 1934, an Emergency Assistant, Archie Hale, was placed in the county in May to implement the program and to attend to other emergency problems as they arose. When the emergency work was completed and funds were used up, Mr. Hale was recalled from the county on September 30, 1935.

No further Extension work was done in Converse

County until February 1, 1940 when Lee Wiegand was appointed agent. Mr. Wiegand helped develop an interest in an R.E.A. project. He was called for military service early in 1942.

On April 6, 1942 Ray Wolfley was appointed. Mr. Wolfley worked on grub control, Bangs vaccination and weed control. He also helped with establishing and handling the P.O.W. Camp in Douglas.

Dorothy Waggoner Grapes was appointed HDA on July 1, 1945. She served until April 17, 1948. Her successor was Frances I. Olson who served until July 31, 1948.

At the close of 1945, Mr. Wolfley was transferred to Uinta County and he was succeeded by William Chapman. Mr. Chapman stayed until March 31, 1951. Orville L. Nicholls became the new County Agent on April 15, 1951. He stayed until his retirement on December 31, 1974. An Acting Assistant Agent, Max M. Wall, was hired for September 1, 1957 to July 31, 1959 when Mr. Nicholls took an education leave. Frank Henderson followed Mr. Nicholls on February 1, 1975 with an interim agent, Gary Small, appointed from June 1, 1978 to January 1, 1979 when Mr. Henderson took an education leave.

Miss Olson was followed by Priscilla E. Brown - February 15, 1949 to June 30, 1951; Alleen Holbrook, June 20, 1951 to October 31, 1951; Barbara Burnside Wise, July 1, 1952 to May 19, 1956; Margaret E. Schluckebier, January 1, 1957 to her retirement, June 30, 1973; Martha Armitage Klauman, July 16, 1973 to March 19, 1976; Jann Johannes, June 1, 1976 to September 30, 1978; Barbara Daniels, November 1, 1978 to present.

4-H Program Assistants have been Gwenda Freed

(September 1978 to October 1980) and Charlene Bloem (November 1980 to March 1981). Darlene K. Nicholson became the full-time 4-H Agent in September 1981.

Barbara Daniels



I knew and worked with A. E. Hyde when he came here in 1923. He started organizing the Farm Bureau and 4-H. He organized the county into eight communities; Verse, Dry Creek, Walker Creek, Flat Top, Hyland, LaPrele, LaBonte and Lost Springs. These communities organized and held meeting each month.

Each community also organized a baseball team and on Sunday there were four games played. Mr. Hyde drew up the schedule and bylaws. A county wide celebration was held on the Fourth of July at LaBonte diamond.

Each community put on the entertainment for the monthly meetings; and as they had lots of time for practice, there were many good programs.

The ball games were discontinued in 1932 when times got bad and the people started leaving the county.

The County Commissioners composed of John Engelking of Glenrock, Tom Meisner and Tom Fleming of Douglas. They were cutting expenses and Mr. Hyde submitted his budget as always, and the commissioners tried to have him cut his budget but he wouldn't. They called him in and John Engelking asked him to cut and he said, "No" so Engelking said, "I won't sign your voucher any more." After a tussel with the Extension Service in Laramie, Mr. Hyde left here and went to Greeley, Colo-



Hyland Community Baseball Team, l. to r. top row: Bill Vollman, Jake Negley, Bill Brush, Roy Price, Scott Larsen and Homer Cross. Bottom row: Neal Deal, Seth Negley, Ray Taylor, Bud Ohlson and Johnny Potts.

rado where he stayed a short time and then left for parts unknown.

The county just coasted along until 1934 and 1935 when the national agriculture programs were organized. The County Commissioners wrote Washington D.C. to see if the county could get in on the corn and wheat program. Washington replied that even though we didn't have a County Agent we could have a program. The county would have to supply an office and a person to handle it.

A county wide meeting was held in Douglas and Elmer Cowell was elected chairman. The County Commissioners called Elmer in and asked if he would set up the office and get the program started. He accepted and stayed for ten years. The AAA program started about this time. The program later developed into the ASCS.

Elmer Cowell

O. L. Nicholls served Converse County for nearly a quarter of a century as County Agricultural Agent. In this work he became personally acquainted with many of those persons involved in the accounts of this historical record of residents of Converse County.

Nick dedicated himself to his job and appreciated the opportunity to serve the people of the county.

His job included work with both adults and youth (4-H) and involved sheep and beef cattle programs, weed control, rural fire control, Brucellosis vaccination and certification and various insect, rodent and predator



Walker Creek Community Baseball Team, l. to r. top row: Joe Danaher, Ancel Miles, Bob Hoblitt, Lester Dixon, Ted Hall, Bill Hall and unknown.

Bottom row: Raymond Beaver, Carl Lundberg and Harry Hall.

control programs. His youth programs saw numerous 4-H members and volunteer leaders involved in award winning trips that took them to all parts of the United States.

Nick is a Wyoming native and a World War II veteran. His wife, Jo, was a 4-H leader, homemaker and actively supported the extension programs. Two children, Steve and Carol, were raised and educated in Converse County. Both were active ten year 4-H members.

O. L. Nicholls



Dry Creek Ball Team, 1930 — Top row: l. to r. John Lofstead, Rodney Funk, Paul Sevier, E. Alvord, Bill Dixon, Melvin Ballard and Ernest Ireton. Bottom row: l. to r. Ivan Crouse, Emmet Ballard, Howard Dickson, Bill Reed and Babe Reed.



## Converse County Farm Bureau

Farm Bureau had its first beginnings in Converse County in the 1920s with locals being organized in most of the rural communities and also at the county level.

Ernest Beaver and Clyde Bower were among the first county officers elected in 1926.

The locals sponsored demonstrations. The topics varied from turkey dressing to table service and etiquette. They also had pie socials, fund raising dances, played bingo and helped with community projects. They built benches for community halls, provided Christmas treats for 4-H and school children, repaired county fish ponds and improved community buildings. They worked together and played together. County Extension Agent A. E. Hyde helped organize many of the locals and had input in the programs.

During the 1930s, the depression years, formal meetings of the organization were discontinued due to the economic situation.

In 1947 County Agent Bill Chapman helped to reorganize the locals and began the county wide program. Locals included Beaver, Douglas, Glenrock, LaBonte and LaPrele. New locals were added; Dry Creek (1950), East Converse (1952), Northwest (1961) and Shawnee (1978). In 1985 six locals remain active; Beaver, Dry Creek, Glenrock, LaBonte, LaPrele and Northwest.

The county FB was and is involved in many projects. They have an impact on legislation, 4-H, FFA, water quality, community projects, game and fish and agriculture marketing.

The annual CCFB projects have ranged from a Talent Find Contest (beginning in 1954) to a county picnic. Other county-wide events are; Tours, Ranch-Farm Day (1955, Institute), FB Recruitment Days or Campus Days (1956, to get acquainted with the University of Wyoming), Scholarships for students from FB families (1956), Agriculture Essay Contest (for high school juniors and seniors), Safety Poster Contest (1960, highest number of entries was 116 in 1962), FB Week (1962), CCFB Queen Contest (1963), weekly news column "Your FB," Radio programs, Meet the Candidate picnic, Meeting with Legislators, Little Red Barn (State Fair), membership drive, participating in State Fair Parade and County Library-Citizenship work.

CCFB started an annual banquet in 1949. In the early years each local took turns hosting the banquet (preparing and serving the meal, setting up and finding a speaker). Now the host local sets and decorates the tables. The Converse County Bank has provided a speakers fund that provides the money for the speaker that the county board selects. Speaker topics have ranged from humorous to educational to legislative, all with an agricultural slant. A full house in many years enjoyed the various types of entertainment: calf judging (men's calves), fiddlers, accordion players, dancing and skits.

From the start CCFB has been an active and hard working county organization. In the fall of 1946 some of the members participated in the 1946 State Convention in Worland. Then in 1947 Converse County hosted the State Convention. 275 out-of-county delegates participated. CCFB has received many awards, district, state and

national level; FB and non-FB. They received awards for Citizenship, Membership and Information. The county FB has been named Top County many times. In 1957, '58 and '59 CCFB won first in Citizenship at the national level for states under 10,000 members. Examples of other awards; State Fair float winner and Friend of 4-H.

CCFB has a Distinguished Service Award that is presented each year to a deserving member. The first award was given to Orville "Nick" Nicholls, county agriculture agent, in 1962. Other recipients have included hard working members, community leaders, state leaders and congressmen. In recent years the county has awarded two Distinguished Service Awards, one to a person directly involved in FB and one to a person outside of FB and agriculture. FB pins were also given to outstanding members in each local.

The county officers and local members have gone on to serve FB in district, state and national level. Allene Kohrs was honored with a silver plate in 1961 from AFBF for longtime service and several terms on the Western Region Women's Committee. Mrs. Ferris "Mary" Bruner was honored in 1958 for Citizenship. Charles Pexton is presently serving as the state district director.

Beverly Reed

## The Good Roads Club

Incorporating in 1910 with one hundred and fifteen members and capitalization of \$50,000.00, the Good Roads Club began as a way to enjoy the new automobile and evolved into a local organization dedicated to improving and promoting the Converse County road system

Illustrating the way everyone in the community did their part to improve the roads is a story told by Beef Bolln. He recalls as a child riding out what is now the Cold Springs Road on the way to Natural Bridge. There was a particular hill on which they would always stop. At the top, everyone in the automobile got out and threw five rocks off the road — the ritual would be repeated at the same spot on the ride home, thus leaving a better road than when they had arrived.

One early event sponsored by the club was an annual race from Wheatland to Douglas by route of the road running by the Platte River. It ended on the hill that now leads up to the Douglas Golf Course. A banner marked the finish line, and a large crowd was usually on hand. Always among the top finishers were Jesse Morsch, Tom Anderson and Charlie Saul. It should be remembered this race was over a dirt road covered with only a small amount of gravel — there was no such thing as an oiled road at that time. One particular race was lost by Jesse Morsch near the finish line, when due to "road conditions" he was bounced from the front seat of his car.

In 1911, the second floor above the Douglas Garage was renovated as a club room. *Bill Barlow's Budget* described it as "the finest room of its kind in this section of the West. The furnishings cost \$1,000.00 wholesale, and the rugs were of the quality scarcely found in private clubs many times the size of Douglas."<sup>1</sup> The rest of the second floor was made into bachelors quarters by W. J.

Morsch. Later, when the P.O.W. camp came to Douglas during World War II, the club room was converted to small apartments.

In 1915 the group changed its name to the Good Roads and Commercial Club and vowed to broaden the scope of the Club's work. By 1917 they voted unanimously to hire a full-time secretary at a salary of \$600.00. His job was to solicit funds locally to be used to improve the road system.

The year 1918 marked a turning point for the Club. They elected Robert Hawley—President, C. D. Zimmerman—Vice-President, W. H. Davis—Secretary & Treasurer. The board members were Hawley, Zimmerman, Davis, G. P. Bercher, and E. T. David. They vowed to "build up an organization that will do things for Douglas, for it is believed 1918 will be the most important year in the history of the development of the town."<sup>2</sup> On April 25, 1918 the Good Roads and Commercial Club voted to become the Douglas Chamber of Commerce. One of the first projects was enlisting moral and financial support for the Yellowstone Highway — built at the astounding cost of \$7 million. The group was told by the officers of the Yellowstone Highway Association that Converse County had the best section of road on the entire route. The Good Road Club had accomplished much in the years since the automobile was first introduced.

<sup>1</sup>Bill Barlow's Budget, published in Douglas, Wyo., January 18, 1911 issue.

<sup>2</sup>IBID, January 3, 1911 issue.

Sana Conley

## YELLOWSTONE HIGHWAY MENU

*"Strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends."—Shakespeare.*

Cody OYSTER COCKTAIL

*"He was a bold man that first eat an oyster."—Swift.*

Thermopolis Sulphur CREAM SOUP  
Laramie SOUR, PICKLES Wiley SWEET PICKLES  
Illo OLIVES

*Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we build good roads.*

ROAST CHICKEN with Casper Crude Oil GRAVY  
Moneta JELLY Newcastle KETCHUP  
BOILED PORK a la Cheyenne Ft. Russell CELERY  
Denver TOBACCO SAUCE  
Wheatland SLAW and IRISH FRUIT  
Meeteetse SANDWICHES Douglas Harmony SALAD

*"For I look upon it, that he who does not mind his belly will hardly mind anything else."—Johnson.*

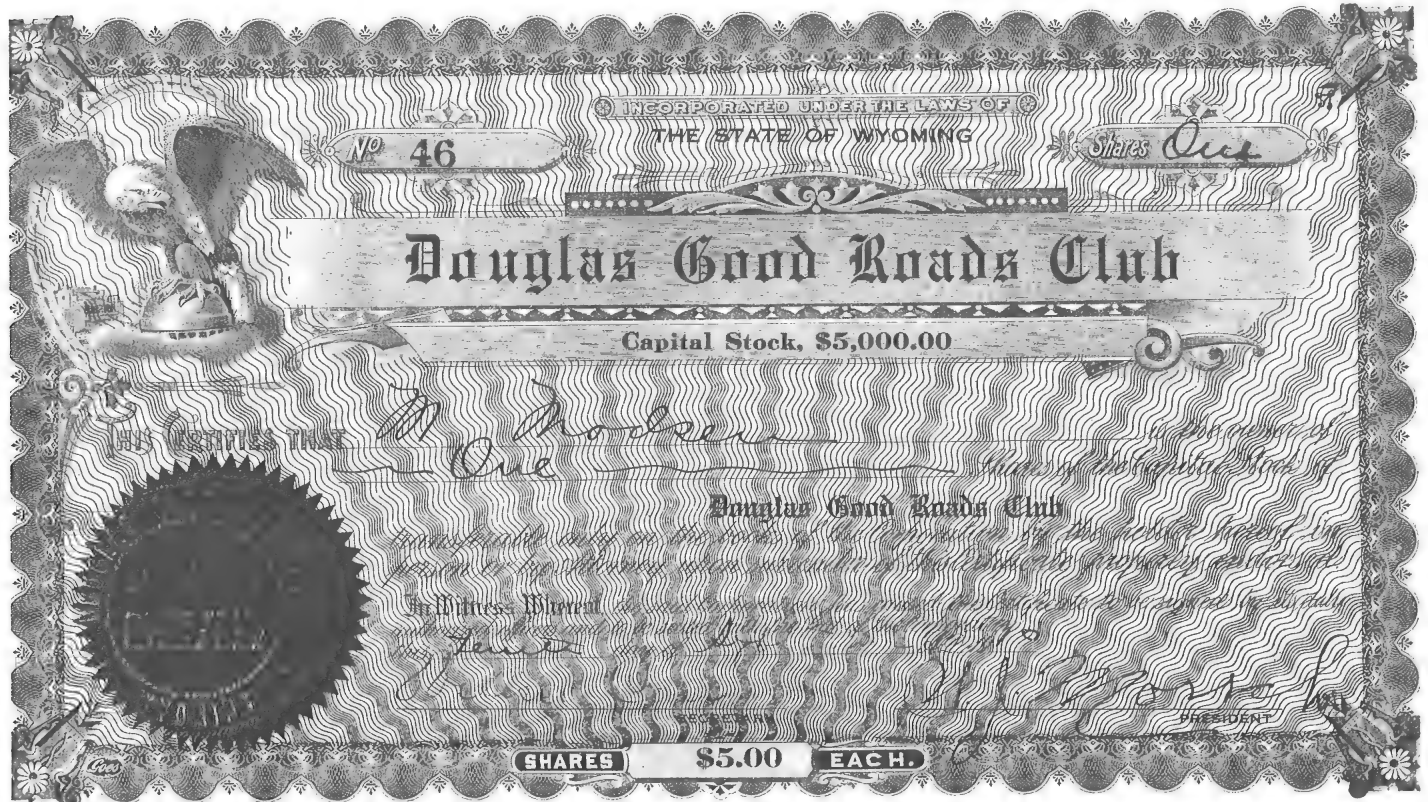
Chugwater ICE CREAM  
Wolton, Powder River, Cadoma, Inez, Orlin and Uva  
ASSORTED CAKES  
Shoshoni SALTED ALMONDS

*Our Highway, our whole Highway, and nothing but our Highway!*

Big Muddy COFFEE  
CIGARS, Careyhurst Alfalfa Filler

*"Thus far shalt thou go, and no further" (P).*

Menu for Banquet — 1912.





# Glenella Rebekah Lodge No. 41

Glenella Rebekah Lodge No. 41 was instituted on March 7, 1930 by the Rebekah Assembly officers as follows: Past President, Emma Sturgeon, Vice President, Mable Vollmer, Acting Grand Secretary, Louella Phillips, Acting Grand Treasurer, Carrie Williams, Warden Delia Clark, Conductor Della Blake, Chaplain Bess Wright, Inside Guardian Ida Barker, Outside Guardian Leona Bishop. Lodge then opened in form, Charter Members were presented and Obligated, the dispensation was read by the Grand Secretary and the membership roll was then signed by the following sisters and brothers: Mary Potterof, Elinor Tabor, Leonard Tabor, Dick and Viola Colby, John and Bertha Hakalo, John and Margaret Turner, and Stuart Anderson.

The members then elected the following officers: Nobel Grand-Viola Colby; Vice Grand-Bertha Hakalo; Secretary-Brother John Hakalo; Treasurer-Margaret Turner. Next in order was the installation of the officers by District Deputy President Emma Sturgeon and her staff: Rolla Luxon, Warden; Louella Phillips, Secretary; Carrie Williams, Treasurer; Mable Vollmer, Marshall; Bess Wright, Chaplain; Ida Barker, Ins. Guardian; Leona Bishop, Out. Guardian and Francis Thomason, Musician.

Applications for membership by card were read and balloting was favorable, electing to membership Brother Chris and Sister Esther Kennaugh and Brother R. L. Harrison by transfer certificate.

At the evening session, the same officers of the Rebekah Assembly degree team conferred the Rebekah Degree on 12 brothers and 22 sisters, several of them are still living and maintaining continuous membership. They are Viola Colby, Marian Clark, Evelyn and Fred Grant, Mona K. Griffith, Helen Griffith, Margaret Turner York and Nora Olin.

On October 7, 1932 we had a silver tea and cleared \$4.48. This was the start of our rug fund. We continued to serve dinner dances, card parties, Conoco safety banquets and bingo parties to add to the fund. The Rebekah Tea Club gave us \$30.00. Finally we had enough to buy a rug from Joslin's Department Store in Denver on February 2, 1949, at a cost of \$888, installed.

In 1935 at our Annual Roll Call, Sister Mary Potterof presented our Lodge with a beautiful white Bible, which we are still using. The Tea Club was very active at this time and gave the Lodge our chrome trays, silverware, several dozen cups, saucers and plates. Before this, each member had to bring her own table service.

Our members sewed kits and gowns for the Red Cross in 1944 during World War II.

Sister Cora Grant, mother of Sister Jessie Hakalo, was President of the Rebekah Assembly of Wyoming from June 1945 to June 1946. We have since had two more Presidents, Sister Evelyn Grant and Sister June Lythgoe.

Brother Ellis Culshaw was the Grand Patriarch of the Grand Encampment in 1952 and was fatally injured in a car accident on his way home from making official visits to the Encampments over the state. His death was a great loss to everyone. In 1952 the chimes at the Community Baptist Church were dedicated to the memory of

Brother Culshaw and his daughter, Beatrice. We have two other Past Grant Patriarchs, Brother William "Wick" Lythgoe and Brother Robert B. McIntosh. Brother Hershel H. Wickett is a Past Grand Master and Past Department Commander. We're proud to have them as brother Rebekahs in our lodge.

The Odd Fellows lodge of Glenrock held a mortgage burning ceremony on January 2, 1957, which was a joyous occasion for Odd Fellows and Rebekahs alike. The Rebekahs served the banquet and the lodge hall was packed with visitors from the neighboring lodges. This was the highlight of their year and we shared in their happiness.

As the years have gone by we have seen many changes. At one time we had the best Degree Teams in the state, every officer knew their charge from memory, and the Degree was practiced every month. Brothers Dick Colby, Earl Clayton and Fred Grant were the Degree Captains, and good ones!

Sister Evelyn Grant served as Assembly President in 1956-1957 and Sister June Lythgoe served in 1975-1976. They are both active members of our lodge.

Six of our members have received the Decoration of Chivalry: Mary Potterof, Cora Grant and Blanche McQueary (all now deceased), Amanda Lythgoe, June Lythgoe and Evelyn Grant.

We held money making projects to help on the expense of remodeling the kitchen and restrooms, which was done by the Odd Fellows. They also remodeled the hall and stairways, carpeting those areas and the ante-rooms. What an improvement, and it was greatly appreciated!

On February 2, 1977 we had a dinner honoring Sister Blanche McQueary on her 80th birthday. She was our Queen for the Evening and was paid many tributes for her many years of dedicated service to the lodge.

Margaret Uhrich, a Glenrock girl, was a winner of the trip to the United Nations session several years ago. We are proud to be sponsors of the essay contest that provides such an honor to the winners.

Our lodge is active and participates in many projects of the Order. We raise money for community charities as well as our own projects.

We were proud to be friends and neighbors of Brother Corwin Havill of Casper, who served as Sovereign Grand Master of the World, Independent Order of Odd Fellows and attended his Testimonial Dinner in Casper.

Over the years we have presented many 25 year jewels and a number of 50 year jewels for continuous membership in the Order.

While other outside activities that have become so numerous keep some of us from regular attendance, we still have an active, enthusiastic lodge. We are proud to be REBEKAHS!

Amanda Lythgoe  
Secretary

# Converse County Rural Fire Control

The Converse County Rural Fire program was organized by the County Agent, O.L. Nicholls, in 1964 in cooperation with the County Commissioners. The intent of the program was to assist ranch people in rural areas in preparing a ready force to control range fires. The program met with much enthusiasm among ranch people. The county was organized on a community basis and was divided into eight zones. Surplus military equipment was available through the State Forester's Office. Most of the expense of the program, however, was handled by the individuals in the communities or zones. Army six by six and four by four trucks were available as well as some Jeeps and trailers.

The first trucks to be obtained were picked up in Pueblo, Colorado and driven to Douglas by George Etchemendy, Gene Hardy and "Doc" Alexander. These were army two and one half ton six by six trucks. All equipment obtained was outfitted by the zones with water tanks, pumps and other fire fighting equipment to handle most range fires.

As the program progressed, radio equipment was also obtained to the point that now leaves the county well organized to control rural fires that may develop in any section of the county. This program was strictly a volunteer effort by rural residents who developed and maintained the quipment. Each zone (eight in all) was supervised by volunteer zone wardens elected by the people in the zone. Equipment was obtained according to the need and financial capability.

Early pioneers in the program included; Earl Reed, George Etchemendy, Vic Nachtman, Jack Nachtman, Carl Hageman, Glenn Naiman, "Doc" Alexander, Harold Carothers, "Skee" Goff, Jack Sullivan, Gene Hardy, Dennis Irwin, Jim Caldwell, Rory Cross, Marty Olsen, Dale Carson, Fred and Richard Grant, Bernard Duncan, Lloyd Nunn, Ed Moore, Mortons Ranch, VR Ranch, Bixby Ranch, Don Cundall, County Agent O.L. Nicholls and County Commissioners Hugh Duncan, Bill Vollman, Sr. and Justin Wernier.



Converse County Rural Firefighters l. to r. Richard Grant and Fred Grant.

The present program is equipped with a two way radio system. Each zone warden has a base radio and there are also radios in many of the trucks. One operates at the Black Mountain Lookout tower. A total of 32 trucks are equipped in nine zones. People administering the program are: George Etchemendy, County Fire Warden; Earl Reed, Deputy County Fire Warden; and Jerry Wills, Chairman of the County Fire Board. Zone Wardens are: Earl Reed, Joe Hageman, Chet Lane, Jerry Wills, Jack Sullivan, Fred Grant, Hershel Wickett, Dale Carson, Warren Manning and County Commissioners John Pexton, Bud Turner and Gordon Taylor, Jr.

In addition to fighting fires in the county, a group of five ranchers, with two trucks, went to Montana in 1984 to assist in fighting severe fires in that area. Men on these fires were Larry Philbrick, George Etchemendy, Dana Fitzhugh, Jerry Wills and Dennis Newell.

The program is invaluable as a fire protection force for the county and presently receives part of its finances for equipment from a budget from the County Commissioners.

O.L. Nicholls

## Douglas Organizations

Early day Douglas organizations and their beginning dates include: Ashlar Lodge No. 10, A.F. & A.M., March 14, 1887; Douglas Lodge No. 15 I.O.O.F., December 9, 1889; William Nelson Post No. 9, G.A.R., October 11, 1895; W. of W. Fetterman Camp, 224, November 20, 1896; Fidelity Camp No. 2646 R.N. of A., July 16, 1901; Douglas Social Club, October 1901; Women of Woodcraft, November 14, 1901; Douglas Camp No. 6174, M.W. of A., January 21, 1903; Women's Club, May 8, 1903; Platte Valley Aerie No. 413 F.O.E., June 26, 1903; Mt. Valley Rebekah Lodge No. 15, August 13, 1903; Women's Relief Corps, July 25, 1905; Douglas Card Club, November 1905; Douglas Flinch Club, November 1905; Shawnee Tribe No. 12, I.O.R.M., September 1906; and Douglas Commercial Club, March 1907.

Catherine Larkin Pexton



Converse County Rural Firefighters l. to r. Earl Reed, George Etchemendy, Frank Pexton, Dale Ballard and Joe Hageman.



**Douglas South Grade School - First Grade Class - Fall 1942**  
 From left to right, first row: David Fowler, Viola Gibson, Eddie Potter, unknown, Donald Bunning, and Ronald Woods. Second row: unknown, Margie Morton, Mae Santistevan, unknown, unknown, Larry Thompson, unknown. Third row: Jess Nance, Donald Olson, Wayne ?, Ted Bennett, Earl Scott, Ted McKelvey, and Joe Middleton. Back row: David Hanlin, Helen Poirot, Catherine Larkin, unknown, Barbara Fulton, unknown, and Flora Fotes.



**Kirn School - 1920**  
 Lydia Haas, teacher. From left to right, back row: Ann Kirn, Fritz Nielsen, Joe Kirn, and Mike Jagers. Front row: Lewis Nielsen, Pete Jagers, Frank Kirn, Sophie Kirn, and Lloyd Nielsen.



Douglas School House 1908

# SCHOOLS



Class of 1902. The first graduating class of D.H.S. Members of the class were: l. to r. Mayme Jarchow Clough, Stella Smith Stone, Josephine Jarchow Adams, and Bessie Willox Bolln. Bolfour Johnstone, principal stands in back. The graduates received their diplomas at the Opera House in a formal ceremony on May 15, 1902.



## Fairview School

The Fairview School located on the George Peake's place accommodated the homesteaders' children of the north and east part of the Dry Creek Community. A few years later it was moved to a new site just south of the Bill Featherston place. Here it served the purpose through the spring of 1929. Dry Creek schools consolidated to a new school located just south of the Dry Creek Community Hall in the fall of 1929. Drinking water came from the hall.

Teachers at the Fairview School were; Mrs. Jim Stevens, Mrs. Herman Brockmeyer, Miss Verbel Dull, Miss Brown, Mrs. Githens, Mrs. Hildebrand and T. J. Allstott. At the Dry Creek Consolidated School from 1929 to 1937 those teaching were: Emmett Carver, Anna Lynch, Scott Carver, Miss Bernice Robinson, John Cleveland, Skirlo Walkinshaw and Muriel Metz. Mr. Glenn Lore and later Babe Reed were school bus drivers from the north and east part of the Dry Creek Community. Everyone walked to school before the consolidation in the fall of 1929. A Model T was put on the top of Mr. Emmett Carver's cabin in the school yard grounds on Halloween 1929.

The Dry Creek Consolidated School burned February 12, 1936. Nobody knew what started the fire; hot coals out of a stove were suspected. Everything burned. During the period of time it took to bring two abandoned small schools, put them end to end and get them ready for classes, we carried on school in the Dry Creek Community Hall. All of our new basketball suits and all the new track equipment burned. Hundreds of arrowheads owned by students burned. Also hundreds of rattlesnake rattles used for class work and owed by students burned.

Harvey and Earl Brockmeyer  
Elizabeth Hiebert

## LaBonte and Wagonhound Schools

The early day schools of District 19, south of Douglas, in the LaBonte and Wagonhound area, were much different than the schools of today. The first school buildings were of log construction, the windows were small and the lighting was very poor. If a spring or creek was not close by, drinking water was carried to school each day by each family, usually in a syrup pail with a tight inset lid. Wood was used for fuel. Books were furnished by the school district.

Distances were great between ranches and homesteads in this sparsely settled area; the winters were long and severe and transportation was slow. Pupils and teacher either walked, rode horseback, or drove a team. The teacher was usually an eighth grade graduate with no normal training or higher education. Wages were \$35 a month or less, the term was short, often only three months long, or as money was available. Sometimes the term was split; school being held in spring or early summer and then again in late summer or early fall. This was done to avoid having school in the severe winter weather. Later, when there was oil royalty money for the

schools, the term had to be longer in order for the school to qualify for the royalty money. At one time (about 1918) it was six months, then eight months and then nine months. If a school was large, a teacher often had all the grades from the first grade through the eighth grade. Frame buildings replaced old log school houses.

The old Mill School, District No. 8, was located at the old sawmill on Mill Creek, about where the dike is on what is now the Allen Grant ranch. This was from about the turn of the century until 1912. The school house was a log structure, with small windows and it was very dark on rainy days. The double seats and desks were homemade. There was an organ part of the time. Some of the teachers were Mrs. Esmay, Ruth Ames, Myrtle Davis, Margaret Reid (Bolln), and Florence Reid (Stansbury, then Scott). School board members were Martha A. Bruner, Mrs. George Ullman and George Snyder. The Mill School closed up and moved in 1912 and the district became part of District 19. Pupils who attended, as recalled by Ferris Bruner, were Julian Esmay and his sister, two boys by the name of French, Faye Chambers (George), Walter, Clarence, Emma and Juanita Lyons, Harrison and Della Payton and Ferris Bruner. Later came Edna, Irl (Earl), and Maggie Kelsey, Clyde, Merle, Ivan, Ruth and Ruby Francisco, Leonard, Ralph, Roy and Winifred Miller. Richard Blackford, Lena Crawford (Crabb), Lillian King, Malcolm Rutherford, Martha Helsley, a Blowers girl and boy, and perhaps others.

Thomas G. Bruner bought the old school house and moved it down to the present Bruner ranch where the family dwelled in it while they built their house. Then it served as a shop until the heavy snow of 1933 leveled it. The bell from this school was donated to the museum school house on the state fairgrounds.

In the years, approximately of 1901-1905, a log school house stood about one-quarter mile southeast of the Henry Saul place, which was at, approximately, the location of Charlie Saul's bungalow where Dick Pexton now lives. The school was on a hill just above where the ditch and the meadow are now. But there was only sagebrush then; no ditch or meadow. Teachers remembered are: Bessie Mills (Leman), Louise Welsh, and Bertha Meyers; the Kelsey children came from up LaBonte Canyon (Edna and Irl Kelsey), Beulah Hamilton, Vera Saul (Trumper), Vernon Saul, Marjorie, Dick, Jack and Douglas Foxton, James C. Willox, Frank McLaughlin, Roscoe, Malcolm and Archie Rutherford and Ferris Bruner.

Bessie Mills Leman recalled that she had taught Edna, Maude, Bessie and Margaret Willox and Billy Hamilton and probably was at this school, or some building near by.

About 1905 a new frame school house was built by Pete Peterson, near the LaBonte Creek Bridge just below where Dick Pexton lives in the Saul bungalow. The old log school house (above) was moved away. Teachers recalled are Margaret Reid (Bolln), Florence Reid (Stansbury, then Scott), and Miss Carter.

James C. Willox, father of James A. Willox, used to ride horseback to this school from the present Willox ranch on West Fork LaBonte Creek, a distance of six miles or more. The four Rutherford boys rode from the present Charles Pexton place, a distance of perhaps



seven miles. The George Foxton children came either in a buggy or on horseback from the present Tim Pexton place and they attended both this school and the log one mentioned above. This frame school burned to the ground.

A cement school house was built by Dad Morton just above where Saul's bungalow was built later. This building was very cold and very unsatisfactory as there was no dead air space and frost collected on the walls. Emma O'Brien (Adair) taught here in 1914, and she recalls that her pupils were Billy and Ruth Morton, Bea, Charlie, George and Josie Poirot and that she boarded at Poirots who lived where Jack Eggleston lived. She and the Poirot children walked this long distance to school but she recalls that they were afraid of Saul's bulls in the pasture and so they went long distances around the bulls and added mile on mile. She said the bulls never bothered them but that they took no chances. On the school board as she recalls were Jim Shaw, Mr. Pollard and Pete Johnson.

A log school house was built by Otto Brose at the site of what is now White School. Laura Johnson (Reid) taught this school the winter of 1917-1918. Phyllis Sullivan taught in 1918-1919 and 1919-1920. The building burned down in the spring of 1920. Pupils recalled are Fay Brose (West), Dorothy and Vern Brose, Arbulah, Arvilla, Havelock and Woodrow Brow, Eva, Mamie, Stanley and Patty Brow (Amspoker). Thornton and Edwin Brow and Bill Morton.

Fred Cannon was hired to build the little White School House which later served as a teacherage. It was a frame building. Some of the teachers who taught there were Elga Johnson (McDonald), Bette Reid (Wills), Marion Mills (Burden), Marjory Gibbs, Maxine Carothers, Ada McKibben, Marilyn Rodeman (Alexander), Kathleen Fitzhugh (Nance), and Adele Mores. Pupils besides some enrolled at log building were: Ann, Julia and Henry Freeman, Elizabeth Isaac (Brow), Ida Mae Isaac (Leeling), Joe Isaac, Janice, Eleanor and Gerald Whitaker, Walter Lee, Shirley and Don Alexander, Fred Edwards, Don, Marie and Carol Johnson, Bruce, Toni and Kitty Corn, Lois and Buck Norton, Ann and Jimmy Willox, who rode across the bleak flat from the Willox Ranch on West Fork LaBonte.

The large White School House (frame) to the south of the teacherage which now houses the four lower grades, was originally built on land which later belonged to Will Nunn, where Lloyd Nunn now lives. Maude George (Nunn) attended school here, and she recalls that some of her teachers were Miss Elza Hines, Martha Gordon, Miss Lettie Owens, Bessie Davis who later married Guy George, Bess McClain, who was a sister of Mrs. Silas Guthrie, Ona Mills, who was a cousin to Mrs. Fred George, mother of Maude Nunn. Maude Nunn remembers an old log school house used before this white one was built and at about the same site. Other pupils at this school besides Maude George (Nunn) were: Bob, Hubert, Fred and Harry George, the children of John Kern who then owned the present James Clausen place, Laura Johnson (Reid), Carrie Johnson (Reid), Elga Johnson (McDonald), and others.

This large White School House on the Nunn place was moved in the early 1930s to a point midway between the

Nunn Ranch and the Gordon Fitzhugh Ranch and still later it was moved to the Wagonhound Creek about half-way between Fitzhugh's and what is now the George Wills Ranch. And when it outgrew its usefulness there, it was again moved in 1964 or 1965 up to the White School, which place seems to be its ultimate resting place as a school house.

A new building of frame was erected at White School about 1956 just north of the teacherage, by Lester Rookstool; this was to house the four upper grades after the school bus was run to the upper country to bring the children down there. But this building housed all the grades before the other building was moved to south of the teacherage. Teachers at this White School location not named at the log or little school house teacherage building included Georgia Eggleston, Helen Metz, Stella Jackson, Pauline Swisher, Jo Carothers and Mable Nauman.

In the early days the Lower Wagonhound (log) School House set on the west side of the old county road and on the north side of the irrigation ditch. Among the pupils were the Fitzhugh and Pollard children and others. Then the school house was moved up the creek between Fitzhugh's and the Milt Hammond place, now part of George Wills Ranch. Later Laura Reid taught several terms at the Fitzhugh place where Jim Fitzhugh now lives. Margaret Enquist taught a term there, too.

The Upper Wagonhound School, Carothers and George School, was a log building on the west side of Wagonhound Creek and below the road crossing going toward the Ed Raeber or present John Pollock place. Among the pupils were George, Arthur and Margaret Carothers, the Guy Georges, Bob George and Hubert George children and others. Some of the teachers were Ruth Furman (Whitaker), Maxine Stone (Carothers) and Anna Anderson (Peterson).

In the 1940s a frame school house was built by George Reid about a mile east and south of the Matt Carothers ranch house. Later it was moved over to the Nunn ranch; still later to the north side of Wagonhound Creek to accommodate the McGehee children; and still later it was moved south of Wagonhound Creek and up on a hill east of the county road. In the fall of 1970 this building was moved over to Wagonhound to be used as a teacherage for the John Pollock and George Falkenburg School.

Mrs. Walter Whitaker recalls the Sheep Creek School on Wagonhound. She taught Walter Whitaker, Jr. one year when he became of school age. Margaret Carothers taught him one year and received \$20 per month and Mr. Whitaker paid her for teaching. Mrs. Whitaker recalls that Albert Burns built the Sheep Creek School House. Ethel Westwick taught here and drove four miles. Her pupils were Ramona Westwick, Harold Carothers, Beverly and Shirley Stults, Walter Whitaker, Jr. and Janice Whitaker. Part of the pupils were from District 19 and part from District 22 but arrangements were made.

Maude George Nunn was a pioneer teacher on LaBonte. She taught in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Poirot when they lived where Rita Alexander now lives. She finished a term for Polly Eastman (Carmin) and then taught the next term there. The Poirots then moved.

The Braae School was established in the spring of 1918 for the two children of Mrs. Hattie A. Braae, a widow

who homesteaded where the remains of the buildings and the old Braae, Wyoming Post Office now stands. School was held in the bedroom of the cabin. Mary Dunn (Bruner) taught the first two terms there and Pansy Braae (Dunn) taught the third term. The school was then discontinued when Mrs. Braae went to take employment at the B. J. Erwin ranch. Pupils at this school were Mildred, Irene, Arnold and Hattie Braae.

When the Braae School came into being, there was a school at the Fred Wright place which is now Charles Pexton's. School was held in the bunkhouse, and it was then Albany County but is now in Converse County. Teachers were Mary Fitzhugh and Lily Metcalf. The Wrights moved away after these two terms.

In the fall of 1925, a school was established in the bunkhouse at Ferris Bruner's with Beulah Walston as teacher; next year the bunkhouse was moved from the yard to a knoll near Mill Creek near the road crossing. Fay Reed taught, then Martha Meigs and Mary Bruner. It was discontinued after four years when Blackbridge School was built. Pupils at this bunkhouse were Charles and Archie Bruner, Charles, Dick and Jean Strock, Vern and Margaret Hayes, Rody Brow and Fred Edwards.

This same fall of 1925, Margaret Southwick taught the Willis Spracklen children who lived south of where Tim Pexton now lives.

Blackbridge School was built in 1929 by Albert Burns. It was a very large rural school. Teachers were Edna Seewald, Anna Schick (Ballard), Wilma McClanahan, Muriel Metz and Margaret Oestreich. It closed in 1937 for lack of pupils. Pupils there had been Charles, Archie and Sibyl Bruner, Ann and Julia Freeman, Hellen, Frances, George and Betty Enbody, Margaret and Jim Saul, Gene, Lorraine and Betty George, Charles, Dick and Jean Strock, Fred Edwards, Billy and Bobbie Owens, Billy, Marie and Phebe Norton, Mike Shonsey, Margaret McHenry, Opal, Marion and Harold Watson, Martha, Imogene, and two other Gregory children.

Blackbridge School opened again a few years later and teachers then were Miriam Meyers, Evelyn Jacobs Munkres, Marion Burden. Pupils were Tom and Shirley Eggleston, perhaps others. The building still stands in a state of decay.

Beulah and Raleigh Bricker who homesteaded on Rutherford Creek below what is now the Charles Pexton ranch buildings, in the late 1920s, erected a very small building at their own expense, and the district furnished the teacher for the Morton children. Later this small building was moved to a location below Braae Post Office, midway between the Bob George family at Braae Post Office and the Willard Ellis family at Hamilton place. Floy Moore Braae and Dorothy Isaac (Clausen) taught there. Pupils were Sammy Ellis, Bertha, Kathy and Billy George. School discontinued when the families moved.

The small log school house just up LaBonte Creek from the Fred Isaac place which is now James Clausen's, was first build down the creek by Fred Isaac and Brownie Phinney for a school for Dorothy and John Isaac and Beth and Virginia Phinney. Teachers there were Miss Basham and Miss Engstrom. School was held in it for two years, then the building was torn down and moved to the upper end of Isaac's land and just below the marker of the Bill

Hooker cabin. Janet Thompson (Froggatt) taught two years here. Pupils were Dorothy and John Isaac, Beth and Virginia Phinney, Fred and John Dilts, and others. Dorothy Clausen recalls that one year Brownie Phinney ran sort of a bus up as far as what is now Colt Track Ranch to pick up other pupils. The road was dirt and unimproved. He had many struggles making the trips. This was the first effort at hauling pupils that we know of! This was probably about 1936. Until twelve years ago school has been held off and on every few years at this location; Wilma Ballard and Esther Clausen taught here. The building is still standing.

Since the Esterbrook area is now a part of Converse County, the Fawcett School was established when Vernon Fawcett became of school age. Russell Fawcett furnished a building for a school house. His wife, Miriam, was the teacher. The second boy, Paul, also attended.

From about 1915-1920, I believe, in general, the teachers hired, had at least a high school education and wages were higher. John Pexton thought it was in the early 1950s when some of the pupils were taken by bus to White School from upper end, later the lower end was taken by bus to White School. Jack and Mabel Eggleston had the bus contracts.

Mary and Ferris Bruner

## Nachtman School

The first school was at the Dull homestead in a log building about 1918 or 1919.

In 1923 a frame school was built on the Harvey Nachtman homestead; it put the school half way between the Dull and the Good families. The school was named Bethany.

In the late fall of 1939 the school was moved to the Frank Rothluetner place. There, another school building was added to the original school building. In 1951 the school building was again moved back to the Nachtman ranch and renamed the Nachtman School.

Water for the school was hauled by parents or the teacher. The school was heated with coal that was hauled by parents.

In 1960 electricity was brought to the community and so to the school; it was a great day!

1964 brought another improvement. A water well was drilled and restrooms were put in. The teacher lived in one room and taught in the other.

In 1973 a new school was built with a large class room with a kitchen area and a recreation room. A dedication for the new school was held October 21, 1973 with many past pupils and teachers present. There were three generations of the Victor Nachtman family and two generations of the Lawrence Nachtman family present. Also, but not present, two generations of the Rothluetner family had attended the old school.

The old school was sold and moved; it was later destroyed by fire.

One incident that was well remembered in the old school was when skunks moved in under the school. Traps were set but could not catch them as fast as they were moving in.

The skunks would fight under the floor and were

climbing up inside the wall where the two buildings were joined and get up to the attic. The teacher said, "They had to go or she would." A hole was cut in the wall and Victor Nachtman's hunting dog was put under the floor to chase the skunks up the wall then the men would reach in and catch the skunks by their tails, take them outside and kill them. A total of 26 skunks were trapped and carried from the school. The building was then fixed so they could not get under the floor. It was a little smelly for a few days but not much worse than when the skunks were living under the school.

In 1983 the school was closed after more than 60 years of continuous classes held there.

Sara Nachtman

## North Point School

Thunder Basin may mean many things to different people. To me, it will always mean a sea of grass, vague trails like currents starting bravely only to peter out on a wave of hill and a matchbox school perching on the edge of a deep ravine. "Pop" Markley, one of the great men of the school world, sent me on that wild goose chase. The contracted teacher had returned to Casper and sent District #17 a wire saying that she had decided not to teach.

That night I said, "Now, if I had a sheepwagon, I'd do it."

Fred Jenne answered, "I'll take you up on that; I have a new sheepwagon that I bought for the roundup. You buy me an innerspring mattress and you can use the sheepwagon."

Mick Hardy solved the water problem by promising to bring it in milk cans. The simple matter of existence posed problems; scrub the school house, carry coal, make fires, bring books on every imaginable subject.

I learned to make a fire in the sheepwagon's sheet iron stove although the damper was a mystery for some time and biscuits could be both burned and raw. The round oak school stove seemed simpler, but Laramie Griffiths was slow about bringing coal and the slack delighted the children when it exploded and blew that useless lid from the stove top into the room.

Arlone Carson was second grade pixie genius, Herbert Smith was fourth, Gene Hardy and Vivian Carson, fifth and Dale Carson was eighth grade.

I was determined that we would not miss anything taught in the finest schools; and the world was a science lab. The igloos which we built were masterpieces. The wonderful neighbors entertained me.

Halloween was there all too soon. We had fine decorations and fabulous food. Everyone came and sang and laughed and visited. Of course, Halloween came on the wrong day so we had to celebrate on the weekend.

On All Hallow's Eve, Gene Hardy's dog appeared under my wagon and seemed frightened. I thought no more about it, turned up the gas lantern and settled to relax with a mystery. Suddenly there was an eerie howl; I realized that I had no telephone and the nearest neighbors were a couple of miles away. That awful howl again; I moved the lantern to the door...nothing.



North Point School: L. to r. Gene Hardy, Dale Carson, teacher Pauline Peyton, Arlone Carson, Vivian Carson and Herbert Smith.

"Hmm," I thought, "I'll bet the Spracklen boys thought that it would be a joke to scare the schoolmom."

I settled down again only to be shaken by a series of unearthly wails. With a shock I realized that someone could be injured and die before morning. I had sneered at my brother when he insisted that I take a .38 revolver with me, but I was glad to have it then. I gathered the revolver and lantern and quavered out of the sheepwagon. I circled the area, went to, but not into, the "chic sales special" (there were no wails there). The dog was shaking under the wagon. The next morning there were some large animal tracks near the wagon. I never knew whether I had a cougar or a prankster; if it were a prankster, I'll bet he was more frightened than I was when he saw me stagger out with that .38 wobbling all over the place.

Christmas was memorable; we made decorations and gifts. We prepared songs, a comedy, "Santa's Necktie" with five actors, dances, and finally a creche scene behind some draped sheets that made a stage. Mrs. Carson played the organ and we sang carols. Dick Hornbuckle joined us with a reading because he was the only one in his school. Everyone brought marvelous food; but the miracle was that men and women came from miles away and I knew that there wasn't room, but like the "loaves and fishes," that little school house stretched and everyone was comfortable.

The new year brought a determined winter. For three days no one could get to school. Then people struggled through the drifts and we built igloos.

The east wind howled and pushed snow through the clapboards of the school, but we swept the little drifts out twice a day. One morning I arose to see the rabbits shivering in front of my wagon. I gave them something to eat and said, "You silly things, why don't you go back into your house under the school; it's too cold to be outside."



When I went to build the fire in the school, I knew what was wrong with the rabbits. A skunk had moved in. That day we tried to be quiet, but every time we crossed the floor, we knew that our guest was there. I told the children to tell their fathers to come get the skunk. I didn't know what they would do, but I had great confidence in ranchmen. That night Harold Carson came over; he walked around the school and rubbed his chin. He walked into the building and said, "He's there all right. I guess we'll have to get together and dig him out."

The next day the children came and we held school in the sheepwagon, confident that the digging process would take place that night. I didn't allow myself to think too much of the results of the digging.

The third day came. Five active children in a sheepwagon is not the ideal setting for scholarship. Evening came, but no diggers.

After the children had gone, I eyed by mother's contribution of sulphur candles. With determination I collected a couple of cans and went around the school to find a place where I could slip cans under the building. I lit a sulphur candle and put it in a can and pushed it under the building. I perched in the sheepwagon door thinking that I would shoot the skunk when he came out, but no luck.

In the morning the rabbits had moved back into their house. We never saw that skunk but I still have confidence that ranchmen know how to handle situations.

One morning at sunrise I heard children chattering. I wasn't even dressed. I looked up the road toward Carsons, but nothing. Puzzled, I turned toward the school and the chattering began again. I knew that the children must be in the ravine and, seething, I walked to the edge...nothing. "Wow, I really must have been here too long." The chattering started again. I turned and there stood a bunch of antelope gossiping about me. I had never known that they had voices.

The grass was greening; and a sheepwagon, band of sheep and a herder moved up the hill from me. The young man came over to borrow some books and visit. Later he brought me some meat and magazines. He was tall and well-built. Quite a handsome young man.

The fourth time he came he seemed a little uneasy. I went on with whatever I was doing when suddenly he blurted, "Will you marry me?"

I was stunned, "Oh, no," I said, "I can't."

"Why not?"

I tried to think of a good reason.

Finally he accepted my decision. He said, "Well, I won't be seeing you any more." As he reached the door he turned and matter-of-factly said, "Well, anyway, you'll always know you had a chance."

The Thunder Basin children taught me a great deal. They tried every project with remarkable results. We had picnics on the warm yellow sand across the ravine. We entertained the neighborhood with an art show. It was their own art which went to the state fair and won. The important thing was that we loved each other, and respected ourselves, worked together, and learned the excitement of the world in which we lived.

Pauline Peyton

## Sunset School

A school was established at the Sunset Mine in 1915. Some of the children who attended this first school hadn't ever been to school and some had not attended for several years. They were members of families of homesteaders. Their first teacher was Edith Morrison Stark.

School was held in the four room house which had been the office building. Records from the Sunset School during the term beginning May 22, 1917 and ending November 2, 1917 indicate that Miss Lillie Meinzer had been employed as the teacher. She had enrolled eight students, ranging in age from six to eleven years. Her salary was \$60.00 per month.

Miss Mienzer states that the school was in satisfactory condition at the end of her first term. There was a statement that the building was in fair repair. No visit was made to the school by the County Superintendent that year and only one of the Trustees paid a call. C. W. Onyon was the Clerk of School District #10 and it was he who visited the Sunset School. The first term taught by Miss Meinzer lasted just over five months.

By 1919 Miss Meinzer vacated her post as teacher and was replaced by Irene Cook. The enrollment had risen to 13. The records indicate that the school was abandoned sometime in the year of 1922, after having started the term with an enrollment of seven. The school was probably moved to a location closer to the Spellman homestead and continued to be in session for a time. The Sunset and the Spellman Schools were a boon to the community. Trustees such as Mr. Onyon must be credited with progressive thinking and foresight and with a great deal of determination to overcome many difficulties.

Ruth Grant

## Walker Creek School

School buildings in the 1920s were like grasshoppers, here today and gone tomorrow. When a school ran out of pupils the school house was moved to the pupils.

The Walker School was located on Loretta Walker Wileman's homestead. Mable Walker Wileman was the teacher. Pupils were the children of Roy Lewis, George Sheets, and Lou Hanlin. When the Lewis and Sheets families moved away in 1925, the building was moved eight miles east between Willow and Lightning Creeks; it was named the Lightning Creek School.

John Poulson was the first teacher. In 1926-1927, Gladys Hanlin taught her first term of school here. The pupils were: Perdita and John Whitmarsh; Oren Septer; Claude, Dayton, and Harry Pounds; and Leland and James Hanlin. Stacia Baker and Gata McCarthy taught in 1927-1928; Lucille Meisner taught in 1928-1929.

In 1929 the schools in the area were all consolidated and the pupils bused to the school house where the present Walker Creek School is.

Jack Hanlin

# CONVERSE COUNTY ELECTED OFFICERS

## CONVERSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Appointed by Territorial  
Governor Thomas Moonlight

4-12-1888 to 5-18-1888 J. M. Wilson  
4-12-1888 to 5-18-1888 E. J. Wells  
4-12-1888 to 5-12-1888 J. H. Calkins

### Elected

5-18-1888 to 1- 7-1889 Frank Wolcott  
5-18-1888 to 1- 7-1889 Edward T. David  
5-18-1888 to 1- 7-1889 George H. Cross  
1- 7-1889 to 1- 3-1891 Charles A. Pollard  
1- 7-1889 to 1- 3-1891 George Bolln  
1- 7-1889 to 1- 3-1891 John Storrie  
1- 3-1891 to 1- 2-1893 Frank Coffey  
1- 3-1891 to 1- 2-1893 John J. Steffen  
1- 3-1891 to 1- 2-1893 Samuel McFarland  
1- 2-1893 to 12 - 1893 F. B. Harrison  
1- 2-1893 to 1- 4-1897 John Marsden  
1- 2-1893 to 1- 8-1895 John Giinther  
1- 3-1894 to 1- 8-1895 John E. Higgins  
1- 8-1895 to 1- 4-1897 F. G. Crossin  
1- 8-1895 to 12 - 1895 William McReynolds  
1- 2-1896 to 1- 4-1897 Andrew Christian  
1- 4-1897 to 1- 4-1899 George Bolln  
1- 4-1897 to 1- 4-1899 Wm. J. Carothers  
1- 4-1897 to 1- 8-1901 M. R. Collins  
1- 4-1899 to 1- 5-1903 David Mucherer  
1- 4-1899 to 1- 5-1909 John Marsden  
1- 8-1901 to 1- 7-1907 John E. Higgins  
1- 5-1903 to 1- 3-1905 A. G. Lowry  
1- 3-1905 to 1- 7-1907 P. E. Barber  
1- 7-1907 to 1- 5-1909 David J. Smyth  
1- 7-1907 to 1- 3-1911 Otto H. Bolln  
1- 5-1909 to 1- 7-1913 Tom Bell  
1- 5-1909 to 1- 3-1911 Oswald A. Potzold  
1- 3-1911 to 1- 8-1915 W. J. Morsch  
1- 3-1911 to 1- 7-1913 James Willox  
1- 7-1913 to 1- 2-1917 Miller K. Wiker  
1- 7-1913 to 1- 8-1915 Wm. L. Fenex  
1- 8-1915 to 1- 2-1917 Robert D. Carey  
1- 8-1915 to 1- 4-1923 Jacob Jenne

1- 2-1917 to 1- 4-1921 H. P. Allen  
1- 2-1917 to 1-17-1919 J. C. Shaw  
1-17-1919 to 1- 4-1921 Irby Lam  
1- 4-1921 to 1- 3-1933 H. A. Gillespie  
1- 4-1921 to 1- 6-1925 John J. Putnam  
1- 3-1923 to 1- 6-1925 Frank Amspoker  
1- 6-1925 to 1- 4-1927 Tom Meisner  
1- 6-1925 to 1- 6-1931 David J. Smyth  
1- 4-1927 to 1- 3-1933 J. H. Esmay  
1- 6-1931 to 1- 7-1933 Tom J. Meisner  
1- 3-1933 to 1- 7-1935 Tom Fleming  
1- 3-1933 to 1- 4-1937 John Engelking  
1- 7-1935 to 1- 3-1939 Leonard Shaw  
1- 7-1935 to 1- 4-1937 Charles Slichter  
1- 4-1937 to 1- 3-1939 Ed Werner  
1- 4-1937 to 1- 5-1949 Earl S. Clayton  
1- 3-1939 to 1- 4-1943 Rhea Tillard  
1- 3-1939 to 1- 4-1943 L. C. Gillespie  
1- 4-1943 to 1- 6-1947 John LeBar  
1- 4-1943 to 1- 4-1944 Ed Werner  
1- 4-1944 to 1- 2-1945 R. O. Johnson  
1- 2-1945 to 1- 6-1947 L. C. Gillespie  
1- 6-1947 to 12 - 1951 Ed Werner  
1- 6-1947 to 1- 3-1951 Lisle E. Pexton  
1- 5-1949 to 1- 7-1957 Lloyd Huxtable  
1- 3-1951 to 1- 5-1959 W. A. Dickau  
1-21-1952 to 3- 2-1954 Sam W. Carothers  
3- 2-1954 to 1- 7-1963 George Cross Jr.  
1- 7-1957 to 3 - 1963 Charles Robbins  
1- 5-1959 to 1- 7-1963 Tom McCarty  
1- 7-1963 to 1- 3-1967 E. J. Werner  
1- 7-1963 to 1- 3-1967 William Vollman  
4- 3-1963 to 1-26-1980 Hugh Duncan  
1- 3-1967 to 1- 4-1971 Dennis Rogers  
1- 3-1967 to 6-12-1969 James Birdsall  
6-25-1969 to 1- 4-1971 Walter Busch  
1- 4-1971 to 1- 1-1979 Richard Burks  
1- 4-1971 to 1- 1-1975 Dale Ballard  
1- 1-1975 to 1- 1-1979 E. J. Werner  
1- 1-1979 to John R. Pexton  
1- 1-1979 to Gordon Taylor Jr.  
1980 to H.W. "Bud" Turner



## CONVERSE COUNTY ASSESSOR

The Assessor was appointed in the early years.

3-31-1899	W. S. Jenks	1- 3-1923	McWhinnie resigned
1- 8-1901	John Foster	1- 3-1923	Grant S. Houghton
1- 5-1903	H. L. Higby	1- 6-1931	William J. Burgess
1- 3-1905	Samuel Slaymaker	1- 3-1933	Wade H. Fowler
1- 7-1907	T. C. Rowley	1- 4-1937	James J. Stults
1- 5-1909	C. H. George	1-17-1949	John A. Kennedy
1- 3-1911	E. A. Collins	4- 6-1949	Earl S. Clayton
1- 7-1913	F. W. Anthony	4-15-1958	Elmer Hafner
1- 5-1915	Jesse E. Slichter	1- 5-1959	Sam Amspoker
1- 7-1919	Charles Dorr	1- 6-1975	Harold Link
1- 4-1921	Thomas L. Cook	1- 2-1979	Lillian Chambers
1- 3-1923	C. H. MCWhinnie		

## CONVERSE COUNTY ATTORNEY

5-18-1888	Fredrich Harvey	1-3-1933	John J. McIntyre
1- 3-1891	Charles F. Maurer	1-4-1937	T. C. Daniels
1- 4-1897	J. Blair Shoenfelt	1-6-1947	Joseph B. Sullivan
1- 2-1899	William F. Mecum	1-3-1955	William P. Dixon
1- 3-1905	Henry C. Miller	1-3-1959	Joseph B. Sullivan
1- 5-1915	Robert D. Hawley	1-3-1967	Thomas A. Burley
1- 7-1919	Floyd A. Walker	1-2-1979	Ruth Blake
1- 4-1921	W. M. Stansbury	10-20-1981	Frank Peasley
1- 6-1925	Paul F. Showalter	6-18--1985	Tom Barb
1- 4-1927	John D. Dawson		

## CONVERSE COUNTY CLERK

5-18-1888	Carl M. Garver	1-4-1921	Roscoe Schlecty
1- 3-1891	Silas Guthrie	1-3-1933	John Poulson
1- 2-1893	A. D. Cook	1-4-1937	T. C. Rowley
1- 7-1907	L. W. Clelland	1-4-1943	Lloyd Froggatt
1- 3-1911	J. C. Amspoker	1-3-1967	Anna Froggatt
1- 2-1917	L. W. Celelland	1-2-1979	Dorothy Taylor

## CONVERSE COUNTY CLERK OF COURT

The Clerk of Court was appointed until 1911 and was  
at times held in conjunction with the County Clerk.

1-3-1893	A. A. Faulkner	1-3-1923	Myra M. Gilbert
1-8-1895	Arthur W. Phillips	1-6-1931	Winston S. Howard
1-3-1905	Samuel Slaymaker	1-7-1935	Violet D. Stewart
1-7-1907	L. W. Clelland	1-3-1939	Minnie Dilday
1-3-1911	E. W. Madison	8-1-1939	Edith Browning
1-7-1913	H. S. Datesman	12-1-1940	Flossie Lathrop
1-5-1915	William E. Hodder	1-5-1959	Ida May Carmin
1-2-1917	Edgar R. Rouse	1-2-1979	Joan Lore

## CONVERSE COUNTY CORONER

5-18-1888	W. R. Renwick	1-4-1943	Cecil Stark
1- 7-1889	W. F. Louger	1-6-1975	Kent Lapham
1- 7-1913	C. H. Hofmann	1-3-1983	Roscoe Gorman

## CONVERSE COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

5-18-1888	Mortmer Jesurun Bodine	1-7-1929	F. C. Shaffer E. W. Gardner E. George Johnson Wm Hinrichs Robert Thiel Kirby Kirkland
1- 5-1909	J. R. Hylton		
1- 3-1911	A. H. Cantril		
1- 7-1919	L. W. Storey		
1-14-1927	J. P. Keller		

## CONVERSE COUNTY SHERIFF

5-18-1888	Malcolm Campbell	1-3-1933	W. R. Silver
1- 7-1889	John T. Williams	1-4-1943	Clyde Ivester
1- 3-1891	Malcolm Campbell	1-6-1947	Alfred Lass
1- 2-1893	Frank Virden	1 - 1955	Earl Heflin
1- 4-1897	Joe Hazen	1-5-1959	John Wm. Owens
1- 8-1901	John A. McDermott	1-7-1963	Elmer Bloem
1- 3-1905	Charles Messenger	1-3-1967	James Caldwell
1- 3-1911	C. A. Barber	1-4-1971	Morris Thomason
1- 7-1913	Albert W. Peyton	8 - 1976	Dean Parks
1- 8-1915	Charles Messenger	1-2-1979	Chuck Widick
1- 3-1923	Albert W. Peyton	1-3-1983	John Bey

## CONVERSE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

5-18-1888	Cornelia M. Lusk	1-4-1921	R. Merle Cunningham
1- 3-1891	Mrs. M. J. Goodwin	1-3-1923	Marcia Hollindrake
1- 8-1895	Charles A. Sherman	1-7-1929	Maud Dawes
1- 8-1901	M. L. Edwards	1-4-1937	Cora E. Grant
1- 5-1903	George Cundbec	1-4-1943	Frankie Hern
1- 7-1907	W. S. Young	1-3-1955	Anna Lynch
1- 5-1909	Maud Dawes	1-5-1959	Maude Ryan
1- 7-1919	Margaret Barry		

## CONVERSE COUNTY SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER

The County Surveyor was elected in the beginning then later was appointed.

5-18-1888	A. T. Seymour	1-3-1911	L. C. Bishop
1- 2-1893	Byron Bliss	1-4-1921	T. R. Knittle
1- 3-1895	Frank Knittle	1-3-1939	L. C. Bishop
1- 8-1901	J. Bevan Phillips	7-6-1939	Harry Young
1- 5-1909	M. J. Chapin		John Lambert

## CONVERSE COUNTY TREASURER

Probate Judge was included in the Treasurer's duties when Converse County was organized

5-18-1888	E. J. Wells	1- 3-1923	June J. Creswell
1- 7-1889	Charles E. Clay	1- 4-1927	R. P. Swormstedt
1- 3-1891	Nathan E. Burns	1- 7-1929	Henry Hern
1- 8-1895	James A. Amspoker	1- 6-1931	T. C. Rowley
1- 4-1897	John Adams	1- 7-1935	Wm. J. Burgess
1- 8-1901	Frank S. Knittle	1- 3-1939	Lloyd Froggatt
1- 5-1903	L. W. Clelland	1- 4-1943	Fred Smith
1- 7-1907	C. H. McWhinnie	1- 5-1959	Jack Gillespie
1- 3-1911	C. A. Slonaker	7- 3-1966	Quintin S. Scott
1- 5-1915	L. B. Potter	1- 3-1967	Carroll E. Ballard
1- 2-1917	T. C. Rowley	1-14-1983	James Read

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LISLE E. PEXTON

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Twinkle, twinkle, little Star,  
What a wonder little car.  
Far above all other makes,  
You shine from red seal power to brakes.  
Like your namesake in the sky,  
You shine on earth to please the eye.  
Three speeds forward and one reverse,  
A car to fit the poor man's purse.

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JOHN M. YARDLEY

BRYON E. WOLLEN

FLORA L. WOLLEN

*Gently, Aunt PAULINE BOLLN  
brought beauty to life for a  
flower, or a child*

*In memory  
MIKE BRUCK, shoemaker,  
philosopher, friend*

*These loved Wyoming above all  
things:*

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ALBERT W. PEYTON  
PAULINE E. SMITH PEYTON  
EDWIN C. SMITH  
NANCY SMITH  
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FRANK AND HELEN YARDLEY BATTON

GENE AND ESTHER WOLLEN

GENE AND ESTHER WOLLEN

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PAULINE M. PEYTON

PAULINE M. PEYTON

# Patents

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Abadie, William D.	4-26-15	30 - 33N - 74W	Amspoker, Samuel F.	6-24-19	1 - 35N - 74W
	10- 4-13	29 - 33N - 74W		3-30-27	2 - 35N - 74W
	3-10-22	29 - 33N - 74W	Amspoker, William E.	2-21-33	11 - 30N - 73W
	3- 1-22	32 - 33N - 74W		4- 4-22	10 - 32N - 72W
Abbott, Russell C.	6- 6-35	8 - 36N - 76W		3-29-28	10 - 32N - 72W
Abels, William H.	2-23-23	19 - 34N - 68W	Anders, August W.	3-19-25	12 - 32N - 68W
	6- 7-20	19 - 34N - 68W		10-19-31	2 - 32N - 67W
Abney, Frances	5-28-14	25 - 33N - 74W	Anderson, John	6-26- 5	29 - 32N - 74W
	2-16-11	9 - 32N - 74W	Andersen, Peter	4-10-11	8 - 36N - 70W
	12-14-11	30 - 33N - 73W	Anderson, Anton D.	8-20-23	19 - 36N - 71W
Abney, James M.	5-12- 2	1 - 32N - 74W		7- 8-26	18 - 36N - 71W
	5-12- 3	35 - 33N - 74W	Anderson, Bernard	11-15-23	23 - 36N - 72W
	9-12-10	35 - 33N - 74W		11-15-23	24 - 36N - 72W
	5-14-15	31 - 33N - 73W	Anderson, Burchie P.	4-29-18	4 - 32N - 72W
Abney, Opal E.	11-21-38	31 - 33N - 73W	Anderson, Carl A.	6-27-22	7 - 36N - 71W
	1-20-32	26 - 33N - 74W		7-28-33	7 - 36N - 71W
Acree, Clarence Delbert	12-12-28	21 - 38N - 71W	Anderson, Charles M.	5-24-23	18 - 35N - 68W
Adair, Emerald G.	8-26-26	Esterbrook		5-24-23	13 - 35N - 69W
Adams, Howard Will	8-26-21	19 - 36N - 73W	Anderson, Clara F.	2-20-24	26 - 33N - 72W
Adams, Percival D.	4- 1-92	13 - 31N - 70W	Anderson, Cora Lee	5-28-14	25 - 33N - 75W
	4- 1-92	18 - 31N - 69W		1-22-12	25 - 33N - 75W
Adams, Rodolph S.	11-29- 7	28 - 32N - 74W	Anderson, Elmer R.	7-16-23	19 - 36N - 71W
	6- 2-19	1 - 37N - 71W	Anderson, Frank E.	7-10-11	3 - 32N - 72W
Adams, Rodolph S., Assgn.	8-17-11	1 - 37N - 71W		4-25-21	13 - 33N - 73W
Adamson, Dennis L.	1-23-22	31 - 34N - 74W		5- 1-29	13 - 33N - 73W
Adamson, Frank E.	7-21-22	6 - 33N - 74W	Anderson, Frank Oscar	1-24-27	1 - 35N - 71W
	7-21-22	5 - 33N - 74W	Anderson, Harry	3- 9-21	14 - 32N - 72W
Adamson, Howard M.	11-24-22	4 - 31N - 76W		12- 2-16	34 - 33N - 72W
	11-24-22	33 - 32N - 76W	Anderson, Henry C.	7-31-17	35 - 33N - 72W
Adkins, Grant	12- 6-24	19 - 37N - 70W	Anderson, John A.	7-16-23	23 - 38N - 72W
	1-15-25	19 - 37N - 70W	Anderson, John Emil	12- 9-21	35 - 40N - 73W
Adler, Daniel E.	2- 6-23	12 - 38N - 71W		12- 9-21	2 - 39N - 73W
Adler, William Christ	3-31-22	19 - 38N - 70W	Anderson, Martin E.	5-10-23	21 - 37N - 71W
	10-11-21	19 - 38N - 70W	Anderson, Pete	6-22-22	4 - 29N - 71W
Aeilts, Herman	11-15-23	1 - 40N - 72W	Anderson, Philip R.	5- 8-11	35 - 33N - 72W
Aguilar, Genaro E.	4-17-33	4 - 37N - 75W	Anderson, Robert E.	1-16-26	19 - 32N - 70W
Airgood, Eugene F.	9-22-21	22 - 34N - 76W	Anderson, Stuart	8-15-22	22 - 33N - 75W
Alarid, Magdaleno	9-15-36	5 - 29N - 72W		10-31-12	22 - 33N - 75W
Albaugh, William	5-26-20	16 - 33N - 73W	Anderson, Thomas P.	3-19-23	10 - 40N - 72W
	6-19-22	13 - 33N - 73W	Anderson, Walter L.	2-16-22	21 - 36N - 69W
Albrecht, Milton H.	1- 5-27	11 - 39N - 72W	Andre, Maria J.	7-17- 7	34 - 31N - 77W
Alexander, Avon	3- 7-34	31 - 41N - 74W	Andrews, David H.	10-10-89	22 - 37N - 73W
Alexander, Clayton	4-21-10	15 - 34N - 69W	Andrews, Frank K.	11- 1-38	1 - 27N - 72W
Alexander, Crayton	3- 3- 9	10 - 34N - 69W	Andeny, Homer R.	10-16-22	23 - 37N - 72W
	8- 8-34	31 - 37N - 76W	Anthony, Frank P.	3- 4-23	17 - 29N - 76W
Alexander, Duffie	6-30- 6	7 - 33N - 69W	Anthony, Pearl L.	11-14-21	28 - 29N - 76W
	5-24- 7	10 - 34N - 70W	Anthony, Rick J.	10- 4-35	30 - 28N - 72W
	2-16-22	3 - 34N - 71W	Apel, George L.	2-14-23	8 - 39N - 75W
Alexander, Elbert Hue	2- 9-32	31 - 37N - 73W	Apel, Harold E.	2-15-23	9 - 39N - 75W
Alexander, Ida M.	10-13-21	15 - 29N - 75W	Apel/Omsby, Helen Mar	9-11-28	4 - 39N - 75W
Alexander, John	3-25-13	1 - 32N - 71W	Applegate, Frank	3-12-25	5 - 37N - 72W
Alexander, Walter L.	1-12-34	4 - 35N - 68W	Arbter, Frank	11- 5-90	28 - 32N - 71W
Alexander, Walter L., Sr.	3- 1-62	3 - 29N - 71W	Archie, Willard D.	1-13-22	4 - 29N - 72W
	3- 1-62	2 - 29N - 71W	Arellano, Amanda A.	4-26-34	1 - 36N - 72W
Albee, Clarissa	9-19-23	2 - 33N - 71W	Arellano, Delfino	4-12-32	2 - 39N - 69W
Allen, Elliott E.	12-20-30	26 - 29N - 75W	Argo, Flora B.	2-13-26	13 - 31N - 69W
Allen, Elsie J.	5-17- 9	14 - 34N - 68W	Arjes, Henry	7-30-31	11 - 33N - 69W
Allen, George G.	8-12- 9	8 - 32N - 67W		1-20- 9	1 - 33N - 69W
Allen, Lawrence	8-31-27	21 - 40N - 71W		4-11-38	3 - 33N - 69W
	8-31-27	22 - 40N - 71W	Arjes/Schreier, Nettie	7-23-37	11 - 33N - 69W
Allen, Lee J.	9-27-21	23 - 38N - 72W	Arjes/Schreier, Nettie	3-17-26	2 - 33N - 69W
	9-27-21	24 - 38N - 72W		2-14-23	11 - 33N - 69W
Allen, Mollie	9- 8-19	23 - 33N - 73W	Armagost, John G.	12-15-20	23 - 33N - 70W
Allen, Ozro C.	10-11-21	31 - 35N - 68W	Armagost, John G., Heirs	11-24-36	20 - 32N - 70W
Allen, Samuel F.	10-18-27	1 - 36N - 68W	Arner, Frank E.	4-11-22	14 - 39N - 75W
	8-21-28	31 - 37N - 67W		4-11-22	15 - 39N - 75W
	10-18-27	1 - 36N - 68W	Arner, J. Erwin	3-13-23	10 - 39N - 75W
Allen, William	10- 4-13	24 - 40N - 71W	Arnett, Andy	3- 1- 9	10 - 35N - 68W
Allen/Hughes, Laura A.	6-14-21	18 - 33N - 67W	Arnold, Charles E.	6-29-14	14 - 32N - 71W
Allyn, Eugene E.	11-25-21	12 - 35N - 68W	Arnold, Donald B.	4- 6-17	4 - 31N - 76W
Allyn, Robert N.	9-26-22	7 - 35N - 67W	Arnold, George H.	6-27-98	5 - 32N - 76W
Alphin, Henry H.	2- 3-15	17 - 31N - 76W	Arnold, John	6-18- 8	3 - 31N - 77W
	6-19-19	17 - 31N - 76W	Arnold, Lewis D.	10-16-22	10 - 40N - 68W
Altheide, Viola M.	2-18-18	10 - 31N - 68W	Ashby, Charles Francis	8-20-23	1 - 38N - 70W
Altman, Henry	12-21-88	10 - 33N - 77W		8-20-23	6 - 38N - 69W
Alvord, Eldon T.	4-25-38	19 - 40N - 69W	Ashby, William	2-18-29	23 - 31N - 74W
Ammons, Hattie Herma	5- 4-32	19 - 34N - 71W		4-11-22	2 - 38N - 70W
Amsden, William M.	11- 9-22	24 - 34N - 69W		6-26- 5	14 - 31N - 74W
	4-15-24	25 - 34N - 69W		12-30- 5	14 - 31N - 74W
Amspoker, Frank S.	6- 8-16	1 - 35N - 74W			
Amspoker, Grace	4-14-23	1 - 35N - 74W			
Amspoker, Lillian L.	4- 4-22	14 - 32N - 72W	Ashley, Glaister	2-16-22	6 - 40N - 67W
Amspoker, Matilda	3-14-10	15 - 33N - 72W			

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Ashley, Glaister	7- 2-26	35 - 40N - 73W	Barnard, Edwin H.	5-17-89	5 - 33N - 75W
Ashley, William H.	4-11-22	2 - 38N - 70W	Barnard, Richard	11-18-20	28 - 32N - 75W
Ashmead, Frances O.	6-20-38	30 - 41N - 75W	Barnes, Carl	6-27- 3	26 - 39N - 74W
	6-20-38	1 - 40N - 77W	Barnes, Charles C.	7-14-24	3 - 27N - 73W
Ashmead, Harry L.	2- 7-24	9 - 35N - 74W	Barnes, Elmer R.	2-18-18	26 - 31N - 68W
Assoc., Shawnee Cemetery	11- 6-20	9 - 32N - 68W	Barnes, Emmert E., Heirs	4-15-24	4 - 36N - 67W
Atherton, Jesse S., Heirs	2-16-20	11 - 35N - 74W	Barnes, Marcelous	5-29-20	25 - 31N - 68W
Atkinson, Jesse M.	10-31-34	26 - 40N - 74W	Barnes, Ross E.	6-19-22	3 - 36N - 67W
Atkinson, Joseph I.	6- 2-90	6 - 32N - 64W	Barnes, Wade H.	1- 2-25	25 - 30N - 72W
Austin, Albert L.	2-18-18	3 - 36N - 69W		1- 2-25	13 - 29N - 73W
Austin, Charles L.	3-14-10	17 - 33N - 72W	Barnhart, William H.	3-26-23	19 - 40N - 73W
	8- 5-96	7 - 33N - 72W		3-26-23	30 - 40N - 73W
	7-13- 4	7 - 33N - 72W	Barnhart, Zelpha M., Heirs	8- 6-26	17 - 31N - 71W
Austin, Elbert R.	7- 6-27	34 - 34N - 71W		8- 6-26	30 - 32N - 71W
Austin, Gilbert	2- 4-26	26 - 34N - 71W	Barnt, Robert	8-31-17	11 - 31N - 68W
Austin, Henry W.	4-12-00	3 - 28N - 71W	Barnum, Thomas F.	12-11-91	7 - 31N - 73W
Austin, Snider	5-19-15	18 - 33N - 72W	Barr, Gilbert H.	2- 8-18	14 - 31N - 68W
Avery, Fredrick	7-24-11	3 - 39N - 76W	Barr, Lucretia M.	6-19-19	23 - 31N - 68W
Ayers, Alvah W.	7-11-12	21 - 32N - 73W	Barr, Margaret L.	12-20-26	25 - 31N - 69W
Ayers, Andrew C.	8- 2-18	1 - 31N - 76W		1-29-19	13 - 31N - 68W
Ayers, A. C.	10-24-34	2 - 31N - 76W	Barrett, James W.	1-23-22	18 - 34N - 69W
	4-29-13	2 - 31N - 76W	Barrett, Nate	6-29-21	17 - 34N - 69W
	9-21-12	2 - 31N - 76W	Barron, George A.	12- 4-22	2 - 37N - 74W
Ayers, C. Sculley			Barrow, Helen	12-20- 4	7 - 33N - 71W
Assgn. Johnson	7-20-11	22 - 37N - 70W		4-24-22	26 - 33N - 72W
Back, Joseph W.	10-29-24	25 - 38N - 72W	Barnard, Merton L.	11-24-22	24 - 35N - 69W
Bailey, Edward	10-20-32	18 - 39N - 76W	Barrow, Minnie	5- 7-19	1 - 32N - 72W
Bailey, George Remington	3-10-22	17 - 39N - 76W	Barrow, Minnie F.	7-13-17	33 - 34N - 71W
Bailey, Marshall O.	9-15-22	3 - 31N - 76W	Barry, Clifford E.	3-29-29	12 - 40N - 73W
	9-28-23	3 - 31N - 76W		3-29-29	5 - 40N - 71W
Baker, Daniel W.	1-30-22	35 - 38N - 70W	Barry, Margaret H.	12- 9-21	27 - 31N - 69W
Baker, Edward J.	8-19-90	34 - 34N - 75W	Barry, Sidney F.	1-26-97	19 - 31N - 70W
	7-18-90	3 - 33N - 75W		2- 9-32	19 - 31N - 73W
Baker, Glen A.	12- 4-22	17 - 36N - 71W	Barta, Sophia	9-27-37	3 - 39N - 71W
	12- 4-22	8 - 36N - 71W	Barth, Albert F.	5-22-24	21 - 34N - 69W
Baker, John J.	3- 4-22	29 - 36N - 67W	Bartick, Joseph L.	9- 8-26	2 - 40N - 73W
Baker, John L.	7-30-29	18 - 39N - 68W	Bartlett, Ichabod S.	12- 4-90	17 - 32N - 71W
Baker, Margaret E.	10-11-21	29 - 33N - 67W	Bartolet, George	2-18-18	10 - 31N - 68W
Baker, Myrtle M., Heirs	10-23-38	35 - 40N - 68W	Barton, Cleveland S.	2-18-29	34 - 39N - 76W
Baker, Ralph A.	3- 4-22	17 - 35N - 75W	Bartshe, Henry H.	11-18-24	6 - 31N - 74W
	3- 4-22	20 - 35N - 75W		2-13- 8	20 - 31N - 75W
Baker, Raymond C.	1- 3-24	26 - 37N - 72W	Bartshe, Leonard	10-20-26	2 - 31N - 75W
	1- 3-24	25 - 37N - 72W		11-18-20	35 - 32N - 75W
Baker, William G.	11-22-21	31 - 36N - 67W	Bartshe, Tracy	4-24-30	19 - 32N - 74W
Baker, William O.	8-11-24	1 - 38N - 69W		3-23-28	29 - 32N - 74W
Bakken, Hans H.	3-27-14	2 - 42N - 71W	Bates, Reuben	3-15- 9	35 - 38N - 73W
	3-21-14	11 - 32N - 71W	Bath, Hyrum	3-12-25	3 - 35N - 74W
Ballard, Arthur E.	6-23-24	7 - 36N - 70W	Battle, Robert J.	10- 9-22	32 - 34N - 70W
Ballard, Daniel W.	12- 1-21	1 - 36N - 71W	Battles, Benjamin H.	10-19-31	17 - 34N - 74W
Ballard, Henry Delas	11- 8-21	30 - 33N - 70W	Batton, Jasper Frank	4-14-36	14 - 30N - 75W
	11- 8-21	31 - 33N - 70W	Batz, Peter A.	10-19-33	18 - 36N - 76W
Ballard, Melvin A.	9-29-31	28 - 37N - 71W	Bauder, Eva	8-27-23	30 - 34N - 75W
Ballard, Samuel A.	6- 6-12	34 - 32N - 73W		8-27-23	21 - 34N - 76W
Ballard, Samuel A., Jr.	2-25-15	34 - 32N - 73W	Bauder, Mary H.	11- 9-23	30 - 34N - 75W
	12-12-14	34 - 32N - 73W		12-18-23	30 - 34N - 75W
Ballard, William E.	5-10-36	6 - 36N - 71W	Baughman, Loren	11- 9-22	35 - 36N - 68W
Balsley, William F.	6-12-23	4 - 32N - 75W	Baughn, Carl W.	2-18- 9	13 - 32N - 66W
	11- 5-24	3 - 32N - 75W	Baughn, Osar K.	11-29- 7	21 - 35N - 67W
Bamford, Lillie M.	12- 4-22	18 - 32N - 71W	Baughn, Phoebe J., Heirs	12-17- 6	26 - 31N - 69W
Bamford, Thomas	6- 9-26	34 - 32N - 71W	Baughn, Roscoe C.	12-13-30	25 - 37N - 69W
	3- 7-22	18 - 32N - 71W		6-22-22	31 - 34N - 68W
	6- 9-26	26 - 32N - 71W	Baughn, Roy C.	2- 1- 9	21 - 35N - 67W
Bancept/Brier, Emma J.	2-27- 8	30 - 31N - 74W		9- 2-20	15 - 35N - 69W
Bancept, Jean	11- 9-10	20 - 33N - 71W	Baughn, Sarah L.	3-13- 8	32 - 34N - 68W
	11-20-16	20 - 33N - 71W	Bauman, Charles D.	2-13-22	17 - 35N - 71W
	6-18-16	21 - 33N - 71W		2-13-22	18 - 35N - 71W
	3-19-26	16 - 33N - 71W	Bauman, John A.	11-11-22	9 - 35N - 71W
Barbee, Benne Frank, Lgl. Repr.	3-19-20	28 - 40N - 73W	Bauman, John T.	9-21-25	5 - 35N - 71W
Barber, Otis B.	1-15-16	3 - 33N - 76W		9-21-25	6 - 35N - 71W
Bare/Nichols, Lois C.	1- 6-28	1 - 37N - 75W	Bauman, Roscoe E.	6-16-25	34 - 34N - 75W
Barger, Roy W.	8- 4-24	33 - 40N - 71W	Baurda, Frank A.	5-12- 5	6 - 33N - 67W
	8- 4-24	34 - 40N - 71W	Bay, Earl	6- 6-14	3 - 31N - 76W
Barkdoll, Hubert E.	10-11-35	18 - 29N - 69W	Bayer, Harry E.	9-11-28	7 - 34N - 76W
Barker, Austin C.	4- 6-17	14 - 30N - 77W		4-30-23	5 - 34N - 76W
Barker, John	6-22-20	26 - 39N - 70W	Bayer, Lee	8- 5-20	30 - 34N - 68W
	6-22-20	25 - 39N - 70W	Beach, George E.	4- 5-48	35 - 32N - 76W
Barker, Robert N.	8-17- 8	32 - 34N - 75W		3- 5-18	4 - 33N - 75W
Barker, William F.	1-27-22	30 - 39N - 69W	Beach, Lloyd O.	6-22-22	26 - 32N - 76W
	1-27-22	25 - 39N - 70W		2-14-24	5 - 32N - 72W
Barkley, Robert H., Lgl. Repr.	3-16-21	14 - 36N - 68W		3- 4-22	2 - 32N - 74W
				3- 4-22	1 - 32N - 74W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Blomquist, Anna	7-31-22	4 - 32N - 73W	Brawner, Roy E.	2-20-29	17 - 39N - 69W
Blomquist, Charley	3-24-22	4 - 32N - 73W	Breckenridge, George C.	2- 3-16	8 - 38N - 75W
Blood, George D.	10-26-22	1 - 39N - 73W		9-11-23	5 - 38N - 75W
Blood, William E.	2-23-23	4 - 39N - 73W		7-28-20	5 - 38N - 75W
Blough, Glen C.	3-10-22	10 - 33N - 69W	Breckenridge, Mahlon	2- 8-23	17 - 38N - 75W
Boal, Raymond M.	10- 9-22	20 - 35N - 67W		5-29-18	17 - 38N - 75W
Boan, Eli M.	6-29-21	14 - 37N - 70W		6-29-21	17 - 38N - 75W
Bockemuehl, Rex L.	2-20-22	18 - 35N - 70W	Brenner, John H.	1-20-22	14 - 38N - 70W
Boehler, William E.	7-21-22	27 - 40N - 71W		1-20-22	11 - 38N - 70W
Bogseth, Axel	4- 9-23	20 - 36N - 69W	Brenning, Annie E.	6-15-94	4 - 32N - 73W
	4- 9-23	21 - 36N - 69W		5-13-12	17 - 29N - 76W
Boles, Mary M.	7-31- 7	12 - 30N - 75W	Brenning, Henry L.	10-19-11	22 - 32N - 71W
	8- 2- 9	15 - 30N - 74W		11-16-11	14 - 29N - 77W
Bolln, Elizabeth L.	9-16-21	14 - 27N - 72W	Brenning, Henry L.		
Bolln, Henry J.	1-12-26	20 - 29N - 76W	Assgn. Clint	6-26-11	34 - 29N - 77W
Bolln, Henry Joseph	9-11-28	28 - 33N - 71W	Brenning, Jacob	2-28-13	12 - 29N - 77W
Bolln, Margaret	5-29-18	33 - 29N - 71W	Breshears, Sadie	2- 9-20	5 - 32N - 70W
Bolln, Otto H.	7-11-12	8 - 29N - 73W	Brestel, Herbert Henry	8-28-23	27 - 41N - 72W
Bolln, Pauline	8-15-21	4 - 28N - 75W	Brewen, Henry L.	1- 5-27	34 - 35N - 72W
	11-16-14	9 - 33N - 72W	Brewer, August G.	2-18-18	35 - 37N - 72W
Bolln, Waldo H.	5-29-18	33 - 29N - 71W		9-27-21	35 - 34N - 72W
Bolln/Williams, Elizabeth J.	5- 9-29	4 - 35N - 68W	Brewer, Clarence E.	12- 9-19	3 - 33N - 72W
Boman, Lester E.	1-27-22	11 - 37N - 70W		6-27-22	34 - 34N - 72W
Bondurant, David L.	1-30-22	24 - 30N - 75W		6-27-22	3 - 33N - 72W
Bondurant, David S.	1-30-22	23 - 30N - 75W	Brewster, William K.	7- 2- 4	22 - 34N - 68W
Bonham, Clarke B.	4-19-28	25 - 40N - 77W	Brian, Jerome O.	12-28-25	23 - 33N - 71W
Bonner, Mary	7-11-12	32 - 33N - 71W		8-26-21	23 - 33N - 71W
Bookman, Seymour, Assgn.	5-17-20	1 - 31N - 74W	Bricker, Harley B.	10-12-36	32 - 29N - 72W
Booth/Lemley, Mary E.	8-20-23	35 - 35N - 69W	Bricker, Jack Leslie	9-25-36	14 - 28N - 72W
Borders, Henry W.	12- 1-21	30 - 39N - 74W	Bricker, Ollie	9-15-42	28 - 29N - 72W
	12- 1-21	29 - 39N - 74W	Bricker, Oscar Melvin	4-26-32	27 - 29N - 72W
Borgerson, Bernt Andrew	5- 1- 6	36 - 33N - 72W	Bricker, Rawleigh E.	9 - 6-35	23 - 28N - 73W
Borgerson, Nicolaus T.	9-13- 9	36 - 33N - 72W	Bricker/Morton, Beulah M.	8-12-30	34 - 29N - 72W
Borton, Wayne F.	3-28-24	7 - 38N - 67W		8-12-30	34 - 29N - 72W
Bostwick, George Irving	12-19-21	19 - 35N - 73W	Briers, Angelic; Heirs	7-28-20	8 - 31N - 74W
Bostwick, Lewis O.	1- 2-23	13 - 35N - 74W	Briggs, Everett I.	3- 2-26	27 - 39N - 71W
	1- 2-23	18 - 35N - 73W	Bright, Belle	1-15-43	23 - 32N - 68W
Bowell, Clyde C.	7-29-13	28 - 32N - 67W		4-13- 8	9 - 32N - 67W
Bowe, Frank J.	3- 2-22	32 - 41N - 71W	Bright, Charles	3-25-13	25 - 32N - 68W
Bower, Clyde H.	10-31-21	29 - 33N - 73W		7-11-12	25 - 32N - 68W
	12- 4-22	28 - 33N - 73W	Bright, J. C.	5- 7-69	16 - 31N - 68W
Bowers, James A.	1- 8-24	11 - 37N - 69W	Brighten, Harry V.; Heirs	12- 9-21	35 - 33N - 74W
Bowers, Jess F.	7-30-29	31 - 37N - 68W	Brighton, Mary E.; Heirs	11-11-22	5 - 32N - 74W
	6-25-26	26 - 37N - 69W	Brighton, Pearl M.	3- 1-22	5 - 32N - 74W
Bowie, James A.	10- 9-22	2 - 38N - 71W	Brim, Carroll M.	7-30-23	22 - 36N - 76W
Bowman, Lee Max	7- 9-36	24 - 36N - 68W	Briney, Samuel E.	11-14-16	18 - 30N - 75W
Bowman, Ralph H.	11- 7-23	34 - 34N - 75W		7-20-28	8 - 30N - 76W
	12-13-30	20 - 35N - 74W	Brink, Albert D.	7-31-25	12 - 33N - 68W
Bowman, Roscoe E.	10-23-28	19 - 35N - 74W	Brink, Henry A.	11-22-22	5 - 39N - 76W
Boyce, Lydia A.	2-18-19	2 - 31N - 68W		11-22-22	6 - 39N - 76W
Boyd, Frank E.	9-11-14	33 - 33N - 67W	Brink, Homer C.	12-16-14	21 - 32N - 67W
Boyden, Wesley F.	12- 6- 6	14 - 27N - 72W	Brink, James M.	1- 4-15	21 - 32N - 67W
	3-29-29	24 - 28N - 72W	Brinker, Bert	9-22-21	31 - 34N - 76W
	3-29-29	30 - 28N - 71W	Britt, Paul B.	9-28-23	12 - 37N - 75W
Boydston, Henry B.	3-22-22	27 - 39N - 69W		9-28-23	1 - 37N - 75W
Boyer, Robert J.	3-27-59	9 - 28N - 71W	Britton, Joseph G.	11-30-23	18 - 40N - 67W
Boyer, Stacy E.	4-26-34	1 - 28N - 75W		11-30-23	13 - 40N - 68W
Boyles, William C., Heirs	4- 6-17	21 - 32N - 67W	Broadway, Mary	12- 7-38	6 - 37N - 75W
Braae, Anthon	1-18-38	18 - 38N - 72W	Brock, Charles W.	2- 4-20	11 - 31N - 71W
Braae, Arnold L.	5-23-34	17 - 28N - 72W		12- 4-22	14 - 31N - 71W
Braae, Dean E.	4- 6-27	22 - 29N - 72W	Brockmeyer, Herman G.	7-21-22	32 - 38N - 70W
Braae, Hattie A.	1-20-22	27 - 29N - 72W		7-21-22	19 - 38N - 69W
	1-20-22	34 - 29N - 72W	Brockmeyer, Samuel H.	12- 6-24	18 - 38N - 69W
Braae, Irene A.	2-25-36	29 - 29N - 72W	Brockway, Percy B.	3-29-30	28 - 38N - 72W
Braae, Leonard G.	2-14-25	34 - 29N - 72W		1-16-11	14 - 33N - 72W
	7-29-26	32 - 29N - 72W	Brockway, Alexander	9-16-96	24 - 33N - 72W
Braae, Lyle A.	11-16-38	26 - 28N - 73W	Brockway, Earl N.	8-27- 8	6 - 29N - 70W
Braae, Steven	4-26-32	32 - 29N - 72W	Broderick, Leo Rossiter	9- 8-21	30 - 37N - 71W
	1-31-27	5 - 28N - 72W		9- 8-21	24 - 37N - 72W
Bracy, Alfred M.	12- 9-25	7 - 35N - 72W	Broderick, Margaret; Heirs	6- 5-26	30 - 37N - 71W
Bradshaw, William	10-12-91	8 - 31N - 76W		6- 5-26	19 - 37N - 71W
Brady, Alexander	3-25-35	19 - 37N - 75W	Broderick, Niels P.	10-21-22	31 - 40N - 75W
Brady, James A.	3-12- 8	13 - 40N - 69W	Broeffle, Charles P.	11- 6-16	4 - 32N - 72W
Brandon, Thomas H.	10-20-21	20 - 29N - 75W	Broman, Leo C.	11-22-21	11 - 37N - 72W
Brandt, Edwin P.	2-23-23	4 - 39N - 73W		11-22-21	29 - 37N - 72W
	2-23-23	32 - 40N - 73W	Brokaw, Isaac, Assgn.	3-14-17	26 - 34N - 71W
Brandt/Rogers, Minnie M.	11-15-23	31 - 40N - 73W	Brookman, Walter H.	9-19-23	21 - 37N - 72W
	11-15-23	5 - 39N - 73W	Brooks, Bryant B.		
Brannan, Ira W.	4-13-22	25 - 40N - 76W	Assgn. Braman	7- 3- 2	31 - 34N - 78W
	4-13-22	24 - 40N - 76W	Brooks, Hattie B.	8- 9-16	1 - 32N - 72W



NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Brooks, Irene Cook	8- 6-26	6 - 31N - 70W	Bruner, Thomas G.	9-19-23	1 - 29N - 72W
Brooks, Margaret	2- 4-26	30 - 34N - 67W	Brunner, Anna Augusta	3-22-22	20 - 31N - 73W
Brooks, Mary O.	9-19-23	10 - 33N - 71W	Bruns, Otto John	9-27-37	29 - 30N - 75W
Brooks, May; Assgn.	6- 5-22	4 - 32N - 72W	Bruns, Susilla, Julia A.	3- 1-38	30 - 30N - 75W
Brooks, Orin D.	12- 1-97	7 - 32N - 72W	Bryan, Chester M.	10- 6-32	8 - 37N - 76W
Brooks, Walter E.	4-22- 1	12 - 32N - 73W	Bryan, Dan	4-16-17	35 - 37N - 77W
	12-17-97	1 - 32N - 73W		7- 9-23	36 - 37N - 77W
	3- 2-22	8 - 32N - 72W	Bryan, Ray O.	7-28-25	2 - 37N - 76W
Brooks, Ward O.	2-18-20	7 - 32N - 72W		7- 7-20	2 - 37N - 76W
	6-28-95	7 - 32N - 72W	Bryan, Zack, Heirs	8- 2-27	15 - 37N - 76W
Brooks/Cook, Irene	10- 9-22	5 - 31N - 70W	Bryan/Swoboda, Anna	10-10-34	7 - 37N - 76W
Brose, Leonard C.	8- 6-38	15 - 29N - 72W	Bryant, Charles R.	6-15-21	23 - 31N - 76W
Brose, Otto H.	7-29-26	23 - 39N - 72W		11-11-22	22 - 31N - 76W
	2- 6-23	14 - 29N - 72W		1-16-17	23 - 31N - 76W
Brown, Bridget	12- 9-21	33 - 30N - 73W	Bryant, Elga C.	11-14-21	22 - 31N - 76W
	10-22-15	4 - 29N - 73W	Bryant, Guy B.	2-13-26	11 - 38N - 76W
	12- 9-22	27 - 30N - 73W		2-13-26	2 - 38N - 76W
Brow, Chloe	5- 3-20	5 - 29N - 73W	Bryson, John F.	1-19-34	2 - 38N - 68W
Brow, Edwin W.	2-18-18	3 - 39N - 73W	Buchholz, William C.	12- 6-27	35 - 31N - 73W
	7-31-26	9 - 29N - 73W		4- 4-22	4 - 31N - 70W
Brow, George S.	4-15-21	17 - 30N - 73W	Buck, Harry W.	6- 5-20	6 - 32N - 69W
	10- 5-20	8 - 30N - 73W		6- 5-20	1 - 32N - 70W
	3-31-23	33 - 30N - 73W	Buckley, Charles W.	4-17-33	23 - 38N - 74W
	9-15-16	4 - 29N - 73W	Buckley, Donald	12-17-35	3 - 29N - 72W
	11- 5-14	5 - 29N - 73W	Buckley, Nora	12- 7-11	3 - 30N - 75W
	3-31-22	8 - 30N - 73W		5-11-14	34 - 31N - 75W
Brow, Godfrey P.	11- 5-14	4 - 29N - 73W		5-12- 3	3 - 30N - 75W
	6-22-20	21 - 30N - 73W		11-24-99	3 - 30N - 75W
	6-22-20	20 - 30N - 73W	Buckridge, Louis E.	11-27-23	13 - 39N - 71W
	1- 4-15	8 - 29N - 73W		11-27-23	14 - 39N - 71W
Brow, Lillian M.	1-24-20	29 - 30N - 73W	Buell, Edwin C.	6-29-27	3 - 34N - 75W
	9-11-17	4 - 29N - 73W	Buffington, Arthur F.	6-29-18	25 - 31N - 68W
Brow, Thornton B.	7-10-31	26 - 30N - 73W		7- 8-21	18 - 33N - 67W
	4-16-15	8 - 29N - 73W		6-23-21	17 - 33N - 67W
	12-14-14	8 - 29N - 73W		8-20-23	1 - 33N - 68W
Brown, Albert	4-19-28	31 - 41N - 69W	Buffington, Mabel I.	7-16-23	7 - 33N - 67W
	6-12-23	26 - 33N - 75W		7-16-23	4 - 33N - 67W
	10-29-24	5 - 32N - 75W	Bumgarner, Zeb	5-14- 9	10 - 30N - 74W
Brown, Clark W.	9-27-21	30 - 34N - 69W	Bump, Leo T.	1-27-22	21 - 35N - 70W
Brown, Cyrus O.	3- 8-17	28 - 33N - 72W		1-27-22	28 - 35N - 70W
Brown, Earnest A.	11- 9-12	25 - 33N - 69W	Bunker, Frank	12-31- 3	34 - 30N - 74W
Brown, Frank M.	5- 9-14	28 - 33N - 72W	Bunn, Emerson	12- 1-98	9 - 31N - 74W
Brown, George W.	6- 9-20	25 - 34N - 68W	Bunner, Oscar	12-20-20	22 - 33N - 72W
	9-11-17	5 - 31N - 68W	Bunton, Flora J.	2 - 3-15	12 - 32N - 71W
Brown, Horace M.	6-20-17	12 - 34N - 68W		6-29-21	7 - 32N - 70W
	12-16-20	12 - 34N - 68W	Burch, Jasper	1- 3-24	29 - 34N - 75W
Brown, Hugh B.	4-25-21	23 - 32N - 71W	Burch, Sarah Ellen		
	11-11-22	21 - 32N - 73W	Assgn.	11-20-16	18 - 33N - 76W
Brown, Irl	2-26-21	13 - 34N - 73W	Burden, Perry R.	1-13-22	4 - 38N - 69W
	2-26-21	23 - 34N - 73W	Burdick, Gail M.	7-30-23	27 - 36N - 76W
Brown, Martha Z.	9-25-39	27 - 40N - 74W		7-30-23	26 - 36N - 76W
Brown, Mary T.	8-11-21	18 - 39N - 75W	Burdick, Warren G.	7-18-22	19 - 29N - 70W
	8-11-21	13 - 39N - 76W	Burgland, John A.	12- 9-24	28 - 35N - 72W
Brown, Rilla S.; Heirs	8- 2- 9	28 - 32N - 65W		6-14-23	20 - 35N - 72W
Brown, Rubie N.	4- 9-23	15 - 32N - 69W	Burk, Fred C.	3- 7-30	5 - 38N - 71W
Browne, Joseph M.	3-22-22	3 - 37N - 70W		10- 4-20	18 - 37N - 69W
Brownell, Forrest F.	2-27-25	20 - 31N - 71W	Burk, Thomas S.	4-16-23	8 - 37N - 69W
Brownfield, Francis E. Assgn.	10-26-11	3 - 32N - 74W		5-18-25	8 - 37N - 69W
	9-25-13	35 - 33N - 74W	Burke, Richard A.	3-10-37	7 - 35N - 70W
	5-25- 8	1 - 32N - 75W	Burket, Homer K.	2-20-18	8 - 32N - 74W
Brownfield, Thomas J.	3- 8-22	12 - 32N - 72W	Assgn. Parker	4-13-11	35 - 33N - 74W
	10-22- 8	8 - 32N - 74W	Burkett, Roby L.	1-30-23	13 - 36N - 72W
Brownlee, May (Widow)	12-17-00	32 - 32N - 75W	Burks, Frank L.	3-12-25	7 - 32N - 73W
Brubaker, Thomas J.	2-26-30	20 - 32N - 74W	Burks, John R.	10-19-42	7 - 33N - 73W
	4- 2-20	31 - 33N - 74W		12-12-23	6 - 32N - 73W
	5-29-20	31 - 33N - 74W		6-16-31	17 - 33N - 73W
Bruce, Archie T.	9-15-22	28 - 34N - 71W		12-12-23	11 - 31N - 76W
Bruce, Eliza A.	12-19-21	7 - 36N - 68W	Burnett, Lafe	8-23-22	5 - 32N - 70W
Bruce, Ernest E.	11-16-22	26 - 38N - 75W	Burns, Albert	10-16-19	5 - 32N - 70W
Bruce, George W.	10-11-21	18 - 34N - 75W	Burns, Edward	2-10-27	6 - 30N - 72W
	10-11-21	17 - 34N - 75W	Burris, Ulysses	7-28-91	20 - 31N - 69W
Bruce, Jesse L.	8- 3-39	19 - 34N - 75W	Burrows, Robert R.	6-11-13	26 - 31N - 74W
Bruce, Leo Vandyke	12- 9-21	8 - 36N - 68W		1- 2-25	3 - 34N - 74W
Bruck, Michael	2-20-18	35 - 34N - 71W		1- 2-25	34 - 34N - 75W
Bruner, Ferris B.	8- 2-28	12 - 29N - 72W	Burscough, Guy B.	12-20-24	15 - 40N - 71W
Bruner, Martha A.	11- 2- 3	28 - 29N - 71W	Bury, James H.	10- 2-90	24 - 33N - 74W
Bruner, Thomas G.	6-27- 3	28 - 29N - 71W	Bushey, John G.	1-27-22	22 - 38N - 70W
	3-22- 9	2 - 29N - 72W	Bustard, Garrett B.	3-10-22	24 - 39N - 74W
	6-29- 8	28 - 29N - 71W		3-10-22	19 - 39N - 73W
	4-15-20	1 - 29N - 72W	Bustard, Henry	9-28-23	7 - 39N - 73W
				9-28-23	12 - 39N - 74W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Combs, Eugene	3-13-23	29 - 34N - 71W	Corey, Charles W.		
	5-26-20	30 - 34N - 71W	Assgn.	8-22-23	3 - 33N - 74W
	2-21-27	31 - 34N - 71W	Cornell, Lyle L.	2-23-22	14 - 37N - 71W
Combs, Helen M.	7-13-17	10 - 33N - 71W		2-23-22	15 - 37N - 71W
Combs, Leroy N.	3- 3-31	5 - 33N - 71W	Corp., Merritt Oil	3-28-24	7 - 33N - 76W
	5-18-25	5 - 33N - 71W	Corrao, Adolph	7-10-22	23 - 32N - 75W
	6- 9-20	31 - 34N - 71W	Cosby, Ida B.	12- 9-21	18 - 35N - 68W
	12-23-14	15 - 29N - 75W	Cosby, Robert T.	2-20-11	29 - 35N - 67W
	5-24-20	6 - 33N - 71W	Coulter, Elbert J.	12-20-24	31 - 37N - 68W
Co., Cole Creek Coal	2-24-13	25 - 34N - 77W		12-20-24	30 - 37N - 68W
Co., Taylor Ranch	2-12-54	28 - 41N - 76W	Coverdell, Marion P.	6- 7-20	33 - 29N - 75W
Condray, Erastus E.	11- 5-14	4 - 34N - 68W	Cowan, Clarence	10-21-22	28 - 35N - 73W
	11- 5-25	4 - 34N - 68W		10-21-22	21 - 35N - 73W
Condray, Guy S.	10- 3-18	9 - 33N - 67W	Cowan, John	10- 4-23	32 - 33N - 71W
	9- 8-45	2 - 33N - 68W		8-25-14	32 - 33N - 71W
	2-26-21	4 - 33N - 67W	Cowell, Claron James	4- 4-34	2 - 39N - 76W
	9- 8-20	2 - 33N - 68W	Cowell, Elmer E.	10-21-37	13 - 37N - 73W
Condray, Roy	10-28-22	3 - 34N - 68W	Cowell, Henrietta	1- 2-23	2 - 36N - 73W
Connelly, William W.	3-10-22	1 - 38N - 70W	Cowger, John	2-26-21	15 - 36N - 72W
Conley, Spencer L.	2- 4-20	11 - 32N - 69W	Cowles, Arthur R. J.	6-29-21	24 - 34N - 72W
Conner, Arthur R.	9- 3- 8	10 - 31N - 74W		6-29-21	26 - 34N - 72W
Conner, Harney Trammell	11-15-23	15 - 29N - 77W	Cox, Orval R.	8-13-35	35 - 41N - 70W
Conner, Hazel B.	2- 6-23	11 - 39N - 75W		8-21-35	2 - 40N - 70W
Conner, Hugh A.	3-28-14	7 - 33N - 68W	Cox, Sarah, Assgn.	11-23-11	40 - 31N - 72W
	5-27- 9	17 - 33N - 68W	Coyne, William E.	6-16-26	11 - 30N - 71W
	1-10-20	7 - 33N - 68W	Crabb, Floyd T.	3-31-24	2 - 28N - 72W
Conors, Emma C.	11-19- 6	27 - 32N - 65W		1-24-27	6 - 28N - 71W
Conors, Henry	8- 9- 9	27 - 32N - 65W	Craig, Ira M.	9-21-23	34 - 34N - 75W
	3-17-00	2 - 32N - 65W		12- 9-21	35 - 34N - 75W
Conors, Michael L.	8-21- 7	21 - 32N - 65W	Craig, John H.	2- 4-30	28 - 41N - 69W
Conroy, George A.	9-23-31	19 - 28N - 71W		9-29-24	33 - 41N - 69W
Conroy, Patrick F.	11-16-38	6 - 35N - 74W	Craig, Lola A.	4- 7-24	6 - 37N - 70W
Converse County	7- 9-41	6 - 32N - 74W	Cram, Erwin M.	11-22-22	25 - 35N - 69W
Conway, Benjamin E.				5-17-20	20 - 32N - 69W
Lgl. Rpr.	5-17-20	10 - 40N - 76W	Cram, Harold D.	3-31-26	24 - 35N - 69W
	4-15-20	2 - 40N - 76W		3-31-26	22 - 35N - 69W
Conwell, Lucy	7-26- 9	30 - 28N - 71W	Cram, Orlando H.	3-31-26	22 - 35N - 69W
Cook, August	2- 3-22	15 - 40N - 67W		3-31-26	23 - 35N - 69W
Cook, Charles M.	7-18-17	1 - 32N - 68W	Cram, Ralph W.	2-14-25	5 - 34N - 68W
Cook, Fred C.	11-11-22	7 - 40N - 67W		6- 5-26	5 - 34N - 68W
	11-11-22	8 - 40N - 57W	Cramer, Lucinda	2-13-22	1 - 33N - 71W
Cook, James C.	3-31-22	5 - 31N - 70W	Crandall, Bessie E.	6-29-21	4 - 38N - 73W
	3-31-22	7 - 31N - 70W		6-29-21	3 - 38N - 73W
Cook, Leslie M.	4- 4-22	20 - 36N - 73W	Crane, Anson G.	9- 5-89	3 - 33N - 60W
Cook, Louis	7- 2-15	32 - 39N - 67W	Crank, Sidney S.	5-17-22	7 - 36N - 73W
	2-26-21	32 - 39N - 67W	Crantz, Evar E.	6-14-21	15 - 38N - 69W
Cook, Samuel H.	5-12- 5	32 - 40N - 72W	Crantz, Phillip N.	6- 1-21	22 - 38N - 69W
Cook, William A.	2- 7-24	20 - 37N - 69W	Crapsey/Jones, Dora	3-26-23	2 - 34N - 74W
	3-22-22	20 - 37N - 69W	Crarey, Roscoe		
Cooley, Guy W.	6-27- 3	21 - 34N - 66W	Assgn. Spurgeon	2-27-13	31 - 33N - 76W
Coon, Clarence R.	5- 4-26	3 - 34N - 73W	Crarey, T. Delos	9-15-22	14 - 34N - 75W
	5- 4-26	25 - 34N - 71W	Crawford, Bessie M.	6-18-20	9 - 33N - 68W
Cooper, Andrew	1-17-95	9 - 28N - 71W	Crawford, Harry	7-22-20	6 - 33N - 68W
	7- 7-24	21 - 30N - 72W		8-11-24	6 - 33N - 68W
Cooper, Clara A.	10- 9-11	12 - 30N - 73W	Creager, Odes	4- 9-23	18 - 34N - 74W
Cooper, Geroge H. Heirs	7-15-12	28 - 35N - 67W		4- 9-23	13 - 34N - 75W
Cooper, James F.	11-21-30	1 - 34N - 73W	Creel, Jefferson J.	10-22- 3	30 - 33N - 74W
	5-28-30	33 - 35N - 73W	Cress, Berboun E.	12-22-10	3 - 32N - 71W
Cooper, James E.	12-17- 6	7 - 28N - 71W	Croco, Arthur C.	4- 7-16	29 - 32N - 67W
Cooper, John A.	10-23-14	1 - 40N - 71W		6-12-23	9 - 34N - 67W
Cooper, Lyman	7-11-12	8 - 29N - 73W	Croco, William	3-29-13	29 - 32N - 67W
	3-29- 2	2 - 29N - 72W	Croffard, Emily J.	3-26- 8	20 - 40N - 61W
	7-24-94	11 - 29N - 72W	Crofts, Albert M.	6-16-10	9 - 33N - 73W
	10- 6-94	11 - 29N - 72W	Crommett, Guy W.	4- 6-27	14 - 36N - 71W
	7-24-94	11 - 29N - 72W	Cromwell, Luther M.	1-31- 7	26 - 31N - 76W
	11- 5-90	17 - 28N - 71W		1-31-27	34 - 31N - 76W
Cooper, Mary C.	3- 9-95	20 - 28N - 71W	Cromwell, Warren D.	2-23-32	11 - 31N - 76W
Cooper, P. M.	12- 6-67	36 - 38N - 77W	Cronk, Elmer U.	3- 7-30	25 - 36N - 73W
Cooper, Thomas	12-13-30	12 - 37N - 77W		1- 6-27	25 - 36N - 73W
Cooper, William D.	8-19-25	34 - 36N - 70W		1- 6-27	1 - 36N - 74W
	5-27-24	34 - 34N - 70W	Cronk, Rufus L.	10-24-34	12 - 34N - 73W
Cope, George M.; Heirs	9-10-19	6 - 31N - 70W	Cronk, Sidney S.	5-17-22	12 - 36N - 74W
Copenhaver, Earl J.	7- 8-21	26 - 37N - 71W	Cronk, William R.	8-20-23	20 - 36N - 73W
Copenhaver, Everett T.	11- 7-23	27 - 37N - 71W		9-15-22	21 - 36N - 73W
Copenhaver, Milton	1-27-22	14 - 37N - 71W	Crosley, Charles H. B.	12- 1-21	5 - 33N - 68W
Copsey, Fay M.	3- 5-23	6 - 30N - 71W		4-21-24	5 - 33N - 68W
	8-13-24	7 - 30N - 71W	Cross, Alexander S.	12-20-26	6 - 29N - 74W
Copsey, Robert L.	6-14-23	15 - 39N - 72W		2- 6-25	24 - 29N - 75W
	6-14-23	22 - 39N - 72W		4-15-21	19 - 29N - 74W
Corcoran, Charles E.	8-21-21	23 - 40N - 73W	Cross, Alexander S. et al	5-22-35	5 - 29N - 74W
Corcoran, James	4-12-23	19 - 36N - 70W	Cross, Alzire E.	10-20-21	30 - 29N - 74W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Beach, Lloyd O.	11- 9-12	1 - 32N - 74W	Berdine, Wilhelmine	9- 8-25	32 - 36N - 71W
Beal, Newton	11- 1-27	7 - 37N - 74W	Berdolt, Walter, Heirs	8-30-20	32 - 35N - 70W
Bean, Daniel J.	9-16-21	25 - 39N - 75W		10-14-20	29 - 35N - 70W
	9-16-21	30 - 39N - 74W	Berg, Matthew	9-28-26	3 - 36N - 68W
Beans, Sara J.	9- 5-23	26 - 39N - 75W	Bergman, Lester E.	4-25-40	5 - 34N - 76W
	3- 8-20	23 - 39N - 75W	Bergstrand, Joseph A.	6-13-17	33 - 33N - 72W
Beard, Clarence A.	3- 5-23	14 - 37N - 68W	Bernt/Rothleutner, Anna E.	11- 9-22	32 - 40N - 68W
	3- 5-23	11 - 37N - 68W	Bertolero, John B.	12-11-22	24 - 38N - 75W
Beard, Mary	11-24-22	2 - 37N - 68W		12-21-12	24 - 38N - 75W
Beard, William O.	3-10-22	10 - 37N - 68W	Betts, Dock	6-27- 3	2 - 39N - 73W
	3-10-22	2 - 37N - 68W		3-13-00	5 - 39N - 75W
Beasley, Rua	9-23-14	30 - 33N - 67W	Betzer, Celeste I.	9-10-19	29 - 31N - 70W
Beauchamp, Ben J.	2-16-22	30 - 36N - 76W	Betzer, Clifford R.	4-15-20	31 - 31N - 70W
	2-12-30	30 - 36N - 76W		2- 4-20	29 - 31N - 70W
	2-16-22	30 - 36N - 76W		5-17-20	32 - 31N - 70W
Beauchamp, John	6-20-27	25 - 36N - 77W	Betzer, Leslie A.	5-24-20	29 - 31N - 70W
Beauchamp/DeMers, Edith C.	12- 3-24	14 - 36N - 76W	Bevins, Edward	7-22-20	29 - 31N - 70W
	9-29-24	14 - 36N - 76W	Bible, Otto E.	1-10-20	14 - 32N - 69W
Beaulieu, Leon	12-14-38	28 - 30N - 74W	Bible, Ralph	10-28-22	20 - 37N - 67W
	12- 3-36	29 - 30N - 74W		7-16-23	28 - 37N - 67W
	10-13-15	28 - 30N - 74W		7-16-23	18 - 37N - 67W
	11-16-14	29 - 30N - 74W	Bicknell, Myrtle	4-24-30	4 - 37N - 70W
	5-13-16	29 - 30N - 74W	Bidwell, William H.	6- 6-36	31 - 28N - 71W
	2- 6-11	18 - 29N - 74W	Bierman, Henry W.	1-31-27	32 - 32N - 75W
	5-26-10	18 - 29N - 74W		4-15-21	33 - 32N - 75W
	5-10-23	21 - 30N - 74W	Bigelow, Florence I.	4-21-23	31 - 38N - 70W
Beaulieu/McCarthy, Gata A.	11-10-33	21 - 29N - 75W	Billingsly, Alton L.	11-24-26	10 - 34N - 69W
Beaver, Charles C.	4-11-21	21 - 35N - 68W		11-24-26	8 - 34N - 69W
Beaver, Ernest Victor	10-11-21	27 - 35N - 68W	Birchard, Frank Ford	7- 8-21	7 - 32N - 68W
Beaver, George R.	9-21-23	28 - 35N - 68W	Birchard, Gertrude	6- 5-20	7 - 32N - 68W
Beaver, Irette	9-29-24	14 - 35N - 68W	Birchard, Roy W.	8-26-21	7 - 32N - 68W
Beaver, William Louis	9-21-23	23 - 35N - 68W	Bird, Chester W.	12-14-22	13 - 33N - 77W
	9-21-23	33 - 35N - 68W	Birkner, Monica	3-10-22	11 - 36N - 74W
	6-20-23	29 - 34N - 76W	Birkner, Oscar	6-11-25	1 - 36N - 74W
Bechtel, Robert G.	1-23-24	9 - 40N - 75W		6-11-25	25 - 36N - 74W
Beck, Gerald L.	1-23-24	10 - 40N - 75W	Birmingham, Mark	7- 2-90	10 - 33N - 73W
	6-28-22	19 - 35N - 76W	Birt, Frank L.	9- 5-23	21 - 34N - 75W
Beck, Joseph N.	1-13-22	22 - 35N - 76W		9-15-22	21 - 34N - 75W
Beck, Oscar J.	6-28-22	19 - 35N - 76W	Birt, Lawrence W.	9-15-22	15 - 34N - 75W
Beck, Ray C.	6-28-22	20 - 35N - 76W	Bishop, Clarence A.	4-14-17	26 - 33N - 73W
	5-26-25	3 - 33N - 66W	Bishop, Edith L.	6- 1-36	23 - 29N - 71W
Bedford, Carl L.	6- 1-23	7 - 37N - 68W	Bishop, Loren C.	6-26-13	35 - 33N - 73W
Bedford, Raymond F.	6- 1-23	6 - 37N - 68W		12- 4-22	30 - 32N - 71W
	6- 6-33	17 - 38N - 76W		2-14-25	19 - 32N - 71W
Beebe, Cecil D.	4-26-32	23 - 36N - 70W	Bishop, Sadie A.	12- 4-22	30 - 32N - 71W
Beeler, Clarence	3-19-25	11 - 35N - 70W	Bishop, Spencer A.	11 -5-90	11 - 32N - 73W
Beeler, Jesse	3-19-25	2 - 35N - 70W		10- 6-94	11 - 32N - 73W
	2- 7-24	12 - 36N - 72W	Bittleston, Kenneth O.	1-20-38	10 - 36N - 77W
Beezley, Ralph F.	2- 7-24	11 - 36N - 72W	Bittleston, Wayne	10-16-36	24 - 37N - 76W
	1-23-22	32 - 39N - 74W	Bittleston, William A.	10-11-35	7 - 37N - 75W
Behne, Paul V.	8-12-23	4 - 34N - 72W	Bixbe, Ivan	9-17-11	21 - 34N - 73W
Beiland, Alonzo P.	3-19-20	27 - 32N - 71W	Bixby, Robert	6-19-19	35 - 36N - 68W
Bell, Clarence W.	10-30-39	1 - 38N - 77W	Bjorn, Sofus Engelhart	3-31-23	9 - 40N - 67W
Bell, Eldon W.	2- 3-22	23 - 38N - 71W	Black, Cyrus M.	11-23-37	18 - 28N - 71W
Bell, John H.	11-28- 2	36 - 32N - 62W	Black, Floyd C.	4-25-21	10 - 35N - 70W
Bell, Thomas	6-19-19	31 - 29N - 75W	Black, Jacob E.	2- 2-38	28 - 28N - 71W
Bell/McNamara, Catherine C.	6-29-21	18 - 33N - 72W	Black, James P.	3-25- 2	7 - 28N - 71W
Benaris, Nick C.	7- 9-36	13 - 33N - 73W	Black, Sara E.	6-29- 1	33 - 31N - 65W
	6-29-20	12 - 33N - 69W	Black, Thomson	3-17-92	30 - 31N - 65W
Benedict, Henry	5-24-20	14 - 33N - 69W	Blackard, Jamie I.	7- 9-23	33 - 37N - 67W
Benedict, Louis R.	12-20-24	5 - 31N - 70W	Blackman, James A.	2-20-22	6 - 38N - 69W
Benham, George E.	1- 2-25	30 - 32N - 70W		2-20-22	31 - 39N - 69W
	3- 4-22	29 - 38N - 73W	Blackman, Rubert S.	6- 1-23	24 - 36N - 72W
Benjamin, Harvey	7-21-24	12 - 34N - 77W	Blackman, Samuel R.	6-19-22	2 - 38N - 75W
Benner, C. Anthony	7-21-24	7 - 34N - 76W	Blackston, Fred Franklin	4-14-36	5 - 39N - 68W
	8-20-23	1 - 34N - 72W	Blain, George J.	3-22-22	22 - 37N - 74W
Bennett, Clarence	9-26-27	1 - 34N - 72W	Blaine, Mary, Heirs	2- 7-24	13 - 33N - 71W
Bennett, Clayton	8-20-23	2 - 34N - 72W		2- 7-24	14 - 33N - 71W
Bennett, John	3-18-30	22 - 34N - 72W	Blaisdell, Edson B.	10-25-35	27 - 39N - 73W
	11-27-23	29 - 38N - 71W	Blake, Lee C.	2-15-23	23 - 40N - 68W
Bennett, Marquist A., Heirs	9-18-19	23 - 34N - 73W	Blakeney, Joseph H.	2-20-24	30 - 30N - 70W
Bennett, Wayne	6- 2-20	23 - 34N - 73W	Blaney, Myrtle M.	12-11-22	30 - 34N - 75W
	11- 4-20	23 - 34N - 73W	Blauer, Clinton E.	9-16-24	12 - 34N - 74W
Benson, Clarence L.	5-18-23	17 - 38N - 73W	Blauer, John F.	5-18-25	7 - 34N - 73W
Bentley, Almond H., Heirs	5-22-20	22 - 32N - 70W	Blauer, Weldon	9-23-22	1 - 34N - 74W
Bentley, Gustavis B.	6- 9-20	14 - 32N - 70W	Blaugh, Glen C.	6- 7-20	10 - 33N - 69W
	1-27-22	15 - 32N - 70W	Bledsoe, Lewis E.	3- 8-20	3 - 31N - 76W
	2-16-20	14 - 32N - 70W	Blencoe, Martha E.	1-13- 8	21 - 36N - 71W
Benway, Floyd E.	2-20-22	5 - 30N - 73W	Blessing, John	8-14-93	32 - 34N - 75W
	2-20-22	4 - 30N - 73W	Bliewas, Morres	3-21-34	4 - 35N - 76W
			Bliss, Byron	12-13- 5	24 - 31N - 76W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Bustard, Rose M.	4-11-22	13 - 39N - 74W	Carothers, George W.	6-29-40	4 - 32N - 70W
Bustard, William S.	2-23-23	11 - 39N - 74W	Carothers, Martha M.	5-17-10	10 - 31N - 72W
Butcher, Louis	1-14-20	7 - 33N - 67W		3-27-14	17 - 31N - 72W
Butler, Fred A.	4- 2-24	4 - 37N - 74W		1-27-22	8 - 31N - 72W
Butten, George	12-22-13	7 - 40N - 67W		7- 8-40	16 - 31N - 72W
Byram, Frank B.	5- 7-91	4 - 29N - 77W	Carothers, Matthew D.	12-21-28	31 - 31N - 72W
Byrd, Doc C.	4- 4-22	32 - 35N - 71W		4- 2-25	28 - 31N - 72W
Byxhe, Ivan	9-27-21	21 - 34N - 73W	Carothers, Samuel	10-11-21	19 - 31N - 72W
C. A. Stroud, Assgn.	4- 7-24	3 - 33N - 74W		10-11-21	18 - 31N - 72W
Cady, Harry E.	9-17-18	7 - 31N - 68W		8- 4-25	18 - 31N - 72W
Caffee, Charles	2-16-20	6 - 32N - 70W	Carothers, William J.	6-27-94	21 - 31N - 72W
Cain, Vincent P.	12-12-23	6 - 36N - 70W	Carpenter, Jim B.	11-30-23	9 - 37N - 74W
Caldwell, Earl Leroy	11-22-22	12 - 35N - 69W		11-30-23	3 - 37N - 74W
	11-22-22	21 - 33N - 68W	Carpenter, Margaret Z.	1-23-22	7 - 37N - 70W
Call, Shirley E.	4- 4-32	3 - 37N - 73W	Carr, Ersel C.	5-19-21	18 - 38N - 70W
	3- 4-12	18 - 31N - 70W	Carragher, James, Heirs	12- 2- 7	2 - 27N - 72W
Callen, Karl G.	9- 8-24	6 - 35N - 71W	Carrao, John, Heirs	4-26- 2	35 - 33N - 71W
	1-27-22	7 - 35N - 71W	Carson, Charles, Roy, Heirs	10- 7-33	5 - 35N - 74W
	1-27-22	6 - 35N - 71W	Carson, Harold T.	11-17-27	24 - 39N - 73W
Calvert, Melvina N.	8-26-21	28 - 36N - 73W		11-17-27	1 - 38N - 73W
Came, Robert L.	3-26-25	18 - 35N - 72W	Carson/Stevens, Pansy	12- 6-27	1 - 38N - 73W
	3-26-25	8 - 35N - 72W		12- 6-27	24 - 39N - 73W
Cameron, Charles R.	9- 8-22	10 - 38N - 69W	Case, Clarence W.	4- 8-14	5 - 32N - 67W
Campbell, Benjamin	1- 3-24	1 - 39N - 70W		9-14-15	32 - 33N - 67W
	3-30-16	23 - 32N - 71N	Case, Raymond H.	4-14-31	5 - 38N - 76W
Campbell, George R.	12-18-39	32 - 35N - 74W	Case, Thomas G.	2-13-22	4 - 34N - 71W
Campbell, George W., Lgl Repr.	5-17-20	33 - 35N - 70W		2-13-22	5 - 34N - 71W
Campbell, Malcolm	3-17-92	8 - 33N - 72W	Casey, James T.	7-12-35	7 - 34N - 75W
	8-14-16	31 - 33N - 71W	Casey, James W.	4-16-23	11 - 39N - 76W
	8-25- 2	26 - 29N - 75W	Casey, Ross W.	12-20-24	32 - 39N - 70W
Campbell, Malcolm S.	12- 6-23	33 - 35N - 77W	Castle, Earl W.	1-12-29	25 - 37N - 68W
Campbell, Myron R.	8- 4-21	3 - 34N - 70W		2-12-29	30 - 37N - 67W
	1-12-31	4 - 34N - 70W	Castle, Newton F.	2- 4-26	8 - 34N - 72W
Campbell/Bressert, Suddie	3-13-23	19 - 40N - 75W	Casell, Charles O.	11-24-22	15 - 34N - 76W
Campbell/Sarvey, Minnie I.	10-23-28	2 - 33N - 76W	Cavanaugh, John L.	4- 2-24	10 - 32N - 75W
Canaday, Mack C.	6- 1-21	17 - 38N - 70W	Cellan, Louisa A.	11-24-36	35 - 32N - 75W
Canale, Mike	6-19-22	20 - 33N - 67W	Chalfan, Joseph	6- 5-26	2 - 29N - 77W
Cannon, Earl G.	3-23-16	33 - 33N - 67W	Challans, Robert W.	2-21-27	34 - 31N - 71W
Cannon, Elijah W.	5-31-13	20 - 32N - 67W		2-25-28	4 - 29N - 70W
Cannon, Jacob A.	5-13-15	6 - 32N - 67W	Chamberlain, Albert D.	7-15-12	27 - 30N - 74W
Cannon, Oliver G.	10-16-14	20 - 32N - 67W	Chamberlain, Austin E.	3- 3- 9	19 - 31N - 75W
Cannon, William Aquilla	7-27-31	19 - 28N - 72W	Chamberlain, Albert D.	6-15-11	23 - 30N - 74W
Cannon, William L.	9-13-15	21 - 32N - 67W		11-15-15	28 - 30N - 74W
Cantrell, James Arthur	3- 7-30	34 - 40N - 76W		10-12-11	23 - 30N - 74W
Cantrell, Jesse A.	3-13-23	1 - 39N - 74W	Chamberlain, Jennie	1-24-10	15 - 30N - 74W
Caparoon, John	7-10-18	33 - 31N - 68W		8- 5-96	17 - 33N - 73W
Caparoon, Nettie I.	7-22-20	23 - 31N - 68W		12- 1-33	30 - 32N - 71W
Card, Harry B.	8-14-93	17 - 32N - 67W		5- 2-13	35 - 30N - 74W
	6-20-94	8 - 32N - 67W		7- 5-22	3 - 32N - 72W
Card, Nat F.	3-26-23	36 - 32N - 68W	Chambers/Moffett, Laura G.	10-21-22	27 - 39N - 74W
	7-21-22	25 - 32N - 68W	Chantry, William A.	3- 4-22	7 - 35N - 69W
Carey, Jack Elbert	3-26-23	20 - 34N - 76W		3- 4-22	4 - 35N - 69W
	4-17-90	35 - 34N - 77W	Chapelle, Atlee E., Lgl. Repr.	2-26-21	6 - 37N - 73W
	4-17-90	2 - 33N - 77W	Chapelle, Clarence	12- 9-25	6 - 37N - 73W
Carey, Julia F.	2-14-13	18 - 33N - 73W	Chapin, Bertrand	3-13-23	4 - 39N - 75W
	11-20-16	18 - 33N - 73W	Charles, Emma A.	11- 5-21	12 - 29N - 76W
Carey, Robert D.	11-20-16	18 - 33N - 73W	Chase, A. Carl	4-16-23	9 - 37N - 75W
	2-14-13	18 - 33N - 73W	Chase, Atholbert E.	2- 3-22	15 - 37N - 75W
	2-20-13	18 - 33N - 73W	Chase, Shadrack M.	4-15-24	28 - 37N - 75W
	11- 1- 9	18 - 33N - 73W	Chelewski, John	7-30-31	4 - 31N - 72W
Cargill, Perry E.	11-21-14	17 - 33N - 74W		12-11-14	12 - 31N - 71W
	1-11-23	33 - 31N - 73W	Chesebro, Forest W., Lgl. Repr.	10-22-20	32 - 37N - 74W
	1-11-23	34 - 31N - 73W	Chinzek, Henry	11-22-22	1 - 34N - 75W
Carlisle, Charles S.	12- 9-21	7 - 37N - 72W	Chism, Clinton R.	8-28-23	4 - 35N - 67W
	12- 9-21	12 - 37N - 73W		7- 7-22	32 - 36N - 67W
Carlson, Carl Hugo	6-16-32	33 - 41N - 69W	Chizek, Henry	11-22-22	1 - 34N - 75W
Carlson, Carl J.	8- 4-24	4 - 39N - 69W	Choate, James H.	1-29-64	2 - 31N - 71W
Carlson, Enoch	3-24-22	4 - 32N - 73W		3-31-22	2 - 31N - 71W
	6-24-18	34 - 33N - 73W		8-12-30	4 - 31N - 72W
	5-20-31	9 - 32N - 74W		6-20-16	2 - 31N - 71W
Carlson, Eric	4-24-30	39 - 32N - 73W	Chowning, W. Arthur	6-20-21	30 - 32N - 72W
	10- 8-35	39 - 32N - 73W		6-20-21	31 - 32N - 72W
Carlson, Erick V.	8-18-30	4 - 32N - 74W	Chowning/Dorr, May	3-15-19	30 - 32N - 72W
Carlson, Oscar	2-18-18	27 - 33N - 73W		1-30-22	26 - 31N - 71W
	4- 9-17	5 - 32N - 73W		4-15-21	35 - 31N - 71W
Carmen, Joseph L.	3- 1-22	11 - 31N - 70W	Christensen, Hans	11-18- 7	2 - 30N - 74W
Carmin, Joe L.	7-25-40	5 - 31N - 69W	Christensen, John F.	9-19-23	19 - 33N - 67W
	5-24-20	2 - 31N - 70W		6-19-22	25 - 33N - 68W
	8-12-18	20 - 31N - 69W			
	9-19-19	14 - 31N - 70W			
Carothers, William J., Heirs	6-29- 1	21 - 31N - 72W			

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Christian, Truman	10-14-22	23 - 41N - 75W	Co., Fiddleback, The	7- 7-38	2 - 37N - 70W
Christiansen, Rasmus J.	2- 5-25	27 - 37N - 68W	Co., Highland Realty	6- 7-20	4 - 32N - 71W
	2- 5-25	28 - 37N - 68W	Co., Humble Oil & Refining	10- 8-70	22 - 36N - 72W
Christie, Ralph C.	11- 8-21	1 - 37N - 72W	Co., John T. Williams Sheep	7-22-38	20 - 36N - 67W
Church, Guy I.	1-16-20	32 - 37N - 71W		7-29-38	2 - 35N - 68W
Churchill, Phillips V.	3-26-23	23 - 36N - 71W		7-29-38	36 - 36N - 68W
	3-26-23	24 - 36N - 71W		7-22-38	21 - 36N - 67W
Cinek, James	7- 8-21	29 - 37N - 69W		7-29-38	33 - 36N - 68W
	1 - 8-24	32 - 37N - 69W		7-29-38	7 - 35N - 68W
Claflin, Susan E.	12-14- 6	34 - 34N - 67W	Co., LaBonte Livestock	8- 4-39	16 - 29N - 72W
Clare, Agnes M.	2-26-21	22 - 33N - 69W		4-20-29	36 - 30N - 72W
	2-26-21	4 - 33N - 69W		3-11-36	10 - 29N - 72W
Clare, Harold J.	7-28-20	21 - 33N - 69W	Co., Moore Sheep	7-28-49	34 - 41N - 76W
	2-26-21	21 - 33N - 69W	Co., Morton & Jenne Sheep	2- 1-19	20 - 39N - 72W
	2-16-20	27 - 33N - 69W	Co., Mountain Home	3- 9-34	3 - 31N - 77W
Clare, Marie K.	10-11-21	27 - 33N - 69W		12-21-36	16 - 32N - 75W
	6-29-21	26 - 33N - 69W		7- 7-38	13 - 31N - 77W
Clare, Thomas A.	2-26-21	23 - 33N - 69W		2- 4-38	25 - 32N - 77W
	2-16-20	23 - 33N - 69W		2- 4-38	26 - 32N - 77W
	6- 8-20	26 - 33N - 69W		5-22-40	23 - 31N - 77W
Clarity, Wilfred E.	9-10-20	34 - 35N - 73W	Co., No. Laramie Peak Copper	7-13-16	15 - 29N - 71W
Clark, Agnes A.	9-11-23	4 - 37N - 73W	Co., Northern Pacific RW	6-27-13	7 - 40N - 67W
Clark, Clarence E.	10- 9-23	3 - 34N - 71W		5-26-13	27 - 30N - 67W
Clark, Elmer L.	12-21-23	15 - 35N - 75W		5-29-14	27 - 39N - 69W
	3-20- 5	33 - 38N - 73W		11-28-16	20 - 38N - 69W
Clark, Harry C.	10-22-20	9 - 38N - 71W	Co., Platte Valley Sheep	8-16-18	16 - 31N - 69W
	10-22-20	4 - 38N - 71W	Co., Santa Fe Pacific RR	8- 1-23	3 - 33N - 74W
Clark, James M.	4-19-15	24 - 32N - 71W		7-20-23	34 - 34N - 74W
	7- 2-15	23 - 32N - 71W		7-16-23	3 - 33N - 74W
	10-31-21	26 - 32N - 73W		11- 7-13	7 - 40N - 73W
Clark, John	6- 7-20	28 - 33N - 69W		9-17-14	12 - 40N - 74W
Clark, John L.	11-20-16	23 - 33N - 68W		8- 1-23	3 - 33N - 74W
	5-15-11	23 - 33N - 68W		6-27-23	34 - 34N - 74W
	7-24-11	24 - 33N - 69W		7-20-23	34 - 34N - 74W
Clark, Merritt H.	1- 2-25	10 - 35N - 75W		7-16-23	3 - 33N - 74W
Clark, Richard E.	1- 2-25	3 - 35N - 75W		6-27-23	34 - 34N - 74W
Clark, Richard F.	1-10-20	21 - 33N - 71W		3-22- 9	21 - 40N - 74W
Clausen, Hans P.	6-29-21	26 - 35N - 71W		3-22- 9	29 - 40N - 74W
Clausen/Anderson, Nellie	4-11-22	30 - 35N - 70W	Co., Tolland, The	8- 4-39	3 - 32N - 76W
Claxton, Homer O.	1- 6-23	20 - 40N - 73W		8- 4-39	36 - 33N - 76W
	1- 6-23	21 - 40N - 73W		8- 4-39	5 - 32N - 76W
Clay, Walter E.	6-24-18	8 - 31N - 70W		11-22-37	13 - 33N - 76W
Clayton, Alice C.	11-22-21	33 - 33N - 74W		11-22-37	7 - 32N - 76W
Clayton, Charles P.	4-23-15	32 - 33N - 74W		3- 6-35	17 - 33N - 75W
	7-28-20	33 - 33N - 74W		10- 1-25	7 - 32N - 76W
Clayton, Earl S.	11-17-27	11 - 32N - 75W	Coalson, George K.	3-17-39	14 - 41N - 72W
	10- 4-23	35 - 33N - 75W	Coates, Keith	3-21-34	19 - 30N - 74W
	6-15-20	35 - 33N - 75W	Cobb, Ishum S.	11-10-33	3 - 39N - 74W
Clayton, Emma J.	11-17-27	3 - 32N - 75W	Cochran, Albert U.	12-13-30	8 - 28N - 71W
Clayton, Gardner S.	2-23- 9	35 - 33N - 75W	Cochran, Homer E.	8-22-27	26 - 41N - 74W
Clayton, George P., Jr.	10-20-13	26 - 33N - 75W	Cochrane, Harold I.	6-29-23	14 - 29N - 68W
	6- 5-26	2 - 32N - 75W	Coffee, Charles	6-29-27	18 - 33N - 68W
	1-23-24	2 - 32N - 75W	Coffee, Samuel B.	10-12- 3	4 - 28N - 71W
	7-12-27	11 - 32N - 75W	Coffey, James W.	4-22-90	28 - 33N - 74W
Clayton, Jetsen S.	5-22-11	27 - 33N - 75W	Coggeshall, Isaac M.	8-30-20	30 - 33N - 67W
Clayton, Lillie M.	11-22-21	26 - 33N - 75W	Coil, Dora E.	9- 8-20	29 - 28N - 72W
Clelland, Lester W.	5-17-20	11 - 33N - 72W	Coil, Will L.	10-23-28	24 - 37N - 68W
	11- 9-11	10 - 33N - 72W	Cole, Charles A.	1-18-12	28 - 30N - 77W
	12-12-92	12 - 30N - 73W	Cole, Eugene E.	8- 2-23	6 - 29N - 70W
Clelland, Lydia Olive	10- 5-20	16 - 33N - 72W	Cole, Frank A.	2-15-23	21 - 40N - 75W
Clemmens, John			Cole, Frank H.	12-17-00	5 - 37N - 67W
Assgn.	3-12-18	23 - 37N - 74W	Coleman, Alfred W.	11-16-96	18 - 32N - 71W
Cline, Alfred F.	10- 6-21	17 - 38N - 74W	Coleman, William A.	5-23-35	10 - 36N - 68W
Clinite, Charles Lee	2-24-25	25 - 41N - 76W	Coley, John H.	10-28-22	12 - 38N - 73W
Clough, Albert A.	2- 3-22	35 - 33N - 73W		10-28-22	11 - 38N - 73W
Co., Northern Pacific RW	11-28-16	7 - 32N - 72W	Colligan, Eddie	2- 7-24	3 - 35N - 72W
Co., Albert Land	1-28-37	29 - 34N - 73W	Colling, herbert	12- 4-22	1 - 40N - 75W
Co., Banner Ranch	4-24-57	1 - 32N - 77W	Collins, Cecil W.	3-23-23	32 - 32N - 70W
Co., Boot Land & Livestock	5-23-28	22 - 29N - 77W	Collins, Clara F.	7-18-90	7 - 32N - 72W
	5-23-28	14 - 32N - 70W	Colvin, Boyd	1-23-35	19 - 30N - 75W
	5-17-31	18 - 32N - 72W		1-23-35	19 - 30N - 75W
Co., Continental Oil	3-10-39	16 - 34N - 68W	Colwil, Richard P.	6-21-26	29 - 40N - 72W
Co., Douglas Land	4- 7-17	16 - 32N - 71W	Combest, Thomas R.		
Co., Douglas Securities	10-21-38	16 - 29N - 72W	Assgn.	6-19-19	14 - 40N - 76W
	10-10-44	16 - 29N - 72W	Combs Ranches	8-17-65	7 - 33N - 71W
	10-18-28	12 - 38N - 76W	Combs, Ellsworth	9-13- 9	36 - 33N - 72W
Co., Erwin-Moore Livestock	1-26-20	13 - 32N - 72W	Combs, Ellsworth, B.	6-30- 6	36 - 33N - 72W
Co., Fiddleback, The	6- 4-43	20 - 40N - 68W		5-12-26	1 - 33N - 72W
	12- 6-40	20 - 40N - 68W		4-25-21	30 - 34N - 71W
	7- 7-38	20 - 40N - 68W		3-25-26	6 - 33N - 71W
	7- 7-38	12 - 40N - 68W			



NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Cross, Alzire E.	10-20-21	30 - 29N - 74W	Curtis, Frank H.	6-19-19	23 - 31N - 74W
Cross, Charles E.	12-20-26	29 - 29N - 74W	Curtis, Fred W.	1-21-93	28 - 32N - 73W
Cross, E. Gladys	11-11-22	33 - 39N - 69W		7-28-91	28 - 32N - 72W
	3- 5-23	7 - 35N - 72W	Curtis, Lionel R.	12-15-21	31 - 31N - 74W
	3- 5-23	24 - 35N - 73W		12-15-21	30 - 31N - 74W
Cross, Elizabeth M.	6-22-27	25 - 32N - 74W	Curtis, Ruth C.	6- 7-20	21 - 31N - 74W
Cross, Emma	12- 1-21	24 - 29N - 75W		6- 7-20	28 - 31N - 74W
	3-12-21	12 - 29N - 75W	Curtis, Victoria	6-26- 5	20 - 35N - 70W
	10-20-24	27 - 32N - 74W	Cushman, Lizzie Newell	11-23-91	13 - 28N - 72W
Cross, George H.	8-27- 7	14 - 31N - 74W	Cutter, Samuel J.	10- 4-20	28 - 32N - 70W
	10- 4-15	12 - 29N - 75W	Dacy, William H.	1-23-24	35 - 37N - 68W
	6-29- 8	5 - 29N - 75W		1-23-24	34 - 37N - 68W
	4-19-15	1 - 29N - 75W	Dailey, Caroline T.	4- 8-24	27 - 33N - 76W
	6-29- 8	5 - 29N - 74W	Dailey, Claude R.	3-13-26	2 - 39N - 68W
	3-10-11	18 - 29N - 74W	Dailey, Mary T.	4-15-20	1 - 39N - 68W
	5-22-35	8 - 31N - 73W	Dailey, Claude R.	3-13-23	2 - 39N - 68W
	6- 8-16	22 - 29N - 74W	Dalton, Archie R.	1- 3-38	27 - 31N - 70W
	6- 8-16	19 - 29N - 74W	Dalton, Claudia	11-21-14	35 - 33N - 71W
	4-16-92	13 - 31N - 74W	Dalton/Sims, Claudia	4- 8-12	35 - 33N - 71W
	10- 2-90	12 - 31N - 74W		12-14-14	2 - 29N - 74W
Cross, George H., Jr.	9- 7-43	29 - 32N - 72W	Daly, Leo M.	3- 4-22	8 - 37N - 71W
	6- 5-28	30 - 32N - 73W	Damron, Henry Wilson,		
	8-11-24	30 - 29N - 74W	Assgn.	10- 6-19	28 - 31N - 69W
	11- 4-27	23 - 35N - 73W	Daniels, Arthur B.	5- 1- 6	28 - 32N - 73W
Cross, J. Mary	9-12-27	15 - 31N - 74W	Daniels, Hiram R.	10-19-11	18 - 29N - 76W
Cross, Julia Mary	5-22-35	14 - 29N - 75W	Daniels, Joseph M.	9-15-31	9 - 38N - 67W
Cross, Lea M.	11- 6-22	20 - 30N - 74W	Daniels, Mary E.	4-28-27	20 - 39N - 67W
Cross, Mary E.	5-26-20	31 - 29N - 74W	Daniels, Wayne M.	6-16-39	5 - 38N - 67W
Cross, Mattie	6-14-23	25 - 35N - 73W	Daniels, Esther A.		
	6-14-23	24 - 35N - 73W	Assgn. Smith	8-31- 7	13 - 29N - 77W
Cross, Nellie M.	9- 5-23	12 - 35N - 73W	Darby, Maurice K.	5-13-24	32 - 34N - 74W
	9- 5-23	13 - 35N - 73W		1-26-25	7 - 33N - 74W
Cross, Robert B.	5-26-20	14 - 29N - 75W	Darby, Olin E.	4-11-22	18 - 39N - 74W
	2- 3-22	8 - 29N - 74W	Darlington, Charles E.	8-24-18	26 - 30N - 75W
Cross, Robert B., Lgl Repr.	2- 3-22	12 - 29N - 75W	Darnell, Frederick R.	9-15-22	20 - 36N - 72W
Cross, Roland G.	10-26-25	6 - 35N - 72W	Datesman, Howard S.	5- 5-10	11 - 32N - 69W
Cross, William H.	3-26-25	27 - 32N - 74W	Dauner, Elizabeth	8- 9-28	14 - 40N - 71W
	2-21-27	31 - 32N - 73W	Dauner, Wilson W.	11-15-23	10 - 40N - 71W
	2-16-22	24 - 37N - 73W	Davalt, Roy S.	2-16-22	1 - 38N - 76W
Crouch, Frank M.	3-26-23	7 - 38N - 75W	Davenport, Lonnie E.	10- 4-20	13 - 33N - 69W
Crouch, Leland Oklie	10-25-35	30 - 36N - 74W	David, Edward T.	3-19- 8	7 - 29N - 75W
Crouch, Sarah Eliza	8-28-36	29 - 35N - 75W	David, Mary B.	3-19- 8	12 - 29N - 76W
Crouse, Emmett L.	7-12-22	6 - 37N - 69W	David, Robert D.	8-24-26	18 - 33N - 76W
	5-18-25	2 - 36N - 71W	David/Smith, Edna Catherine	6-20-23	19 - 33N - 76W
Crouse, Nora L.	6-29-27	15 - 38N - 71W	Davidson, Earl,		
Crouse, Thomas	10-27-20	15 - 37N - 70W	Lgl. Repr.	6- 5-20	29 - 40N - 73W
	5-18-25	2 - 36N - 71W	Davidson, Ellen M.	12-11-22	14 - 35N - 72W
Crow, James	6- 9-20	29 - 33N - 72W	Davidson, Roll D.	10-14-24	34 - 36N - 72W
	6- 9-20	30 - 33N - 72W	Davies, James	2-14-23	17 - 33N - 72W
	6- 9-20	32 - 33N - 72W	Davies, Warren	5-29-20	28 - 31N - 68W
Crowley, Elizabeth C.	3- 9-22	12 - 32N - 72W	Davies, William D.	9-25-18	13 - 32N - 69W
Crum, Lillie B.	3-13-23	28 - 39N - 67W		2- 6-23	24 - 32N - 69W
Crum, Tena	3- 8-16	35 - 39N - 68W	Davies/Hiser, Edna May	8-30-37	6 - 30N - 75W
Culison, Calvin	10-26-21	3 - 31N - 69W	Davis, Abraham H.	11- 5-90	3 - 32N - 71W
Cummings, Raymond H.	9-16- 9	1 - 37N - 77W	Davis, Alice Protzman	6-12-23	18 - 31N - 76W
Cumming, Samuel A.	9-11-90	23 - 30N - 72W		1-21-21	19 - 31N - 76W
Cumpston, Jack	3-16-36	1 - 35N - 76W	Davis, Amelia	3-30- 8	31 - 31N - 76W
Cunningham, Martha J.	10-18-27	33 - 35N - 74W	Davis, Charles C.	2-18-18	28 - 33N - 73W
Cunningham, Alexander	10-12-23	29 - 41N - 74W	Davis, Earl H.	1-20-23	29 - 39N - 73W
Cunningham, Lyell Everett	8-28-36	26 - 36N - 70W		1-20-23	28 - 39N - 73W
Cunningham, Martha J.	10-18-27	33 - 35N - 74W	Davis, Eric	6- 6-14	17 - 31N - 76W
Cunningham, Orville	2-18-19	28 - 40N - 77W		5-18-39	6 - 30N - 76W
Cunningham, Verl C.	9-16-25	26 - 35N - 73W		5-20-32	25 - 31N - 77W
	9-16-25	25 - 35N - 73W	Davis, Frank S.	7-14-14	31 - 31N - 76W
Cunningham/Lattin, Lulu May	8-23-22	28 - 35N - 75W	Davis, Harold	4-27-22	21 - 39N - 67W
Curley, Clinton L.	8-12- 9	9 - 33N - 69W			
Curry, Guy R.	3-13-23	19 - 29N - 76W	Davis, Homer I.	9-19-34	13 - 36N - 77W
	3-13-23	24 - 29N - 77W	Davis, James R.	3- 7-92	3 - 33N - 77W
Curry, James E.	2-18-22	24 - 36N - 73W	Davis, Jesse	11- 5-90	31 - 32N - 71W
	4- 7-21	18 - 36N - 72W	Davis, John	4-21- 6	15 - 35N - 69W
Curry, Mary B.	3- 3-21	24 - 36N - 73W	Davis, Lee D.	1-12-23	24 - 34N - 76W
	3- 3-21	13 - 36N - 73W		1-12-23	23 - 34N - 76W
Curtin, William E.	6-29-21	24 - 33N - 70W	Davis, Maria E.; Heirs	7-23-30	31 - 31N - 72W
	6-20-23	30 - 33N - 68W	Davis, Melvin C.	11-16-38	17 - 30N - 75W
Curtis, Anna R.	3-19- 8	27 - 31N - 74W	Davis, Oral O.	3-12-38	22 - 41N - 77W
	4- 9-19	33 - 31N - 74W	Davis, Perry L.	1-27-22	3 - 35N - 69W
Curtis, Charles E.	9-24-26	11 - 33N - 76W	Davis, Phils	7-31-16	29 - 33N - 71W
Curtis, Charles H.	4-16-23	20 - 40N - 71W	Davis, Stephen	10- 9-22	20 - 36N - 68W
Curtis, Frank H.	12- 6-23	14 - 31N - 74W	Davis, Warren	6-19-19	21 - 31N - 68W
	12-11-19	23 - 31N - 74W	Davis, William H.	8-31- 7	30 - 31N - 76W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Davis/Gatliff, Sarah J.	6-16-25	6 - 36N - 67W	Digiovanni, Cologera	1-25-26	26 - 38N - 69W
Davis/Hays, Ida O.	1-20-23	30 - 34N - 70W		7-21-24	35 - 38N - 69W
Davis, Eric F., Susie	4- 8-55	20 - 31N - 76W		8- 4-24	26 - 38N - 69W
Davison, Edward T.	9-29-24	28 - 35N - 74W	Dilday, Charles	2- 6-23	9 - 37N - 70W
Davisson, Sophrona	4-15-21	23 - 33N - 68W		12-28-32	3 - 37N - 70W
Dawe, Frederick J.	9-19-23	13 - 32N - 69W	Dillon, William F.	3-23-28	17 - 39N - 71W
Dawes, Maude E.	6-23-14	21 - 29N - 75W		3-23-28	8 - 39N - 71W
	1- 4-27	21 - 29N - 75W	Dills, Clifford J.	2-28-24	7 - 35N - 75W
	11-15-23	15 - 29N - 75W		2-28-24	6 - 35N - 75W
Dawling, William D.	9-24-19	31 - 35N - 72W	Dills, Joseph H.	3-26-23	7 - 35N - 75W
Daws/Morrison, Jean A.	7- 7-24	28 - 29N - 75W	Dilts, Elnora	1-20-32	32 - 31N - 71W
Dawson, Chelsea E.	8-23-32	30 - 35N - 76W		12-20-30	24 - 28N - 73W
Dawson, Doris	8-20-30	31 - 34N - 67W	Dilts, Flavius	5-27-26	3 - 30N - 71W
Dawson, Marie L.	11-17-27	29 - 34N - 67W	Dilts, Fred W.	12-14-18	19 - 39N - 72W
Day, Frank E.	6-26-28	33 - 28N - 72W		3- 2-22	15 - 39N - 73W
	6-27-21	15 - 28N - 71W		3-13-23	20 - 39N - 72W
Day, Thurman	9-15-16	1 - 31N - 71W		11-29-20	3 - 39N - 73W
	3-26-23	1 - 31N - 71W		2-18-20	15 - 39N - 73W
DeForest, George	4-14-26	5 - 33N - 67W		2- 9-20	25 - 39N - 73W
DeFries, Flora C.	2-25-27	21 - 39N - 71W	Dixon, Lester B.	3-31-23	14 - 37N - 69W
	4-11-22	32 - 29N - 71W	Dixon, William	1-31-27	23 - 37N - 69W
DeHaan, Henry	10-14-20	3 - 31N - 70W	Dobesh, Arthur	4-11-23	14 - 39N - 69W
	1-10-20	10 - 31N - 70W		4-11-22	15 - 39N - 69W
DeMerritt, James W.	12- 6-24	21 - 34N - 72W	Dodson, Belle	4- 9-00	35 - 31N - 69W
DeMers, Napoleon	8-22-23	13 - 36N - 76W	Doherty, James	12-16-14	22 - 29N - 74W
	8- 2-23	13 - 36N - 76W	Doherty, James; Heirs	11- 4-20	21 - 29N - 74W
DeVore, Alvin Brady	9-16-21	20 - 34N - 67W	Dolan, Cyrus W.	3- 4-22	16 - 33N - 72W
DeWitt, Perry N.	10-11-21	30 - 34N - 76W	Dolan, William T.	3-29- 2	11 - 32N - 73W
Dean, James	3-25-90	11 - 30N - 73W	Domnitzki, Wilhelmina	1-20-34	26 - 34N - 74W
Dean, Millard V.	1-30-24	30 - 30N - 72W	Domsalla, Fred W.	1- 5-22	30 - 36N - 73W
	1-30-24	15 - 29N - 73W		1- 5-22	19 - 36N - 72W
Decker, Ralph P.	8-27-23	29 - 33N - 67W	Donald, Robert	3-20-11	17 - 28N - 71W
	1-31-21	20 - 33N - 67W	Donnelly, Frank D.	9-21-23	20 - 37N - 72W
Dee, George W.	5-11-23	24 - 33N - 71W		9-21-23	7 - 35N - 71W
Dee, Ruby P.	7-26-33	20 - 32N - 76W	Donovan, C. Edward	3-25-90	22 - 33N - 74W
Deegan, Francis	10-30-31	31 - 41N - 76W	Dooley, Elmer E.	7-31-21	15 - 31N - 69W
Deer, Charles	3-13-93	8 - 29N - 72W		7-31-22	15 - 31N - 69W
DeForest, George	8- 5-15	8 - 31N - 67W	Dooley, William R.	11-30-18	18 - 31N - 68W
DeFries, Flora C.	4-11-22	5 - 28N - 71W	Dooly, Elmer E.	7-31-22	15 - 31N - 69W
Delahunty, James	10- 6-26	23 - 31N - 71W	Dorothy, Charles W.	12- 1-19	18 - 32N - 69W
	7-30-29	24 - 31N - 71W		1-27-22	26 - 33N - 69W
	10- 6-26	26 - 31N - 71W	Dorothy, Enoch C.	2-26-21	19 - 32N - 69W
DeMerritt, E. Howard	9-11-22	21 - 34N - 72W		10-13-19	18 - 32N - 69W
DeMerritt, James W.	6-19-22	20 - 34N - 72W	Dorothy, George O.	3-26-23	27 - 41N - 68W
Dempsey, James C.	8-24-25	27 - 37N - 75W		3-26-23	28 - 41N - 68W
Demuth, William H.	9-17-18	24 - 31N - 68W	Dorothy, Sherman N.	10-11-21	6 - 31N - 71W
Denecke, William A.	12-17- 8	27 - 30N - 77W		6-12-20	13 - 31N - 71W
Dennis, Bain	5-17-32	24 - 39N - 76W	Dorothy, Varner S.	12-11-22	27 - 34N - 70W
Dennis, Foster E.	9-17-18	31 - 31N - 67W		7- 7-24	27 - 34N - 70W
Dennis, Milo F.	7-30-23	6 - 38N - 75W	Dorothy/Holcomb, Anna	3-26-23	28 - 41N - 68W
Denton, Halbert Hall	10- 9-23	1 - 33N - 75W		3-26-23	29 - 41N - 68W
Dersham, A. Victor	1-30-24	2 - 36N - 72W	Dorr, Charles	10-19-23	28 - 32N - 72W
Dersham, Elton H.	12- 1-21	3 - 36N - 72W		3- 1-12	27 - 32N - 72W
	12- 1-21	10 - 36N - 72W	Dorr, Charles J., Jr.	8-14-24	33 - 32N - 72W
DeVore, Earnest	2-26-21	19 - 34N - 67W		1-31- 3	32 - 32N - 72W
	5- 3-21	19 - 34N - 67W		11-22-27	28 - 32N - 72W
Dewey, Raymond W.	4-30-21	23 - 36N - 69W	Dorr, Harry W.	3-10-19	33 - 30N - 74W
	10-11-21	27 - 36N - 69W	Dorr, J. B.	8-14-24	28 - 32N - 72W
Dewey, Samuel M.	4-27-17	33 - 33N - 72W	Dorr, Louis C.	4-12-32	21 - 41N - 70W
DeWitt, Perry N.	10-11-21	30 - 34N - 76W	Dorr, Mabel D.	10-30-26	5 - 39N - 69W
Deyo, Abraham,			Dorr, Percy J.	3-29-33	19 - 41N - 70W
Assgn.	10-17-17	9 - 28N - 71W	Dorr, William E.	7-29-20	5 - 39N - 69W
Dibble, Ernest J.	3-26-23	19 - 34N - 74W		8- 9-20	5 - 39N - 69W
	3-26-23	24 - 34N - 75W		6-12-20	6 - 39N - 69W
Dibble, June A.	7-12-22	27 - 35N - 75W		4- 8-12	18 - 39N - 69W
Dickau, Walter A.	6-22-22	9 - 34N - 68W		6-12-20	31 - 40N - 69W
	5- 4-26	8 - 34N - 68W	Dotson, Charles R.	6- 5-26	29 - 40N - 76W
Dickerson, Roy C.	12-21-23	15 - 33N - 68W	Dougherty, Andrew J.	12-15-20	8 - 34N - 70W
	7- 8-21	14 - 33N - 68W	Dougherty, Arthur E.	12-15-20	6 - 34N - 70W
Dickerson, William C.	7-16-23	22 - 33N - 68W	Doughty, Arthur E.	12-15-20	5 - 34N - 70W
	8- 7-22	13 - 33N - 68W	Douglas, Basil M.	6-13-22	11 - 37N - 72W
	10-26-21	14 - 33N - 68W		6-13-22	29 - 37N - 72W
Dickinson, Ray	6- 5-20	5 - 27N - 72W	Douglas, Charles A.	12-11-22	13 - 38N - 73W
Dickover, Nannie A.	10-29-23	32 - 39N - 75W	Douglas, Clarence D.	9-19-23	15 - 38N - 73W
Dickson, Clarence C.	6-16-25	23 - 40N - 69W		9-19-23	23 - 38N - 73W
Dickson, Frank D.; Heirs	11-27-23	10 - 33N - 77W	Douglass, Henry L.	11- 8-21	3 - 33N - 68W
Dickson, George W., Jr.	3-19- 8	12 - 29N - 76W	Dowling, Mary J.	5- 3-21	30 - 35N - 72W
	3-25-18	11 - 33N - 72W	Downey, William	1-25-92	10 - 29N - 74W
Dieckman, Charles F.	6-20-17	2 - 33N - 72W	Downs, Francis L.	3-10-26	27 - 35N - 74W
Diehl, Neil	5-18-25	5 - 34N - 72W		3-10-26	34 - 35N - 74W
	6-14-28	9 - 34N - 72W	Downs, John L.	2- 7-24	5 - 36N - 68W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Downs, John L.	2- 7-24	32 - 37N - 68W	Ebbert, Clyde	3- 1-22	32 - 33N - 73W
Downs, Nora	1-30-23	22 - 34N - 73W		3-1-22	33 - 33N - 73W
Doyle, Richard C.	6-17-95	20 - 32N - 76W		6-21-26	33 - 33N - 73W
Doyle, Roy E.	9- 5-23	31 - 36N - 74W	Eberhart, Marion F.	3-15-37	27 - 35N - 76W
	9- 5-23	6 - 34N - 72W		5-18-25	2 - 33N - 77W
Draper, Frank	1-30-22	31 - 39N - 70W	Eberspecher, Henry	9-11-23	19 - 40N - 74W
Drew, Charles E.	2- 6-23	10 - 35N - 71W		2-12-40	26 - 37N - 76W
Drew, Dolphin D.	12- 9-21	27 - 33N - 74W	Eberspecher, Tom G.	4-11-40	2 - 36N - 76W
	2- 3-22	26 - 33N - 74W	Eckman, Arvid L.	9-15-22	1 - 37N - 75W
Drury, Charles O.	11-22-22	1 - 33N - 72W		9-15-22	31 - 38N - 74W
Drury, James T.	12- 4-22	2 - 33N - 72W	Eddy/Braae, Hattie M.	12-17-35	6 - 28N - 72W
Dubois, Adelbert W.	12- 6-24	13 - 35N - 69W	Edie, Ashford	1- 5-22	10 - 38N - 70W
Duboise, Herbert	3- 4-22	21 - 35N - 69W		1- 5-22	15 - 38N - 70W
Dugan, Charles F.	2-16-22	34 - 37N - 73W	Edington, Frank	10- 9-22	33 - 35N - 73W
	11-21-23	27 - 37N - 73W	Edison, Alfred	6- 5-28	15 - 34N - 68W
Dugan, Clark N.	3-20-29	33 - 35N - 72W		11-22-22	9 - 34N - 68W
Dugan, Earl H.	10-30-26	29 - 35N - 72W	Edmison, Frank	4- 5-24	13 - 27N - 73W
	10-16-22	23 - 29N - 76W		1- 2-23	13 - 27N - 73W
	11- 8-26	29 - 35N - 72W		10-26-25	23 - 27N - 73W
Dugan, Harry S.	10-26-23	4 - 36N - 73W	Edwards, Arthur E.	1-30-23	12 - 37N - 71W
	1- 7-22	4 - 36N - 73W		5-26-25	18 - 37N - 70W
Dugan, James R.	12-14-25	8 - 35N - 72W	Edwards, Con	10-10-28	28 - 34N - 70W
	10-14-25	28 - 35N - 72W		11- 8-28	9 - 33N - 70W
Dugan, Lisle F.	6-16-32	22 - 35N - 72W	Edwards, Edward F.	1-30-23	28 - 35N - 71W
Dugan, Roy W.	12-20-30	32 - 35N - 72W	Edwards, James	5-12-21	33 - 34N - 67W
Duke, Edward G. et al			Edwards, John M.	9-19-23	22 - 34N - 69W
Assgn.	9- 9-26	26 - 32N - 77W		10-12-25	4 - 33N - 68W
Dull, Denver D.; Heirs	8- 7-22	21 - 40N - 68W	Edwards, Martin	11-15-17	14 - 37N - 74W
Dull, Ermina M.	6-26-23	6 - 40N - 68W	Edwards, Nettie R.; Heirs	7-12-35	4 - 33N - 71W
Dull, Ira M.	7-29-26	30 - 40N - 67W	Edwards, Patrick A.,		
	3-25-26	30 - 40N - 67W	Assgn.	7-26-29	2 - 32N - 73W
Dull, Lee F.	4- 4-34	5 - 40N - 68W		11-21-17	14 - 37N - 74W
Dull, Marietta; Heirs	6-21-26	7 - 40N - 67W	Edwards, Roy S.	11-22-22	13 - 37N - 71W
	6- 5-26	12 - 40N - 68W		11-22-22	12 - 37N - 71W
Dull, Verbel T.	11-29-27	29 - 40N - 67W	Edwards, Sallie A.	5-17-20	32 - 32N - 71W
Dull, Walter B.	8- 7-22	22 - 40N - 68W		3- 5-23	32 - 32N - 71W
	8- 7-22	25 - 40N - 68W	Edwards, Walter	1-31-27	30 - 34N - 68W
Duncan, Joseph, Assgn.	6-19-19	22 - 32N - 69W		12-15-20	30 - 34N - 68W
Duncan, Ninian	4- 5-24	2 - 35N - 77W	Edwards, Willie	12- 7-11	32 - 32N - 71W
	4- 5-24	11 - 35N - 77W	Eggleston, Charles F.	2-16-22	35 - 34N - 75W
Dunham, Harry	11-24-22	8 - 34N - 74W	Elborne, Blanche D.	3- 7-30	2 - 38N - 73W
Dunham, Jose	4-21-23	5 - 34N - 74W	Elborne, Charles A.	4- 5-24	18 - 39N - 72W
Dunlap, Ralph H.	12-12-23	17 - 37N - 76W	Elder, Albert	2-23-92	1 - 32N - 73W
Dunmire, Ralph H.	12-12-23	17 - 37N - 76W		2-23-92	6 - 32N - 72W
Dunmire, Daniel B.	6- 2-14	7 - 33N - 71W		4- 3-11	6 - 32N - 72W
Dunn, Harley M.	11-18-24	9 - 34N - 71W		2-23-92	32 - 33N - 72W
Dunn, Harold F.	9- 1-99	22 - 30N - 72W	Eldred, Bethuel	4-11-22	2 - 34N - 75W
Dunn, Oles; Heirs	9- 1-11	18 - 34N - 69W		4-11-22	10 - 34N - 75W
Dunn, Hiram	1-27-22	22 - 39N - 74W	Eldredge, Charles Clarence	6-24-30	27 - 38N - 74W
	1-27-22	21 - 39N - 74W	Eldredge, J. J.	3- 7-22	9 - 32N - 72W
Dunn, Ira L.	5-24-23	5 - 33N - 70W	Elgin, Charles L.	5- 4-14	22 - 32N - 68W
	5-24-23	4 - 33N - 70W		10-11-21	3 - 33N - 69W
Dunn, John	3-31-24	9 - 28N - 72W	Elgin, Charles R.	12-11-14	22 - 32N - 68W
	3-31-24	8 - 28N - 72W	Elliott, Dwight C.	4-12-32	30 - 35N - 68W
Dunn, Mamie W.	4-12-32	28 - 39N - 76W		1-23-20	30 - 35N - 68W
Dunn, Paul Willis	11-24-22	17 - 39N - 74W		1-23-22	30 - 35N - 68W
Dunn, Troy M.	6-14-23	20 - 34N - 71W	Elliott, Ed C.	6- 6-18	14 - 31N - 69W
Dunn, Verne L.	8- 1-21	23 - 39N - 73W	Elliott, William S.	1-20-23	32 - 35N - 73W
	8- 1-21	21 - 39N - 74W	Ellis, Cecil G.	7-30-23	28 - 36N - 76W
Dupes/Thomas, Irene	4-23-15	17 - 32N - 72W		7-30-23	27 - 36N - 76W
Duran, Meliton R.	6-19-22	4 - 35N - 74W	Ellis, Robert	11-18-43	11 - 38N - 77W
Duteil, Frank B.	3- 9-22	4 - 32N - 72W	Ellis, Russell D.	12-14-22	30 - 41N - 76W
Dyke, Charles	3-26-23	8 - 35N - 74W	Elrod, John	5- 4-23	19 - 38N - 71W
	3-26-23	7 - 35N - 74W		5- 4-23	30 - 38N - 71W
Eades, Henry W.	10-24-34	17 - 29N - 72W	Elton, Josiah M.	6-28-22	28 - 34N - 75W
Eadon, Earnest	7-31-17	19 - 32N - 68W	Elton, Thomas J.	12- 9-21	24 - 35N - 75W
Eager, Emma	1-10-20	12 - 31N - 70W	Elvidge, Albert O.	12- 1-21	9 - 34N - 75W
	2-26-21	1 - 31N - 70W	Elvidge, Elmer R.	12- 9-21	8 - 34N - 75W
Early, John Henry	4-13-22	26 - 33N - 71W	Emery, Henry B.	4- 2-24	34 - 30N - 76W
East, John J.	11-20-28	27 - 38N - 69W	Emery, Lulu F.	6- 8-16	7 - 30N - 75W
Eastin, Benjamin H.	9-11-17	20 - 32N - 68W	Emery/Ferguson, Lulu	6- 3-14	6 - 30N - 75W
Eastman, Fred Sr.	7- 5-22	29 - 32N - 71W		3-13-23	12 - 30N - 76W
	10-20-26	8 - 31N - 71W		3-12-23	12 - 30N - 76W
Eastman, Vida R.	7- 5-22	29 - 32N - 71W	Emley, Arthur Averill	11- 8-21	6 - 33N - 70W
Eastman, William R.	7- 5-22	29 - 32N - 71W	Emmons, Curtis L.	10-26-25	17 - 39N - 67W
	3-13-11	3 - 31N - 71W		9-30-25	17 - 39N - 67W
	3-13-11	4 - 31N - 71W	Emrie, Mary A.	10- 2- 5	2 - 33N - 64W
Eastman, William R.			Endres, Charles	3-16- 6	20 - 40N - 76W
& Vida R.	6-15-54	9 - 31N - 71W	Engdahl, Carl G.	10-26-25	24 - 32N - 72W
Eastman			Engelking, Gus F.	9- 8-10	35 - 34N - 76W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Engelking, John C.	6-26-11	31 - 34N - 75W	Evans, Trevor J.	9-21-23	27 - 35N - 77W
Engels, George D.	1-29-34	21 - 30N - 70W	Evans, Ulysses Grant	2-16-22	11 - 34N - 69W
Engels, George; Assgn.	3-24-27	23 - 30N - 71W	Evans, William	20-29-24	31 - 37N - 72W
England, Fred E.	11-16-38	26 - 39N - 68W		10-29-24	30 - 37N - 72W
Engelking, Gus F.	8-11-17	35 - 34N - 76W	Evans, William T.	1-27- 8	29 - 28N - 71W
Englert, Frank	6-12-23	33 - 41N - 75W	Everhart, David W.	6- 5-20	30 - 29N - 74W
Englert, Jens	2-12-23	25 - 41N - 75W	Evert, Jennie	9-17-18	26 - 32N - 69W
Engstrom, Augusta	4-6-17	36 - 33N - 73W	Exley/Lovitt, Jennie E.	6- 2-24	12 - 33N - 70W
Engstrom, Karl J.	12-10-20	31 - 33N - 72W		12-15-20	1 - 33N - 70W
	6-25-20	36 - 33N - 73W	Fabre, Peter J.	6- 5-26	1 - 36N - 69W
	50 9-29	25 - 33N - 73W	Fackler, Augusta	10-29-14	34 - 29N - 74W
Entzminger, Opal	7- 9-29	12 - 33N - 69W	Fackler, Nellie S.	6-15-21	21 - 31N - 71W
Epperly, Arthur A.	12- 6-24	17 - 36N - 70W	Fackler, Thomas D.	7- 8-21	21 - 31N - 71W
	4-30-23	17 - 36N - 70W		10-20-16	32 - 29N - 74W
Epstein, William M.	2-16-22	31 - 35N - 75W		10-29-14	33 - 29N - 74W
Erb, John M.	2- 4-20	8 - 33N - 69W		10-21-22	33 - 29N - 74W
Erb/Hageman, Anna	9- 5-23	15 - 33N - 69W		8-26-26	Esterbrook
Erickson, Clifford E.	11-16-22	5 - 40N - 75W	Fackler/Jewart, Nellie	6-29-20	28 - 29N - 74W
	11-16-22	4 - 40N - 75W	Fage, Christ	2-23-23	5 - 40N - 67W
Erickson, Edwin C., Sr.	8- 5-42	6 - 38N - 73W	Fahey, Francis J.	11-18-20	3 - 34N - 70W
	6-29-21	6 - 38N - 73W	Falk, Ella V.	1-24-22	17 - 33N - 73W
	6-29-21	5 - 38N - 73W	Falkner, Arthur A.	11- 5-90	7 - 30N - 72W
Erickson, John	12- 6-88	3 - 33N - 75W	Falknor, Archie A.	7-21-90	1 - 30N - 73W
Ernst, Fred W.	12- 9-24	1 - 35N - 68W		1-29-90	1 - 30N - 73W
Erwin, Arthur Thomas	3- 8-22	12 - 32N - 72W	Falknor, Archie D.	12- 7-97	1 - 30N - 73W
Erwin, Birney J.	1-12-11	12 - 33N - 73W	Fancher, Isaac Logan	4- 9-23	23 - 38N - 76W
	5-17-20	26 - 32N - 74W		4- 9-23	13 - 38N - 76W
	6- 9-20	35 - 32N - 74W	Farlee, Eugene K.	3- 5-23	34 - 38N - 70W
Erwin, J.	3-13-23	10 - 39N - 75W		3- 5-23	27 - 38N - 70W
Esau, John C.	3-20-29	8 - 39N - 68W	Farmer, William J.	4-17-39	4 - 29N - 76W
	3-26-59	1 - 36N - 70W	Farnsworth, Des	8-28-39	5 - 37N - 75W
	3-20-29	8 - 39N - 68W	Farrell, Henry	10-25-97	8 - 33N - 75W
Eskew, George	2-18- 3	34 - 38N - 75W	Farrell, Peter F.	6-18- 8	14 - 31N - 77W
	6-23-24	17 - 37N - 74W	Farrell, Sophia	11-20-16	11 - 33N - 75W
	3- 8- 7	17 - 37N - 74W		7-23-13	11 - 33N - 75W
Eskew, Leonard C.	2-18- 3	18 - 37N - 75W	Farrer, Leo Raymond	1- 6-26	18 - 31N - 75W
	3- 8- 7	4 - 37N - 74W	Farris, Pearl V.	6-29-18	20 - 31N - 76W
Eskew, Thomas M.	3- 8- 7	18 - 37N - 74W	Faulk/Buell, Veronica	7-31-25	11 - 33N - 75W
Eskew, Tim	3- 8- 7	18 - 37N - 74W		7-31-25	14 - 33N - 75W
	3-25- 9	28 - 37N - 75W	Faulkner, Arthur L.	11- 8-35	24 - 40N - 71W
	3- 8- 7	17 - 37N - 74W	Faulkner, Ernest	9-24-35	4 - 40N - 71W
	6-30-24	4 - 37N - 74W	Faulkner, Lester R.	5-17-17	3 - 29N - 71W
	10-28-25	13 - 37N - 75W	Faulkner, Sanders	9-24-25	29 - 40N - 71W
	6- 8- 8	18 - 36N - 75W	Fay, Dan W.	4- 4-22	33 - 35N - 75W
Eskew, Willis James	12-17-35	6 - 39N - 74W	Fay/Willbrandt, Minnie M.	9-19-23	5 - 39N - 74W
Eskew/Henderson, Olga	6-19-19	23 - 37N - 75W	Featherston, Lester W.	1- 5-22	13 - 38N - 70W
	7-14-24	13 - 37N - 75W	Featherston, Robert L.	2-26-21	14 - 38N - 70W
Esmay, Charles L.	1-23-22	15 - 31N - 72W		4-15-24	11 - 38N - 70W
	11-20-14	11 - 32N - 71W	Federer, Louis H.	12- 6-29	10 - 39N - 70W
	5-14-19	10 - 32N - 71W	Federer/Joergens, Lydia	1-30-23	10 - 39N - 70W
Esmay, Edgar J.	7- 6-23	5 - 31N - 72W		1-30-23	14 - 39N - 70W
Esmay, Edgar Jr.	2-27- 8	5 - 31N - 71W	Feezer, Clarence H.	8-11-21	1 - 31N - 76W
Esmay, John H.	3-29- 2	8 - 31N - 71W		6-21-19	1 - 31N - 76W
	12- 6- 6	5 - 31N - 71W		6-22-22	7 - 30N - 76W
	4-28-27	4 - 31N - 72W	Feezer, David P.	2-25-28	5 - 30N - 75W
Esmay, Rhodolph L.	7-27-31	7 - 32N - 71W	Fenex, James E.	5-18-55	19 - 32N - 76W
Esmay, Willa B.	5-11-25	9 - 32N - 72W		4- 4-22	31 - 32N - 76W
	10-29-28	16 - 32N - 72W	Fenex, William L.	2- 3-15	2 - 33N - 76W
Esmay/Hamilton, Willa	9-12-28	10 - 32N - 72W	Fenton, George A.	6-11-13	32 - 33N - 67W
Esmay/White, Mollie	6-14-19	11 - 31N - 75W	Fenwick, Thomas	4-16-15	23 - 33N - 68W
Esmay, Willa B.	5-11-25	9 - 32N - 72W	Fenwick, Thomas	4-16-15	23 - 32N - 68W
Esterline, Jennie A.	12-20-37	6 - 36N - 69W	Ferbrache, Bessie Horr	6-18-24	18 - 31N - 73W
	2-14-51	18 - 36N - 69W		1-30-23	5 - 31N - 74W
	4-21-23	18 - 36N - 69W		2-13-22	4 - 31N - 74W
	4-21-23	19 - 36N - 69W	Ferbrache, Frank D.	10- 1-35	33 - 32N - 74W
Esterline, William H.	8-16-22	7 - 36N - 69W		10- 1-35	5 - 31N - 74W
Etchemendy, Pierre	1-14-65	18 - 33N - 67W	Ferguson, Margaret M.	6- 2-10	11 - 37N - 68W
Evans, Archie F.	2- 2-23	35 - 35N - 77W	Ferguson, Alexander	12-17-00	29 - 37N - 67W
	2- 2-23	26 - 35N - 77W	Ferguson, Donald V., Heris	2-13-22	26 - 38N - 69W
Evans, Arthur C.	12-22-22	32 - 41N - 68W		4-15-20	23 - 38N - 69W
	12-22-22	31 - 41N - 68W	Ferguson, George William	5-23-34	9 - 29N - 70W
Evans, Edith M.	12-13- 5	23 - 35N - 77W	Ferguson, Lida V.	11-20-28	30 - 33N - 73W
Evans, Floyd S., Lgl Rpr.	5-17-20	20 - 33N - 70W		9-13-15	8 - 32N - 74W
Evans, Horace J.	6-29-27	4 - 38N - 75W	Ferguson, Margaret M.	6- 2-10	11 - 37N - 68W
Evans, James A.	4-21-24	19 - 33N - 70W		4-25-21	1 - 37N - 68W
	2-18-18	19 - 33N - 70W		6-30- 6	2 - 36N - 68W
Evans, James H.	2-18-18	20 - 33N - 70W		4-25-21	1 - 37N - 68W
	5-17-20	21 - 33N - 70W	Ferguson, O. D.	6- 7-20	7 - 32N - 74W
Evans, Jason E.	1-23-24	7 - 36N - 67 W		2- 4-26	20 - 33N - 73W
Evans, Otis H.	1-22-23	18 - 35N - 71W	Ferguson, Sarah	1-27- 8	11 - 37N - 68W
	1-11-23	18 - 35N - 71W	Ferguson, William	10-22-20	2 - 36N - 68W
				8-16-18	9 - 31N - 67W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Fero, Alfred E.	7-22-20	30 - 32N - 68W	Fowler, D. Edwin	12-15-21	9 - 36N - 72W
Fero, Charles E.	4-15-20	26 - 32N - 68W		2-26-21	9 - 36N - 72W
	7-10-18	27 - 32N - 68W	Fowler, Dennis	8- 7-22	21 - 36N - 72W
Ferris, Chester	8- 1-36	4 - 39N - 76W	Fowler, Ed	8-30-20	35 - 33N - 70W
Ferguson, Sarah E.	6-29-21	2 - 36N - 68W	Fowler, Eugene T.	1-10-21	23 - 36N - 73W
Fessler, Maud	7-18-21	22 - 37N - 71W		1-10-21	24 - 36N - 73W
Fiddymont, Edward J.	5-10-23	7 - 31N - 70W	Fowler, Lee	9-16-21	11 - 36N - 72W
	6-25-26	7 - 31N - 70W	Fowler, Porter G.	3-13-11	14 - 37N - 73W
Fields, Hiram	10- 6-21	23 - 34N - 72W	Fowler, Wade H.	10- 2- 5	8 - 36N - 67W
Finch, Myrtle M.	10-16-11	23 - 40N - 61W	Fowler/Eastman, Mary H.	9-27-26	9 - 31N - 71W
Finger, Fred	12- 4-22	20 - 36N - 74W		7-12-22	3 - 31N - 71W
Fink, George	2- 9-20	27 - 41N - 76W	Fox, L. James	1- 7-20	7 - 40N - 72W
	6- 9-20	27 - 41N - 76W	Fox, Lawrence J.	8- 4-20	9 - 28N - 75W
	2- 9-22	34 - 41N - 76W	Foxton, Annie E.	2-25- 4	2 - 28N - 72W
Fink/Eckeurode, Kathryn E.	3-10-22	30 - 38N - 74W		3-26- 8	24 - 29N - 72W
Finley, Austin T.	1-20-23	8 - 40N - 76W	Foxton, Clara	3-10-22	20 - 29N - 71W
	1-20-23	9 - 40N - 76W		5-12- 3	18 - 29N - 70W
Finley, Clyde F.	3- 7-22	25 - 29N - 75W	Foxton, Clara H.	4- 9-00	20 - 29N - 71W
	5-17-22	28 - 49N - 76W		2-18- 3	21 - 29N - 71W
	5-17-22	27 - 40N - 76W		8- 7-22	19 - 29N - 71W
Finley, John P.	6-14-34	22 - 40N - 76W	Foxton, George L.	7- 6-93	24 - 29N - 72W
Finley/Evans, Ardice B.	1-20-32	28 - 40N - 76W		7- 6-93	24 - 29N - 72W
	1-20-32	21 - 40N - 76W		2-18-20	7 - 29N - 71W
Fischer, Dewey W.	10-16-22	28 - 33N - 73W	Foxton, Henry	6- 6-12	7 - 28N - 71W
Fischer, Oscar	12- 9-21	24 - 34N - 75W		6-27-94	31 - 29N - 71W
	12- 9-21	19 - 34N - 74W		4-14- 6	5 - 28N - 71W
Fisher, Abel D.	10-26-25	24 - 36N - 74W		5-20- 5	4 - 28N - 71W
Fisher, Charles E.	10-10-89	14 - 32N - 69W		6-14-20	12 - 29N - 72W
Fisher, Chester	10-11-21	32 - 35N - 68W		6- 3-12	33 - 30N - 71W
Fisher, Ernest L.	11- 9-22	4 - 35N - 67W		1-30-23	32 - 29N - 71W
Fisher, Frank L.	11- 5-90	24 - 31N - 70W	Foxton, John	6- 6-12	7 - 28N - 71W
Fitzgerald, John T.	11-15-23	23 - 34N - 77W		8- 6-94	17 - 29N - 71W
	11-15-23	34 - 34N - 77W		4-12-00	7 - 29N - 71W
	11-14-21	21 - 35N - 71W		7-22-12	32 - 30N - 71W
Fitzgerald, Sophie J.	4-19-32	20 - 31N - 71W		8-18-10	4 - 28N - 71W
Fitzhuah, Gordon M.	7-23-90	19 - 31N - 71W		10- 6-26	17 - 29N - 71W
Fitzhugh, Gordon V.	1-20-34	7 - 31N - 71W	Foxton/Dountesey, Mary C.	5-29-11	33 - 30N - 71W
	6-22-25	19 - 31N - 71W		5-31-13	4 - 29N - 71W
Fitzsimmons, Mary L., Heirs	7-12-34	27 - 40N - 74W		1-31-27	17 - 29N - 71W
Flavin, Phillip M.	4-13-11	11 - 33N - 75W	Foxton, Richard H.	7-16-23	13 - 37N - 70W
	3-17-25	34 - 33N - 75W	France, Herman H.	1-23-33	14 - 38N - 72W
	5- 6-12	10 - 33N - 75W	Francisco, Clyde	6-12-20	8 - 30N - 73W
	9- 8-25	1 - 33N - 76W	Francisco, Gertie		
Fleetwood, Ada P.	3-26-23	30 - 37N - 73W	Francisco, Gertie,		
	7-28-22	21 - 29N - 73W	Assgn.	12-28-12	12 - 29N - 72W
Fleming, Frank L.	2- 2-23	19 - 37N - 72W	Franciscus, George C.	2- 1-90	1 - 33N - 74W
	2- 2-23	20 - 37N - 72W		11-30-89	1 - 33N - 74W
Fleming, Thomas L.	11-12-25	9 - 37N - 73W	Frank, Emil	8- 7-24	20 - 39N - 73W
	1-12-26	9 - 37N - 73W	Frank, Minnie M.	2-19-18	23 - 31N - 76W
	11-20-16	12 - 33N - 73W		7-10-18	23 - 31N - 76W
	6- 3-14	12 - 33N - 73W	Frank, Otto A.	3-19-23	1 - 40N - 73W
Fletcher, Norman R.	11-13-14	4 - 31N - 67W	Franse, Herman H.	7-16-23	13 - 37N - 70W
Floth, Carl	11- 8-35	2 - 35N - 77W	Fraser, David	12- 6-24	7 - 35N - 76W
Flynn, Nicholas	3-26-91	4 - 32N - 71W		12- 6-24	6 - 35N - 76W
Focht, James J.	2- 4-26	26 - 31N - 72W	Frazier, Frederick H.	6- 5-22	28 - 41N - 67W
	12- 6-24	24 - 32N - 73W	Frazier, William T.	2-16-22	25 - 32N - 71W
Folsom, J. Clyde	11-22-21	12 - 37N - 73W	Fredell, O. J.	3- 5-23	19 - 32N - 71W
	11-22-21	1 - 37N - 73W	Freeguard, Thomas	12-20-92	12 - 31N - 74W
Forbes, J. Walter	5-26-20	20 - 38N - 74W	Freeland, Michael L.	9-11-22	14 - 34N - 68W
Ford, Bernie E.	10-20-21	11 - 39N - 70W		9-11-22	1 - 34N - 68W
	10-20-21	14 - 39N - 70W	Freeland, Rachael N.	12-11-22	1 - 34N - 68W
Ford, Cyril B.	4-14-26	23 - 35N - 76W		12-11-22	2 - 34N - 68W
Ford, Gerald A.	12- 6-33	9 - 39N - 69W	Freeman, Daniel H.	7-30-29	26 - 35N - 68W
Ford, Gertrude L.	12-17-6	19 - 40N - 68W	Freeman, Ernest E.	11- 9-23	27 - 29N - 73W
Ford, Walter W.	4-27-11	23 - 39N - 77W	Freeman, Henry B.	11-13-89	25 - 30N - 72W
	11-20-16	23 - 39N - 77W		5- 4- 4	35 - 30N - 72W
Ford, Will C.	12- 6- 6	6 - 40N - 69W	Freeman, Luther	5-12-19	19 - 30N - 74W
Ford, William A.	9-11-90	8 - 33N - 73W		3- 2-26	31 - 30N - 74W
Forrest, James O.	3-31-23	3 - 38N - 68W		2-19-20	36 - 30N - 72W
	3-31-23	34 - 39N - 68W		7-14-14	24 - 30N - 75W
Forster, Fred	5-31-21	27 - 31N - 72W	Freeman, Margaret	2-16-40	Esterbrook
	2-16-22	27 - 31N - 72W		1-31-25	27 - 30N - 72W
	2-16-22	34 - 31N - 72W	Freeman, Sarah E.	1-18-90	34 - 30N - 72W
Fosket, Earl	3-26-23	2 - 30N - 71W	French, Cora	4-14-36	5 - 39N - 77W
	3-26-23	1 - 30N - 71W	French, H.G.; Thomas J.B.	12-10-89	16 - 32N - 71W
Foster, Ethel	3- 7-22	20 - 28N - 71W	French, John Young	9-16-21	26 - 36N - 68W
Foster, George H.	4- 8- 9	1 - 37N - 77W	French, Roswell A.	4-12-32	5 - 37N - 73W
Foster, James W.	3-13-23	10 - 31N - 71W	Frey, George W.	3-10-22	35 - 39N - 69W
	3- 5-18	47 - 31N - 71W	Friend, David M.	5-17-20	13 - 30N - 74W
	11-22-21	10 - 31N - 71W		12- 1-21	19 - 30N - 73W
	3-13-23	10 - 31N - 71W	Frisbee, Horace S.	7-14-24	30 - 41N - 68W



NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Fritton, Victor E.	12-20-21	28 - 41N - 73W	George, Robert S.	4- 7-15	5 - 30N - 72W
Fritts, David B.	12-20-21	33 - 41N - 73W	George/Davis, Bessie	8- 6-14	13 - 31N - 77W
Fritts, Raymond O.	6- 7-93	4 - 30N - 74W	Gerber, Arlon L.	10-23-28	28 - 39N - 75W
Fritz, Ralph A.	7- 7-22	22 - 39N - 75W	Gerger, Sarah E.	1-28-26	17 - 39N - 75W
Frosheiser, Alexander	10-26-21	11 - 29N - 76W		1-28-26	20 - 39N - 75W
Freyer, Robert	1-30-22	11 - 37N - 75W	Gerdorn, Joseph	7-16-23	22 - 34N - 75W
Fulcomer, George E.	9-28-23	30 - 34N - 67W	Gerdorn, Joseph Sr.	11- 9-22	22 - 34N - 75W
Fulk, Kenneth B.	7-10-18	28 - 33N - 72W	Gericke, Samuel D.	12-20-24	15 - 36N - 71W
Fuller, Everett M.	5-22-22	1 - 40N - 73W		10-27-20	15 - 37N - 70W
	2- 3-22	26 - 35N - 74W	German, Andrew	3-15-16	28 - 33N - 67W
	11-21-23	35 - 41N - 72W	Gibbon, John	11-30-89	26 - 30N - 72W
	12-12-23	2 - 40N - 72W	Gibbons, Clyde J.	4- 9-17	18 - 31N - 67W
Fuller, Floyd F.	9-19-23	1 - 32N - 76W		8-14-16	7 - 31N - 67W
Fulsche, William	2-24-25	10 - 35N - 69W	Gibbons, Frank	8-14-16	8 - 31N - 67W
Funk, Tony W.	11- 9-29	7 - 37N - 72W		4-15-20	9 - 31N - 68W
	9-29-26	17 - 37N - 71W		12-15-20	17 - 31N - 68W
Funk, Wilbur E.	9-29-26	17 - 37N - 71W	Gibbons, Gladys	6-24-19	6 - 31N - 67W
	11-18-29	8 - 37N - 72W	Gibbons, Vena Belle	6-29-21	8 - 31N - 67W
Furlong/Hopper, Cecil	9- 5-23	23 - 32N - 70W	Gibbons, Willie A.	9-17-18	8 - 31N - 67W
	9- 5-23	14 - 32N - 70W	Gibbons, Glen	3-10-22	1 - 32N - 69W
Gaffney, James B.	2-26-21	23 - 35N - 70W	Gibson, Arthur	8- 8-27	22 - 37N - 75W
Gafford, Roy C.	11-11-31	13 - 40N - 77W	Gibson, Clarence L.	2-16-22	34 - 31N - 72W
Gafford/Miller, Brida M.	11-11-31	23 - 40N - 77W	Gibson, Edgar M.		
Galbreath, Newton C.	10- 9-22	25 - 37N - 73W	Assgn. Scott	10-26-11	22 - 30N - 72W
	10- 9-22	27 - 37N - 73W	Gibson, Edgar M.		
Gallagher, Grover	5- 6-24	28 - 33N - 73W	Assgn. Rattesse	3- 9-11	24 - 30N - 72W
	9- 5-23	1 - 33N - 74W	Giehm, Charles L.	3- 5-23	17 - 32N - 70W
Gardiner, Arthur	4-22-95	30 - 33N - 68W		4-28-20	17 - 32N - 70W
	4-22-95	31 - 33N - 68W		12-11-19	30 - 34N - 72W
Gardner, Albert J.	8-11-24	13 - 33N - 68W	Gilbert, Clarence B.	4-13-27	4 - 34N - 67W
	2- 4-20	18 - 33N - 67W	Gilbert, Clyde	3-22-20	24 - 34N - 73W
Gardner/Rollins,			Gilbert, Fernetta A.	3- 8-37	20 - 37N - 75W
Beatrice H.	3-16-21	24 - 33N - 75W	Gilbert, Francis Ray	1-10-20	31 - 34N - 72W
Gardner, Vida	1-30-28	1 - 39N - 72W	Gilbert, Horace A.	12-19-21	32 - 34N - 72W
Garfield, Roy	1-29-34	32 - 38N - 76W		12-19-21	5 - 33N - 72W
Garhart, Charley D.	12-28-25	22 - 31N - 68W	Gilbert, Leonard H.	3-10-22	35 - 35N - 68W
Garhart, George	1-31-27	6 - 31N - 67W	Gilbert, Maurice E.	12-11-19	31 - 34N - 72W
Garner, May	5-25- 8	19 - 30N - 75W	Gilbert, Sarah D.	6-29-18	32 - 34N - 72W
	7-20-28	21 - 30N - 76W		12- 9-21	32 - 34N - 72W
Garnick, Arnold A.	4- 5-38	20 - 28N - 71W	Gill, Daniel W.	4-22-91	12 - 33N - 74W
Garrett, Robert E.	7-31-26	26 - 40N - 74W		4-22-91	7 - 33N - 73W
Garriott, James A.	9-25-39	17 - 36N - 75W	Gill, James D.	4-22-91	1 - 33N - 74W
Garst, Joseph	5- 8-22	11 - 32N - 72W	Gill, John D.	4-22-91	13 - 33N - 74W
Gartner, Virgil W.	6- 5-22	5 - 36N - 71W		4-22-91	6 - 33N - 73W
Garvin, Michael M.	4-21-23	21 - 34N - 71W	Gill, Loyle A.	4- 7-21	33 - 31N - 67W
Gary, Charles M.	12-19-21	18 - 39N - 69W	Gill, Lydia A.	5-17-20	28 - 31N - 67W
Gates, Lawrence H.	12-26-23	27 - 35N - 76W	Gillen, John J.	11-18-20	33 - 32N - 75W
	12-26-23	28 - 35N - 76W		10- 8-21	33 - 32N - 75W
Gautschi, Hans	5- 1-12	34 - 31N - 64W	Gillespie, Clare C.	2- 3-32	3 - 32N - 69W
Gaylord, Preston O.	9-27-21	7 - 31N - 69W	Gillespie, Edwin E.	4- 7-24	20 - 33N - 69W
	9-27-21	6 - 31N - 69W		12- 9-25	17 - 32N - 69W
	5-29-18	13 - 31N - 70W	Gillespie, George E.	5- 9-22	20 - 35N - 68W
Gazlay, George W.	10- 2-26			5- 9-22	15 - 35N - 68W
	1-25-37	2 - 28N - 71W	Gillespie, Harry A.	1-16-17	19 - 33N - 69W
Gazlay, Herbert D.	5-23-22	11 - 28N - 72W		6-29-21	19 - 33N - 69W
Gazlay, Mary Evelyn	10- 2-26			9-30-25	35 - 36N - 69W
Gedney, Cecelia M.	11-10-22	33 - 32N - 72W	Gillespie, Lewis C.	10-11-21	30 - 31N - 69W
Gedney, Harold	11-10-22	34 - 32N - 72W		4-17-16	19 - 31N - 69W
	9-19-23	3 - 31N - 72W		3-31-22	19 - 31N - 69W
	3- 9-22	34 - 32N - 72W	Gilliam, Elias T., Assgn.	3-30-11	20 - 38N - 74W
	2- 6-25	4 - 31N - 72W	Gilman, Warren L.	9-10-20	4 - 33N - 69W
Gedney, Joe R.	11- 1-38	17 - 31N - 69W	Gilman, Warren S.	4- 5-24	4 - 33N - 69W
Gedney, John J.	3- 9-22	34 - 32N - 72W	Gilmore/Ford, Dessa M.	9-27-21	7 - 39N - 69W
Gedney, Lawrence	8-28-39	12 - 32N - 73W	Githens, Albie J.	4- 9-23	34 - 38N - 69W
Gedney, Martha J.	6-24-18	3 - 31N - 72W	Githens, Alice J.	4- 9-23	27 - 38N - 69W
Geiger, Charles R.	12-11-11	30 - 32N - 67W	Githens, Edward L.	3-22-24	10 - 37N - 69W
Gelliatly, John	4-28-27	19 - 38N - 74W	Githens, Marcus W.	6-20-14	33 - 33N - 71W
Gentleman, Edward W.	2-16-22	7 - 34N - 75W	Githens, Milton R.	2-18-18	34 - 33N - 71W
	2-16-22	35 - 35N - 75W		1-31-27	3 - 37N - 69W
	2-28-93	5 - 31N - 73W		8-29-34	1 - 37N - 69W
George, Charles	12-26-34	28 - 29N - 73W	Githens, Robert A.	4-21-24	33 - 38N - 69W
George, Fred Jr.	1-16-24	12 - 30N - 72W	Githens, William E.	8-15-23	3 - 37N - 69W
George, Frederick	1-16-24	7 - 30N - 71W	Gitthens, Frank J.	1-14-15	33 - 33N - 71W
	10- 1- 3	18 - 30N - 71W	Gitthens, John U.	4-24-16	33 - 33N - 71W
George Glenn Garland	6-27-22	27 - 36N - 75W	Gitthens, Marcus W.	11-22-22	3 - 33N - 71W
	6-27-22	22 - 36N - 75W	Glade, Albert F.	5-26-20	31 - 29N - 75W
George, Harry E.	11-27-23	35 - 30N - 71W		12- 4-22	31 - 30N - 74W
George, Hubert	1- 8-24	3 - 19N - 71W	Gladson, Elmer L.	12-14-25	26 - 41N - 72W
George, Peter	2-12-91	5 - 31N - 73W	Gleason, Ashley	3- 4-22	10 - 36N - 70W
	2-12-91	32 - 32N - 73W	Gleason, Lyman W.	8-18-21	3 - 36N - 70W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Glenn, Hugh C.	11- 9-22	27 - 34N - 77W	Graves, Marcus	3-26-23	6 - 33N - 70W
Goehring, Clarence E.	11- 5-25	8 - 34N - 73W	Graves, Rufus L.	6- 9-26	31 - 34N - 70W
	11- 5-25	17 - 34N - 73W	Gray, Richard F.	6- 6-12	1 - 31N - 68W
	3- 1-40	17 - 35N - 74W	Gray, Sherman	9- 6-35	26 - 40N - 73W
Goff, George R.	10-20-13	7 - 33N - 74W	Graybeal, Carlyle W.	5-20-26	19 - 34N - 72W
	3- 1-40	17 - 35N - 74W	Green, Minnie F.	10-20-21	22 - 39N - 70W
Gold, Willie	2-23-32	4 - 35N - 72W		10-20-21	23 - 39N - 70W
Goldsby, Bruce R.	9-28-23	18 - 36N - 73W	Green/Windle, Mura C.	10-29-24	26 - 35N - 76W
	9-28-23	19 - 36N - 72W	Greenacre, Charles R.	6-19-19	8 - 32N - 68W
Goldsby, Maude E.	4-21-22	8 - 36N - 72W	Greenly, Sigure E.	1- 8-24	19 - 40N - 74W
	4-21-22	7 - 36N - 72W	Greenwood, Clarence J.	12-18-23	22 - 31N - 69W
Gomes, Miguel E.	8-27-23	24 - 32N - 77W		1-23-22	15 - 31N - 69W
Gompert, Herman P.	4-15-21	6 - 32N - 69W	Gregory, E. Vere	2-18-22	11 - 32N - 74W
Gonsalves, Verissimo	9-11-31	27 - 32N - 75W	Gremmert, Paul C.	6-14-34	24 - 40N - 77W
Gonsales, Joe	4-11-40	6 - 36N - 76W	Gressman, Marietta	8-26-26	9 - 28N - 71W
Gonzales, Louis	3-11-38	2 - 39N - 75W	Griffith, Roy C.	5-10-17	4 - 32N - 69W
Good, Harold V.	6- 1-36	6 - 39N - 76W	Grigsby, Roy	1-30-24	1 - 37N - 68W
Good, Harriet G.	1-11-32	32 - 41N - 67W	Grimes, Clair	3-26-23	25 - 41N - 68W
	1-11-32	5 - 40N - 67W	Grimes, James E.	12- 1-21	26 - 41N - 68W
Good, James A.	10-12-23	19 - 40N - 67W	Grimes, Jay D.	1-12-23	2 - 40N - 68W
Good, William A.	12-12-28	25 - 40N - 68W	Gristy, Stephen B.	9- 5-28	15 - 33N - 71W
	12-12-28	27 - 40N - 68W	Groat, Lillie F.	2- 6-39	6 - 38N - 76W
Goode, Roy Lee	4- 3-29	11 - 35N - 75W	Groat, Walter	6-15-33	6 - 39N - 76W
Gordon, David	9-19-98	2 - 27N - 72W	Grommet, Henry J.	4-24-24	12 - 32N - 69W
Gordon, David Jr.	1-25- 2	8 - 27N - 72W		7- 8-21	13 - 32N - 69W
	4-13- 8	8 - 27N - 72W	Groom, Walter W.	2- 4-26	29 - 32N - 76W
Gordon, Maggie	10- 1-1	15 - 27N - 72W	Gross, Martin; Heirs	5-17-22	6 - 31N - 75W
Gordon, Thomas D.	1- 6-26	7 - 39N - 68W	Grove, Warren J.	9-27-21	5 - 38N - 73W
Gore, Frank	10-19-11	30 - 31N - 73W	Groves, Charles M.	11-17-33	4 - 37N - 76W
	4-24-11	25 - 31N - 74W	Guenther, Charles A.	1-19-20	9 - 32N - 71W
Gored, Meda	11-27-11	25 - 31N - 74W	Guenther, Violet M.	1-30-23	4 - 32N - 72W
Gorrell, Jesse E.	1- 5-16	14 - 37N - 77W	Guernsey, Charles A.	6- 4-88	8 - 32N - 71W
Gorsuch, Frank	6-25-26	33 - 39N - 70W	Guernsey, Frederick M.	6- 4-88	8 - 32N - 71W
Goss, Ira N.	2-14-25	1 - 39N - 76W	Guimont, Andre O.	11-11-22	24 - 37N - 77W
Gotchy, Earl F.	3-16-36	14 - 38N - 67W		11-11-22	26 - 37N - 77W
Gotchy, Lyman M.	11- 4-27	21 - 36N - 69W	Gum, Clyde E.	2-13-26	8 - 38N - 67W
	11- 4-27	15 - 36N - 69W		2-13-26	9 - 38N - 67W
Gough, William D.	2- 9-28	8 - 35N - 74W	Gum, Charles R.	12- 1-21	12 - 36N - 71W
Gould, Charles E.	12- 9-21	17 - 34N - 68W	Gutherie, Isaac F.	2- 4-90	13 - 30N - 72W
Grabowski, Joe	1-30-23	11 - 40N - 75W		2- 4-90	18 - 30N - 71W
Grafmyer, James G.	2- 6-25	18 - 35N - 75W	Guthlin, Max O.	9-30-25	7 - 32N - 71W
	2- 6-25	17 - 35N - 75W		11-11-42	2 - 32N - 73W
Graham, Edward M.	3-11-40	4 - 28N - 76W		5-11-31	7 - 32N - 72W
Graham, Flossie A.	5- 6-28	2 - 33N - 75W	Guthrie, Alice M.	7- 9-36	10 - 36N - 71W
Graham, Joseph; Heirs	2- 3-10	21 - 32N - 72W	Guthrie, Earl E.	3-10-22	1 - 31N - 73W
Grant, Charles W.	8- 2-18	17 - 31N - 75W	Guthrie, Julian H.	10- 6-32	22 - 36N - 71W
	7- 3-18	12 - 31N - 76W	Guthrie, Margaret H.	4-16-92	23 - 30N - 72W
	10- 1- 3	13 - 30N - 76W	Guthrie, Rachel	4-16-92	18 - 30N - 71W
	10-28-22	18 - 31N - 75W	Guthrie, Silas A.	2- 4-90	10 - 30N - 73W
	3-29- 2	31 - 31N - 75W		5-14-90	29 - 31N - 72W
	10-28-22	23 - 30N - 76W	Guthrie, Upton K.	9-25-89	21 - 30N - 72W
Grant, Cora E.	8-15-21	34 - 31N - 76W	Guthrie, William E.	8- 4-91	22 - 30N - 72W
Grant, Eva	6- 8- 8	11 - 30N - 76W		5-25- 7	31 - 30N - 70W
	3- 1- 9	15 - 30N - 76W	Guthrie, William E., Assgn.	11-23-11	40 - 31N - 72W
Grant, Fred D.	4-16-57	15 - 31N - 75W	Guthrie/Hansen, Jennie	1- 2-23	8 - 36N - 70W
	3- 3-38	12 - 31N - 76W	Guy, Harry	1- 5-16	3 - 36N - 77W
	12-17-41	19 - 31N - 75W	Haas, Edward K.	9- 8-24	14 - 40N - 68W
	3- 3-38	9 - 31N - 75W	Haas, Harry	2-14-23	31 - 32N - 68W
	12- 9-24	1 - 35N - 68W	Haefele, Charles W.	3-12-25	13 - 40N - 72W
Grant, Frederick D.	11- 5-90	31 - 31N - 75W		3-12-25	18 - 40N - 71W
Grant, Gertrude M.	5-12- 3	1 - 30N - 76W	Haefele, Joe W.	8-21-28	25 - 40N - 72W
Grant, Gertrude F.	6-30- 6	30 - 31N - 75W	Haefele, Ralph M.	10-18-27	22 - 40N - 72W
Grant, James	9-21-17	22 - 32N - 71W		10-18-27	24 - 40N - 72W
	7-22-20	26 - 32N - 71W	Haeseler, Emma J.	2-24-20	25 - 39N - 73W
Grant, Jess N.	11-10-50	17 - 31N - 76W		5-19-16	25 - 39N - 73W
	11-10-33	1 - 30N - 76W	Haeseler, Henry F.	5-19-16	25 - 39N - 73W
Grant, John M.	4-26-37	1 - 29N - 77W		10-14-24	2 - 30N - 72W
Grant, Merrill J.	6-18- 8	30 - 31N - 75W	Haffner, Elmer A.	7-28-21	25 - 39N - 73W
Grant, Sarah M.	5-27- 7	9 - 30N - 76W	Hageman, Arthur	10-26-32	13 - 39N - 76W
	7-14-24	6 - 31N - 75W	Hageman, Curtis E.	4-25-33	22 - 35N - 69W
	3- 3- 9	28 - 31N - 75W	Hageman, Ernest	11- 8-28	19 - 34N - 69W
Grant, Ulysses S.	3- 7-22	24 - 30N - 76W	Hageman, Fred A.	11-18-24	15 - 33N - 69W
Grant, Walter M.	11- 9-23	35 - 31N - 76W		7-30-23	7 - 33N - 68W
	4-13- 8	12 - 30N - 76W		9-26-34	13 - 33N - 69W
Grant, Allen U.; Frances A.	5-24- 61	35 - 29N - 71W	Hageman, Henry	7- 7-22	5 - 34N - 69W
Graves, Charles Robert	8-21-35	29 - 34N - 75W	Hageman, Leonard H.	10- 9-22	21 - 36N - 70W
Graves, Fred E.	5- 4-25	6 - 33N - 70W	Hakalo, John	11-15-23	6 - 32N - 75W
	3-10-22	7 - 33N - 70W	Hakalo, John G.	5- 4-26	6 - 32N - 75W
Graves, Glenn H.	1-29-34	22 - 34N - 71W	Hakalo, Hilda	9-22-21	8 - 32N - 75W
	10-12-31	25 - 34N - 71W	Hakalo, John O., Jr.	11- 9-22	27 - 32N - 76W
Graves, Marcus	1- 6-28	12 - 33N - 71W		11- 9-22	22 - 32N - 76W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Hakalo, Matthew E.	2-18-30	6 - 32N - 75W	Haney, Grover C.	11- 9-23	3 - 40N - 71W
Hakesy, Anna B.; Heirs	6-16-32	3 - 36N - 71W		10-12-25	3 - 40N - 71W
Hale, Alfred R.	10-29-24	2 - 34N - 71W	Hankins, Benjamin F.	2-16-11	8 - 36N - 70W
	12-11-22	2 - 34N - 71W	Hanlin, Charles J.	1-23-22	1 - 35N - 69W
Hale, Lumby	3-23-23	24 - 32N - 75W	Hanlin, Lewis H.	11-27-23	2 - 35N - 69W
	3- 3-21	19 - 32N - 74W	Hanlin, Charles M.	5-25- 8	8 - 39N - 62W
Haley, Tillie	12-14-18	18 - 32N - 68W	Hansen, Jennie Guthrie	1- 2-23	8 - 36N - 70W
Hall, Anna J.	9- 2-20	18 - 30N - 73W	Hansen, Joachim D.	12-11-22	29 - 36N - 70W
Hall, Cloyd t.	4-15-24	12 - 37N - 69W	Hansen, Johannes	3- 5-23	30 - 36N - 70W
Hall, Cyrenus Lynn	8-27-35	17 - 33N - 68W	Hansen, Theodore	7- 7-24	24 - 32N - 72W
Hall, Decatur Bainbridge	6-29-21	9 - 35N - 69W		6-22-27	24 - 32N - 72W
Hall, Frank R.	9- 2-20	33 - 34N - 69W		2-11-28	18 - 32N - 71W
	7-22-20	28 - 34N - 69W	Hansen/Guthrie, Jennie	12-12-23	9 - 36N - 70W
Hall, Harry R.	2-24-25	5 - 33N - 69W		12-12-23	25 - 36N - 71W
	9-10-20	5 - 33N - 69W	Hanson, Albertina, Heirs	3-23-22	30 - 33N - 72W
Hall, Haven B.	6- 5-20	7 - 33N - 69W	Hanson, Bessie	5- 7-19	19 - 32N - 68W
	1-30-23	33 - 34N - 69W	Hanson, Edward	1- 4-15	30 - 33N - 72W
Hall, Henry O.	8- 6-35	6 - 34N - 64W		3-23-23	6 - 39N - 69W
Hall, Phylo E.	4-26-89	8 - 32N - 71W		8- 3-15	25 - 33N - 73W
Hall, Robert Lee	6-27-36	12 - 37N - 69W	Hanson, Hans Hedwick	5-29-20	27 - 34N - 68W
Hall, William C.	4-15-20	28 - 34N - 69W	Hanson, Leon	9-27-21	13 - 35N - 70W
	12-22-19	8 - 33N - 69W	Hanson, Olaf H.	7-26-21	13 - 37N - 70W
Hall, William Hamilton	5- 4-21	6 - 30N - 73W		9-11-28	5 - 38N - 71W
	5- 4-21	12 - 30N - 74W	Hardenbrook, Wilber B.	6- 5-22	23 - 32N - 71W
Hall, William J.	5-10-23	33 - 33N - 69W		1-21-31	13 - 32N - 70W
Halvolet, Gilbert	11-10-38	12 - 36N - 75W	Hardenbrook, Willard B.	5-23- 5	20 - 32N - 74W
Hamblin, Ray A.	12-12-23	27 - 35N - 71W	Harding, Clayton W.	5- 6-27	1 - 34N - 77W
Hamilton/Duerr, Elizabeth	3-10-22	10 - 39N - 73W	Harding, Earl E.	9-14-27	23 - 38N - 76W
	3-10-22	3 - 39N - 73W	Harding, Frank E.	12-18-23	28 - 39N - 75W
Hamilton, George R.	7-23-14	10 - 29N - 74W	Hardy, Cleo E.	1-23-22	19 - 35N - 67W
	3-13-15	3 - 29N - 74W		1- 1-22	29 - 35N - 67W
Hamilton, James H.	12- 9-21	2 - 32N - 74W	Hardy, James L.	6-27-22	23 - 34N - 75W
Hamilton, Roy B.	11- 5-25	3 - 32N - 70W	Hardy, Marion G.	2- 2-23	34 - 39N - 73W
	7-17-20	4 - 32N - 70W		2- 2-23	22 - 38N - 73W
Hamilton, W. F.	3- 5-23	22 - 32N - 72W	Hardy, Melvin E.	2- 6-23	26 - 34N - 75W
Hamilton, Wilbert G.	4- 2-24	10 - 30N - 75W		3-26-23	26 - 34N - 75W
	4- 2-24	9 - 30N - 75W		11- 9-22	26 - 34N - 75W
Hamilton, Willa B.	1-10-20	10 - 29N - 74W	Hardy, Robert F.	6-11-25	21 - 38N - 73W
Hamilton, William F.	12-10-89	16 - 32N - 71W	Hardy/Nicholson, Bessie	4-12-32	28 - 38N - 73W
	12-10-98	17 - 32N - 71W	Harkin, John F.	8-10-20	7 - 32N - 68W
	8- 2-18	3 - 32N - 74W	Harkins, Noal M.	10-19-17	15 - 32N - 68W
Hamilton, Winfield S.	4-16-72	14 - 29N - 72W	Harland, John C.	3-23-26	2 - 37N - 74W
	11- 9-91	14 - 29N - 72W		3-23-23	11 - 37N - 74W
	10-19-11	14 - 29N - 72W	Harlow, Edward L.	9-16-25	9 - 36N - 71W
Hamlin, Emma E.; Heirs	8- 6-31	28 - 41N - 71W		9-16-25	10 - 36N - 71W
Hamlin, Raymond	2- 6-39	23 - 36N - 76W		9-21-23	5 - 35N - 71W
Hamm, Edgar T.	4-25-21	24 - 32N - 71W		9-21-23	32 - 36N - 71W
	3-31-22	19 - 32N - 70W	Harlow, William F.	12-11-22	15 - 34N - 70W
Hamman, Clyde W.	6-29-21	20 - 34N - 70W		12-11-22	7 - 34N - 69W
	6-29-21	17 - 34N - 70W	Harman, Delmar C.	11-11-22	25 - 41N - 74W
Hamman, Oliver M.	2- 4-26	30 - 36N - 68W		11-11-22	24 - 41N - 74W
Hammond, Anna M.	3- 9-16	10 - 30N - 73W	Harman, Roy F.	8-20-24	25 - 38N - 74W
	12-16-14	9 - 30N - 73W	Harp, Daisy M.	8-15-21	24 - 29N - 74W
Hammond, Clara B.	5-14-13	24 - 31N - 72W		1-10-20	15 - 29N - 74W
Hammond, Fred	6-14-23	24 - 31N - 73W	Harp, John W.	7-18-21	26 - 29N - 74W
	6-14-23	15 - 30N - 73W		9-11-23	35 - 29N - 74W
Hammond, Goldie	6- 2-19	3 - 30N - 73W	Harp, Lynn C.	1-24-25	35 - 29N - 74W
	3- 9-16	8 - 30N - 73W		10-28-29	24 - 29N - 74W
	11- 5-24	1 - 29N - 71W	Harp, William H.	11- 8-19	22 - 29N - 74W
	11- 5-24	26 - 30N - 71W		3-13-23	23 - 29N - 74W
Hammond, Milt	5-21- 8	13 - 31N - 72W		5-17-20	22 - 29N - 74W
	6-19-22	13 - 31N - 72W		9-21-17	22 - 29N - 74W
	8- 7-22	24 - 31N - 72W	Harr, Tim J.	8- 1-21	22 - 39N - 75W
Hammond, Nellie M.	7-22-41	10 - 28N - 71W		8- 1-21	27 - 39N - 75W
Hammond, Ruby Z.	12- 1-19	7 - 30N - 73W	Harrell, George W. D.	10- 9-22	32 - 31N - 69W
Hamner, Archie D.	7- 3- 2	30 - 28N - 71W		7-18-17	32 - 31N - 69W
Hamner, Charles B.	5-24-13	11 - 27N - 72W	Harrington, Lloyd L.	9-19-23	6 - 29N - 71W
Hamner, Walter T.	9-18-94	11 - 27N - 72W	Harrington, Stanley	11-16-91	30 - 33N - 75W
Hampton, James T.	9-12-23	30 - 29N - 75W	Harrington, Wesley	9-23-38	1 - 35N - 77W
Hanchett, Charles E.	4- 7-24	18 - 34N - 68W	Harris, Alfred	2-27-25	29 - 30N - 73W
	12-20-24	18 - 34N - 68W	Harris, Alonzo D.	12-14-25	15 - 38N - 73W
Hancock, Dorothy C.	11-29- 7	11 - 30N - 77W	Harris, Dean	3-23-23	1 - 37N - 74W
Hancock, Earl S.	10-21-22	12 - 35N - 70W		3-13-23	1 - 37N - 74W
Hancock, Earle C.	5-17- 9	12 - 33N - 75W	Harris, Ernest G.	12-19-21	23 - 31N - 77W
	4-23- 8	2 - 30N - 77W		11- 5-90	23 - 31N - 77W
Hancock, R. Leet	11 - 5-90	20 - 31N - 70W	Harris, Ethbert O.	12-19-21	35 - 31N - 77W
			Harris, Fayette H.	4- 5-38	3 - 29N - 77W
			Harris, Harry B.	8-26-21	4 - 38N - 74W
			Harris, Ida M.	2-18- 3	23 - 31N - 77W
			Harris, Ira V.	7-26-21	13 - 27N - 73W
				1- 7-22	14 - 39N - 74W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Harris, Isaac D.	1-23-22	35 - 41N - 71W	Heffron, William	12-14-33	32 - 36N - 76W
Harris, John D.	6-13-22	19 - 30N - 73W	Hegendeifer, Jesse T.	3- 5-23	5 - 37N - 72W
	7-21-22	17 - 30N - 73W		3- 5-23	4 - 37N - 72W
	6-13-22	17 - 30N - 73W	Helbig, Philip J.	1-15-25	9 - 33N - 70W
Harris, John M.	9-23-31	1 - 37N - 76W		1-15-25	10 - 33N - 70W
Harris, Kenneth	4-15-22	9 - 36N - 75W	Helgeson, Carl	12- 2-26	10 - 40N - 74W
	4-15-11	9 - 36N - 75W		10-30-26	15 - 40N - 74W
Harris, Steve A.	7-13-25	4 - 33N - 74W	Heller, John	4- 3-93	9 - 33N - 75W
Harris, Tommie V.	4- 4-33	29 - 41N - 73W	Helm, Mary J. Beem	6-29-11	5 - 30N - 75W
Harris, William E.	1- 2-25	6 - 35N - 70W	Helm, Mary J.; Assgn.	5-29-29	8 - 30N - 75W
	7-26-21	7 - 27N - 72W	Helzer, J. Frederick	3- 2-26	9 - 37N - 72W
	1- 2-25	5 - 35N - 70W	Hendershot, Daniel W.	6-26-29	3 - 39N - 70W
Harrison, Andrew	7- 6-25	26 - 32N - 73W		2- 5-25	4 - 39N - 70W
Harrow, Mary F.	5-13-15	3 - 31N - 71W	Henderson, Carl L.	11- 7-23	21 - 36N - 76W
Hart, Benjamin F.	6-20-14	7 - 31N - 73W	Henderson, Cecil B.	11- 9-22	34 - 29N - 76W
	7-18-21	17 - 31N - 73W		5-17-20	27 - 29N - 76W
	7-18-21	7 - 31N - 73W	Henderson, Earl M.	12-20-24	8 - 36N - 73W
Hart, Clarence F.	6- 6-33	24 - 30N - 73W		12-20-24	5 - 36N - 73W
Hart, Daniel M.	8- 6-94	8 - 34N - 74W	Henderson, Frank S.	12- 9-21	32 - 36N - 67W
Hart, Emanuel Crutten	7-10-31	7 - 38N - 73W	Henderson, Iva D.	11-14-16	2 - 32N - 72W
Hart, Ernest	11-14-16	33 - 32N - 68W	Henderson, Meron A.	2-12-13	19 - 33N - 73W
Hart, Homer E.	9-15-31	19 - 39N - 76W		11-20-16	19 - 33N - 73W
Hart, Otto	6-16-32	30 - 40N - 76W	Henderson, Muriel	2-13-22	14 - 33N - 69W
Hart, Roy G.	1- 3-24	30 - 36N - 72W	Henderson, Wesley A.	4-28-22	19 - 31N - 75W
Hart, William E.	7-30-31	22 - 31N - 71W		4-28-22	18 - 31N - 75W
Hart/Montgomery, Ida M.	4- 1-31	30 - 39N - 76W		9-18-18	6 - 31N - 75W
Harten, William T.	11-14-16	34 - 33N - 75W	Henderson, Wesley Allan	6-29-21	6 - 31N - 75W
Hartford, Ernest P.	9-11-24	30 - 35N - 71W	Hendricks, Ernest H.	3-31-22	18 - 38N - 71W
	11-18-25	25 - 35N - 73W	Hendrickson, Chester A.	9-23-31	15 - 36N - 75W
Hartford, Frank H.	5-10-23	12 - 33N - 70W	Hendrickson, Mary Delle	9-11-36	19 - 37N - 74W
	6- 5-20	13 - 33N - 70W	Hendrin, Joseph F.	6-19-22	7 - 37N - 71W
Hartford, Harrison E.	8-11-21	18 - 33N - 69W	Hendrin/Young, Lucille	4- 2-24	2 - 40N - 68W
	6-24-18	13 - 33N - 70W	Hendrix/Young, Lucille	4- 2-24	11 - 40N - 68W
Hartman, Emil W.	5-22-11	11 - 36N - 70W	Henley, Benjamin F.	10-23-28	25 - 40N - 69W
	1-28-10	2 - 37N - 69W	Henley, Jasper C.	7-16-23	27 - 40N - 69W
Harton, Harry H.	5-21-14	11 - 32N - 68W	Henley, Jessie O.	4- 2-24	22 - 40N - 69W
Harton, John S.	5-21-14	10 - 32N - 68W	Henley, Luchen	9-19-23	22 - 40N - 69W
Harton, Robert S.	5- 4-14	10 - 32N - 68W		9-19-23	21 - 40N - 69W
Hartung, Harley D.	1-20-23	14 - 34N - 72W	Henley, Mekia	3- 3-37	18 - 40N - 69W
	1-20-23	13 - 34N - 72W	Henley, Simon P.; Heirs	6-18-35	17 - 40N - 69W
Harvey, Arthur	12-17- 6	13 - 40N - 68W	Hennies, Fred	12-12-23	4 - 33N - 74W
Hasseler, Edward F.	1-27-22	33 - 36N - 71W	Henning, Adolph	10-20-21	22 - 29N - 75W
Hauser, Grady, Assgn. Baker	6-26-11	18 - 32N - 74W	Henry, George E.	9-14-27	20 - 39N - 69W
Hauser, Grady, Assgn.			Henry, George Raymond	10-12-31	29 - 39N - 69W
Reineston	8-17-11	18 - 32N - 74W	Henry, James S.	3-28-24	23 - 34N - 70W
Hawell, Joseph L.	7-29-24	9 - 34N - 69W		6- 7-20	26 - 34N - 70W
Hawk, George B.	4- 3-40	3 - 28N - 71W	Henry, John F.	6-14- 9	1 - 37N - 74W
Hawkes, Winfield L.	7-20-37	27 - 37N - 76W	Henry, Michael	6-27-22	11 - 37N - 74W
Hawkins, Charles A.	1-27- 8	8 - 30N - 75W		7-21-22	23 - 37N - 74W
	8-17-28	20 - 30N - 75W		10- 4-90	23 - 37N - 74W
	7-20-28	21 - 30N - 76W		9-25-89	14 - 37N - 74W
	8-17-28	9 - 30N - 76W		4-13-11	21 - 38N - 74W
Hawks, Charles M.	6-22-11	32 - 28N - 71W		9-11-11	22 - 38N - 74W
Hawley, Crene M.	10-20-21	27 - 29N - 75W		4-30-11	21 - 38N - 74W
Hawley, Edgar E.	4- 4-22	28 - 31N - 73W		3-30-11	21 - 38N - 74W
Hawley, Florence C.	11- 7-23	8 - 31N - 73W	Henry, Thomas E.; Heirs	6-19-22	31 - 38N - 73W
Hawley, Mones J.;	1-21-22	28 - 29N - 75W		6-19-22	6 - 37N - 73W
Lgl. Repr.	3- 5-23	10 - 31N - 73W	Henry, Thomas J.	11-11-22	1 - 35N - 72W
Hawley, Robert D.	5-26-20	24 - 29N - 75W	Henry, William A.	4-15-90	35 - 32N - 71W
	11-27-23	15 - 31N - 73W		12- 6- 6	2 - 37N - 74W
Hawley, Robert E.	12- 4-22	21 - 31N - 73W		4- 5-24	34 - 38N - 74W
	6-11-19	26 - 29N - 75W	Henry, William M.	12- 6- 6	2 - 37N - 74W
Hawn, Leon C.	3-11-12	20 - 33N - 69W		7-28-20	2 - 37N - 74W
Hayden, Otto	12- 9-21	9 - 39N - 76W		12- 6- 6	2 - 37N - 74W
Hayes, Ralph	5- 4- 9	18 - 33N - 74W		3-10-22	20 - 38N - 74W
Haynes, Walter	8- 4-91	20 - 31N - 69W	Henry, Michael		
Hays, Ralph M.	11-24-36	25 - 38N - 71W	Assgn. Gilliane	3-30-11	20 - 38N - 74W
Hays, William J.	9- 5-89	32 - 35N - 60W	Assgn. Katzung	3-30-11	21 - 38N - 74W
Haywood, Sarah	9-15-14	21 - 33N - 67W	Herd, Top Edward	4- 2-20	33 - 38N - 73W
Hazelip, George W.	11- 7-23	6 - 34N - 75W	Herrick, Charles E.	6-22-22	29 - 35N - 69W
Hazelip, George W.; Heirs	12-21-23	5 - 34N - 75W	Herrick, James L.	2- 6-23	7 - 34N - 68W
Haze, Orin E.	4-15-20	11 - 33N - 70W		2- 6-23	1 - 34N - 69W
Hazen, Scott W.	5-24- 7	10 - 38N - 71W	Herrick, Orland R.	7-18-21	9 - 31N - 68W
Hazlet, Sarah S.; Heirs	9- 2- 9	27 - 32N - 65W	Herron, Claude W.	7-20-11	31 - 38N - 69W
Heaton, Alverious	3-13-23	31N - 71W	Herron, J.Baxter	10-20-21	1 - 36N - 70W
Heberling, Stewart M.	8-28-23	13 - 35N - 75W	Herron, W. Oscar	3-18-15	6 - 36N - 69W
Hebrew, Leonard M.	4-30-23	14 - 35N - 69W	Herzog, August	1-16-17	4 - 30N - 76W
Hebrew, Leonard M.	4-30-23	3 - 35N - 69W		4- 8-40	21 - 30N - 76W
Heckethorn, George	8- 3-99	10 - 33N - 72W	Hess, Charles C.	12-12-23	35 - 36N - 71W
Hedinger, Raymond M.	4-11-22	28 - 41N - 73W	Hess, George	2- 8-29	8 - 31N - 77W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Hess, Harriet D.	10-16-14	32 - 32N - 67W	Hiser, Elias	10-21-22	28 - 31N - 75W
Hess, Henry G.	7-29-18	14 - 31N - 68W	Hiser, Elias Edward	5- 4-34	15 - 30N - 75W
Hess, Moses U.	2-26-21	10 - 32N - 68W	Hiser, Frank	2-20-18	15 - 30N - 75W
	11-11-19	31 - 32N - 67W		5-29-24	22 - 31N - 75W
	10-16-14	31 - 32N - 67W		7- 7-22	26 - 31N - 75W
Hess, Nina M.	10- 9-23	6 - 33N - 67W	Hiser, George C.	8-15-21	21 - 30N - 75W
Hess, Nina M. Pennington	3-22-22	7 - 33N - 67W	Hiser, Georgia C.; Assgn.	5-29-29	29 - 30N - 75W
Hess, Ray I.	12- 9-21	11 - 33N - 68W	Hiser, Ralph G.	1-18-55	23 - 32N - 76W
	12- 9-21	2 - 33N - 68W		6- 8-22	32 - 31N - 75W
Hess, Russel B.	2- 3-16	31 - 32N - 67W	Hiser, Robert J.	4-14-36	5 - 30N - 75W
Hess, Wright L.	6-19-22	4 - 33N - 68W	Hiser, Willard U.	7- 7-22	35 - 31N - 75W
	6-19-22	9 - 33N - 68W		6- 5-20	21 - 30N - 75W
Hess/Mohn, Nettie	2-16-20	25 - 32N - 68W		7- 7-22	22 - 30N - 75W
Hessa, John F.	11- 5-90	21 - 31N - 70W	Hiser, Willard U.		
	1-17- 2	21 - 31N - 70W	Assgn.	5-29-29	21 - 30N - 75W
Hester, Clinton W.	2-20-22	2 - 35N - 68W	Hiser/Grant, Zelma I.	10-22-35	6 - 29N - 76W
	2-20-22	3 - 35N - 68W	Hitchcock, John E.	11-10-21	26 - 35N - 69W
Hester, Robert H.	10-10-4	26 - 32N - 70W	Hitchcock, Ray W.	9-11-23	34 - 34N - 75W
Hetu, Peter	12- 9-21	32 - 31N - 68W		9-24-26	35 - 36N - 76W
Heuring, Elmer D.	9-10-19	33 - 32N - 68W	Hitschew, Oliver	9-28-43	4 - 32N - 67W
Hiatt, Charles A.	6-29-21	1 - 31N - 70W	Hittner, Ferdinand; Heirs	10-22-35	13 - 38N - 73W
Higgins Estate Trust, Assgn.	2-17-35	27 - 33N - 75W	Hix, Elmer C.	1-10-20	35 - 31N - 70W
Higgins, Guy W.	8-20-24	28 - 38N - 68W		5-17-20	35 - 31N - 70W
	8-20-24	20 - 38N - 68W	Hizer, Mary	3- 2- 8	29 - 31N - 75W
Higgins, John E.	9-14-15	22 - 33N - 75W	Hoadley, Elizabeth	12- 6- 6	2 - 32N - 71W
	3- 3-21	23 - 33N - 75W	Hodder, William E.	3- 9-22	22 - 32N - 72W
Higgins, Raymond M.	12- 6-23	31 - 38N - 68W	Hoff, Andrew F.; Heirs	8-20-37	17 - 39N - 75W
	9-11-24	32 - 38N - 68W	Hoffman, Charley W.	2-18-18	24 - 31N - 68W
Hildebrand, George	9-27-21	30 - 34N - 73W	Hoffman, Harry	2-14-22	20 - 34N - 68W
Hildebrand, Ada B.	8-15-21	12 - 27N - 73W		7-18-29	21 - 34N - 68W
	11-18-29	1 - 33N - 73W	Hoffman, Libbie	4-25-21	32 - 37N - 67W
Hildebrand, Carl	4- 6-27	12 - 38N - 75W	Hoffman, Martha	1-16-24	28 - 37N - 67W
Hildebrand, Christ	10- 6-94	19 - 33N - 71W		1-16-24	32 - 37N - 67W
Hildebrand, Fred	5-20-92	18 - 33N - 71W	Hoffmann, Christian H.	8-26-26	10 - 28N - 71W
	8- 8- 9	6 - 33N - 73W	Hoffmann, Effe	8-26-26	10 - 28N - 71W
	6-12-20	5 - 33N - 73W		6-29-15	28 - 32N - 71W
Hildebrand, Fred Jr.	7-23-13	5 - 33N - 73W	Hoge, Albert L.	6-24-19	27 - 34N - 68W
	7-18-13	3 - 33N - 73W	Hoge, August C.	7-10-18	1 - 33N - 68W
	11-20-16	3 - 33N - 73W	Holaday, James E.	3- 8-22	10 - 32N - 72W
	6-25-24	25 - 34N - 73W	Holder, William E.	12-23-36	2 - 40N - 77W
Hildebrand, George	9-27-21	30 - 34N - 73W	Holdsworth, Thomas N.	12-20-24	2 - 38N - 69W
	6-15-15	5 - 33N - 73W	Hollinger, Clyde W.	9-20-27	9 - 28N - 71W
Hildebrand, Henry	6-25-24	3 - 33N - 73W	Hollinger, Francis H.	10-23-31	24 - 29N - 71W
	12- 9-22	27 - 34N - 73W	Hollinger, May	7- 9-36	24 - 29N - 71W
	11-23-31	10 - 34N - 73W	Hollinrake, William E.	8- 4-24	2 - 30N - 71W
Hildebrand, Mary	4-12-32	23 - 34N - 74W	Hollinrake/Singleton, Ida E.	3-29-33	4 - 29N - 70W
	4-11-22	6 - 33N - 73W	Holm, Elmer J.	8-10-25	3 - 29N - 72W
	4-11-22	32 - 34N - 73W	Holmes, Calvin A.	10-14-20	20 - 31N - 71W
Hildebrand, Robert	5-10-34	23 - 34N - 74W		6-12-20	27 - 31N - 71W
	5-22-29	19 - 35N - 73W	Holmes, Elsie P.	6-22-22	31 - 29N - 73W
	9-27-21	29 - 34N - 73W	Holmes, Harry S.	7-13-38	8 - 30N - 75W
Hildebrand, William H.	9-27-21	28 - 34N - 73W	Holmes/Farmer, Lillian	5-12-41	28 - 30N - 76W
	2-21-34	5 - 38N - 75W	Holmgren, Anton G.	3-19-20	25 - 34N - 75W
Hildebrand, Carl; George	12-12-32	21 - 38N - 75W	Holt, Elmer M.	5-11-25	20 - 40N - 70W
	6-22-25	18 - 35N - 69W		5-11-25	29 - 40N - 70W
Hill, Bessie May	2- 9-20	3 - 32N - 73W	Honett, Gustaf Adolph	6- 5-22	33 - 33N - 73W
Hill, Earl M.	5-18-23	35 - 34N - 76W	Honeywell, Homer	11-10-22	3 - 32N - 72W
Hill, Morris F.	5-12-21	17 - 37N - 70W	Hook, Leroy G.	5-19-17	13 - 30N - 77W
Hillman, John W.	4-25-21	20 - 37N - 70W	Hooper, Ellsworth H.	2-23-23	21 - 37N - 74W
Hillman/O'Leary, Rose	11-11-22	24 - 40N - 74W	Hoover, Artie	12- 5-14	20 - 38N - 69W
Hines, Edward F.	7-11-12	27 - 33N - 68W	Hoover, Merle O.	11-18-24	21 - 38N - 67W
Hinitt, Don	2-16-20	23 - 33N - 71W		11-18-24	20 - 38N - 67W
Hinkle, Albert	2- 4-26	13 - 33N - 71W	Hornbeck, Carl W.	8-17-28	22 - 36N - 74W
	3-20-22	30 - 40N - 73W	Hornbuckle, Richard	5-17-20	10 - 39N - 74W
Hinson, Harry Gordon	3-20-22	19 - 40N - 73W		4- 2-19	4 - 39N - 74W
	1-30-24	19 - 30N - 70W	Hornbuckle/Turner, Bessie C.	5-24-30	22 - 38N - 73W
Hinton, William I.	10-16-22	10 - 30N - 75W	Hornung, George C.	2- 2-23	1 - 36N - 73W
Hintz, Robert F.	12-20-30	33 - 41N - 70W	Horr, Charles W.	2- 1-19	4 - 29N - 74W
Hiscock, Dorothy	5-20-21	12 - 36N - 75W		5-20-31	2 - 31N - 74W
Hiscock, Fay J.	10-14-24	2 - 36N - 75W		8- 7-22	1 - 31N - 74W
	10-14-24	3 - 36N - 75W		11-16-14	4 - 29N - 74W
Hiser, Edward W.	7-18-12	26 - 31N - 75W		7-20-11	7 - 31N - 73W
Hiser, Elias	6- 8-16	28 - 31N - 75W		1-19-20	34 - 32N - 74W
	6- 8-16	21 - 30N - 75W		9-14-15	18 - 31N - 73W
	10-21-22	20 - 31N - 75W	Horr, Harry W.	6-27-10	18 - 31N - 73W
	5-29-29	20 - 30N - 75W		3-31-22	3 - 29N - 74W
	11-16-14	29 - 31N - 75W	Horr, Lillian M.	11-14-16	4 - 29N - 74W
	7-11-12	27 - 31N - 75W	Horr, Stewart	12-18-24	30 - 30N - 74W
				4-15-21	9 - 29N - 74W
				10-20-21	1 - 31N - 74W



NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Horr, Stewart	1-24-27	9 - 29N - 74W	Huntzinger/Blomquist, Ruth M.	7-23-29	7 - 32N - 71W
Horr, Uree D.	5-25-11	1 - 31N - 74W		7-23-29	2 - 32N - 71W
	4- 7-16	9 - 29N - 74W			
Horton, Arthur C.	4- 8-41	28 - 32N - 69W	Hurbert, Orvil J. & Gould, J.	12-22-13	29 - 35N - 67W
	6-12-20	1 - 31N - 69W	Hustad, John C.	1-30-23	1 - 37N - 73W
Horton, Ernest A.	7- 8-21	35 - 32N - 69W		1-30-23	1 - 37N - 76W
	4-30-22	35 - 32N - 69W	Hutcheson, William Z.	1- 2-23	7 - 34N - 74W
Hoskovec, James J.	10- 4-55	2 - 35N - 75W	Hutchinson, Charles J.	12-11-19	30 - 34N - 72W
Hoskovec, Stanley J.	9-21-25	4 - 35N - 75W	Hutchison, Georgie M.	3- 7-12	3 - 32N - 73W
Hoskovec, William B.	10- 4-55	14 - 35N - 75W	Hutchison, Loyd H.	5- 8-36	26 - 41N - 73W
Hough, Leslie K.	2-14-23	1 - 40N - 68W	Hutchison, Thomas	11-23- 8	3 - 32N - 73W
House, Chester Ray	7-26-21	19 - 33N - 73W	Hutchison, William W.	9-19-10	26 - 33N - 74W
	7-26-21	20 - 33N - 73W		6- 8-16	20 - 33N - 73W
House, Mary	1-10-20	2 - 31N - 69W	Hutchison, Zoraida	12-16- 9	24 - 33N - 74W
Houser, Saide	9-12-13	4 - 32N - 74W		6- 8-16	26 - 33N - 74W
Housiaux, John	1-11-95	34 - 31N - 74W	Huxtable, Lloyd	8-29-33	14 - 31N - 75W
Housiaux, John P., Heirs	6- 1-34	7 - 38N - 76W		12- 4-22	14 - 32N - 76W
Housiaux, Philip	3-12- 3	34 - 31N - 74W		12- 4-22	13 - 32N - 76W
	4-14-97	34 - 31N - 74W	Huxtable/Olin, Najma	10- 7-24	14 - 30N - 75W
Howard, Anna	2- 3-10	4 - 31N - 74W	Hyatt, Benjamin M.	7-18-34	4 - 28N - 71W
Howard, Ella E.	2-20-19	24 - 30N - 76W	Hyde, F. A.	4- 4-21	35 - 38N - 77W
Howard, Frank C.	6-14-24	35 - 32N - 72W	Hylton, Ara L.	12-20-21	21 - 36N - 69W
Howard, Fred R.	3-26-25	23 - 32N - 74W	Hylton, Joseph R.	12-15-10	24 - 29N - 75W
Howard, Henry	8-29-19	10 - 29N - 75W		4-15-20	5 - 31N - 71W
	3-13-93	11 - 31N - 74W	Hylton/Stone, Alta	11- 5-25	7 - 38N - 71W
Howard, Robert	12- 2- 7	7 - 32N - 67W	Iarchow, Mary; Heirs	6-27-36	23 - 29N - 73W
	3-22-22	17 - 34N - 67W	Iddings, Henry A. Assgn.	6-12-18	33 - 41N - 74W
Howard, Walter E.	6- 2-25	6 - 30N - 76W	Inc., V. R. Ranch	4-29-57	34 - 32N - 76W
	2-16-22	1 - 30N - 77W	Ingles, A. Everett	10- 9-19	17 - 33N - 69W
Howard, William	11-23- 8	10 - 31N - 74W		3-12-25	5 - 33N - 69W
	1-13-13	24 - 32N - 68W	Ireton, Ernest R.	5- 1-29	7 - 39N - 70W
	6- 7-93	2 - 31N - 74W	Ireton, James F.	1-24-33	12 - 39N - 71W
	6- 7-93	3 - 31N - 74W	Ireton, Ralph A.	5- 4-32	17 - 39N - 70W
	1-24-10	3 - 31N - 74W	Ireton, Robert K.	9-12-27	1 - 39N - 71W
	11-22- 4	1 - 32N - 67W	Irvine, William Paxton	10-11-21	35 - 41N - 76W
Howard, William F.	3-10-22	27 - 34N - 75W		11-22-22	3 - 40N - 76W
	10- 4-20	27 - 34N - 75W	Irwin, Charles G.	2-12-23	35 - 41N - 76W
Howard, William S.	3-22-22	20 - 32N - 68W		11-22-21	31 - 36N - 69W
Howe, Mariot G.	10-29- 8	24 - 31N - 70W		11-22-21	25 - 36N - 70W
Howell, Joseph L.	7-29-24	1 - 34N - 70W	Irwin, Dick	2- 7-24	18 - 36N - 73W
Hower, Edward G.	10-16-22	2 - 36N - 74W	Irwin, George W.	9-15-14	13 - 38N - 76W
	10-14-24	2 - 36N - 74W	Irwin, Minnie	4-11-22	31 - 38N - 75W
Howisey, William	11- 8-21	23 - 37N - 70W	Irwin, Raymond W.	5- 6-24	11 - 37N - 76W
	12- 6-24	26 - 37N - 70W	Irwin, Sidney B.	3-10-22	21 - 35N - 75W
Howland, Ralph J.	3- 5-23	35 - 36N - 70W	Irwin, Walter	4- 4-22	28 - 32N - 72W
Hubbard, Anna Stokor	3-23-16	33 - 28N - 72W	Isaac, Fred	12-19-21	13 - 30N - 71W
Hubbard, Benjamin F.	9- 6- 2	5 - 31N - 71W		1- 5-22	18 - 30N - 70W
	5- 1- 6	14 - 33N - 72W	Isaac, Harry	12-19-21	12 - 30N - 71W
Hubbard, Joseph M.; Heirs	7-18-13	29 - 32N - 71W		12-27- 9	11 - 30N - 71W
Hubbard/Stokor/Aldrich, Anna	10-13-17	27 - 28N - 72W		2- 6-23	25 - 30N - 71W
	6-28-15	29 - 32N - 71W	Isaac, Helen	8- 7-22	25 - 30N - 71W
Huber, Elizabeth, Assgn.	3-12-18	13 - 40N - 68W		2- 6-23	24 - 30N - 71W
Hublein, John Fred	8- 2-27	19 - 35N - 68W		2-24-20	28 - 31N - 71W
	8- 2-27	18 - 35N - 68W	Jackson, Andrew	6-29-20	22 - 31N - 71W
	1-30-23	10 - 31N - 74W		2- 4-95	11 - 29N - 74W
Hudson, Glen L.	3-22-22	22 - 38N - 71W		11- 5- 8	3 - 30N - 74W
Hudson, Matt C.	5-17- 9	3 - 31N - 77W		2-23-92	10 - 29N - 74W
Hudson, Stephen C.	5-12- 3	33 - 41N - 74W		7- 2- 4	18 - 30N - 74W
Hueston, Charles H.	3- 4-22	33 - 38N - 71W	Jackson, Bert	6-22-22	9 - 30N - 74W
Huff, Josephine	10-11-15	28 - 38N - 67W		5- 4-21	10 - 30N - 74W
Hughes, Claud D.	4- 6-17	27 - 35N - 76W		6-22-22	19 - 30N - 73W
Hughes, Jane	3-20-22	33 - 35N - 76W		10- 3-21	18 - 39N - 72W
	8-28-39	11 - 36N - 76W	Jackson, Carl F.	5-10-23	5 - 39N - 72W
Hughes, Marion N.	4- 6-17	3 - 40N - 72W		5-10-23	33 - 40N - 72W
Hughson, Frank E.	7-21-22	3 - 40N - 72W	Jackson, Edward	9-13-15	9 - 32N - 67W
	4- 3-40	22 - 39N - 77W		10- 6-32	17 - 30N - 74W
Humberson, Alva E.	1-13-22	15 - 30N - 71W	Jackson, Enoch	12- 4-22	32 - 31N - 74W
Humberson, Frisby T.	12-26-23	24 - 35N - 68W	Jackson, George	7-26-21	8 - 39N - 72W
Humphrey, Catherine	11-15-23	24 - 35N - 68W		12- 1-21	- 32N - 76W
Humphrey, William E.	1-10-20	1 - 31N - 69W	Jackson, George L.	3-11-22	32 - 32N - 76W
Humphreys, Clifford J.	4-11-22	17 - 38N - 69W	Jackson, Howard	12-20-12	27 - 33N - 68W
Hunt, Charles A.	10-27-20	10 - 37N - 70W		1-31-25	7 - 37N - 71W
Hunt, Charles F.	3-25-26	11 - 37N - 70W	Jackson, Nancy M.	7-21-23	14 - 34N - 71W
	4-15-20	7 - 31N - 69W	Jackson, Peter	12- 4-22	32 - 30N - 73W
Hunter, Fred Otis				4- 9-23	2 - 29N - 74W
Hunter, Ellen A.; Heirs	11-25-12	17 - 33N - 74W	Jackson, Thuel B.	9-19-23	5 - 34N - 73W
Hunter, Howard R.	9-17-18	10 - 33N - 67W	Jackson/Meeker, Hazel	4- 5-24	7 - 37N - 71W
	6-29-21	9 - 33N - 67W	Jacobs, Bass	4-21-20	6 - 40N - 71W
Huntzinger, Harvey H.	5-18-25	6 - 34N - 71W			
	5-18-25	5 - 34N - 71W			

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Jacobs, Bass	7- 8-21	5 - 40N - 71W	Johnson, David A.	9-15-22	25 - 36N - 75W
Jacobs, Floyd S.	7- 6-27	19 - 37N - 72W	Johnson, Eddie	2-26-30	32 - 38N - 75W
	7- 6-27	30 - 37N - 72W	Johnson, Edward	1- 8-19	35 - 32N - 71W
Jacobs, Henry J.	7- 7-22	17 - 40N - 76W		8-21-28	8 - 37N - 67W
Jacobs, Laurence G.	9-27-21	18 - 37N - 72W		6-21-16	35 - 32N - 71W
James, Orville R.	5- 4-25	1 - 34N - 70W		1-23-15	2 - 31N - 71W
James, Ruth E.	12-15-20	34 - 35N - 70W	Johnson, Ellen E., Heirs	4- 9-23	25 - 41N - 72W
	12-15-20	27 - 35N - 70W	Johnson, Ellis	11-22- 4	4 - 38N - 67W
James, William H.	4-25-21	26 - 35N - 70W	Johnson, Elmer	6-27-29	30 - 40N - 71W
	4-25-21	35 - 35N - 70W	Johnson, Fernando	4- 9-13	34 - 33N - 75W
Jamieson, Donald C.	1-27-22	22 - 33N - 71W	Johnson, Fernando	10- 4-16	34 - 33N - 75W
Jamieson, William D.	5-24-20	26 - 33N - 71W	Johnson, George H.	12-19-21	27 - 35N - 69W
	1-11-16	2- - 33N - 71W		4-21-24	28 - 35N - 69W
Janssen, Richard E.	5-25-21	17 - 40N - 73W	Johnson, Henry A.	10-25-35	14 - 35N - 73W
Jarmon, Roy R.	2-20-40	13 - 38N - 69W	Johnson, James	8-16-22	28 - 35N - 69W
Jackson, Andrew; Heirs	2-12-31	29 - 31N - 74W	Johnson, John W.	6-19-22	22 - 33N - 70W
Jeffres, Archie E.	10-21-22	35 - 31N - 73W	Johnson, Joseph	11-22-21	12 - 31N - 73W
	8-20-23	26 - 31N - 73W	Johnson, Julia D.	4- 4-34	2 - 40N - 71W
Jeffres, Walter	8-27-23	32 - 32N - 72W	Johnson, Lars	3-24-22	5 - 32N - 73W
	2-14-23	3 - 30N - 73W		9-11-17	5 - 32N - 73W
	1- 8-24	33 - 31N - 73W	Johnson, Lawrence	1-23-35	22 - 29N - 73W
Jeffrey, Charles A.	12-19-21	35 - 34N - 69W	Johnson, Malcolm J.	5-31-29	25 - 37N - 72W
	12-19-21	2 - 33N - 69W		5-30-29	30 - 37N - 71W
Jeffryes, Leon	9- 8-19	31 - 32N - 68W	Johnson, Margaret Vance	5-29-20	2 - 31N - 71W
Jeffryes/Kinyon, Flora	11-11-19	26 - 32N - 69W	Johnson, Morris A.	4-21-23	29 - 29N - 75W
Jelen, Anna A.	6- 8-22	30 - 29N - 75W	Johnson, Ole P.	2-23-92	15 - 31N - 71W
Jenison, Edward C.	2-23-23	23 - 35N - 75W		3-25-90	15 - 31N - 71W
Jenison, Ida Clara	9-11-23	22 - 35N - 75W	Johnson, Rollin O.	10-16-15	9 - 30N - 71W
Jenkins, Cecil Vincent	7- 8-21	4 - 39N - 69W	Johnson, Sumner	9-19-23	12 - 36N - 68W
	7- 8-21	3 - 39N - 69W	Johnson, Swan Patrick	10- 2-90	9 - 32N - 71W
Jenkins, J. Marshall	2- 6-23	8 - 37N - 72W	Johnson, Walter	10-12-25	8 - 38N - 71W
Jenkins, Lawrence	6-28-22	31 - 34N - 72W	Johnson, William H.	11-24-36	3 - 37N - 67W
Jenkins, Robert G.	10- 4-23	20 - 29N - 73W		4-21-23	31 - 37N - 74W
	10- 4-23	19 - 29N - 73W		3-13-23	2 - 32N - 70W
Jenne, J. Fred	10- 6-32	17 - 40N - 72W		3-13-23	10 - 32N - 70W
Jenne, Jacob	6-16-31	5 - 39N - 72W	Johnson/Anderson, Ila M.	1-11-23	34 - 39N - 73W
	5-24-24	31 - 40N - 72W	Johnson/Housiaux, Mary	9- 8-20	2 - 29N - 74W
	5-24-23	32 - 40N - 72W		3- 1-22	11 - 29N - 74W
	7-28-21	17 - 39N - 72W	Johnson/King, Margaret A.	12- 4-22	11 - 38N - 75W
	10- 2-11	5 - 40N - 71W	Johnston, Aron T.	8-30-21	35 - 35N - 70W
	12-12-10	26 - 40N - 72W		2- 7-24	1 - 34N - 70W
	8-17-11	33 - 40N - 72W	Johnston, Dortohy	7- 8- 9	10 - 28N - 71W
	11-13-11	13 - 40N - 72W	Johnston, General W.	6-16-26	10 - 28N - 71W
	10- 2-11	17 - 39N - 72W	Johnston, George P.	12- 3- 8	2 - 28N - 71W
Jenner, Henry Bond	8-11-21	24 - 36N - 70W	Johnston, John A.	4- 3-29	32 - 40N - 76W
Jensen, Albert	6-13-22	18 - 29N - 72W	Johnston, Orra	12-11-22	20 - 35N - 69W
	6-13-22	5 - 29N - 72W	Johnstone, David	11-21-19	48 - 31N - 71W
Jensen, Andrew E.	12-19-21	2 - 38N - 72W	Johnstone, William D.	10-15-41	Esterbrook
Jensen, John	11-14-21	31 - 31N - 69W	Johnstone/Fitzhugh, Rose	8-28-36	21 - 31N - 71W
Jensen, Mark C.	7- 9-23	21 - 40N - 72W	Jolly, Lloyd	11-27-23	6 - 35N - 75W
	7- 9-23	22 - 40N - 72W		11-27-23	31 - 36N - 75W
Jensen, Martin	11-18-24	32 - 39N - 73W	Jones, Charles W.	10-12-36	31 - 36N - 75W
Jensen, Walter N.	12- 4-22	15 - 38N - 72W	Jones, Claud	4-15-20	10 - 32N - 69W
	12- 4-22	15 - 38N - 72W		10-23-28	22 - 31N - 77W
Jewell, Edward A.	1-10-20	34 - 32N - 70W	Jones, Earnest A.	11- 9-12	27 - 31N - 77W
	1-28-26	4 - 31N - 70W	Jones, Floyd	9-21-23	25 - 33N - 69W
Jewell, George A.	2- 4-19	27 - 32N - 70W	Jones, Fred W.	12-10-89	10 - 33N - 75W
Jewell, Martha	6-19-19	27 - 32N - 70W	Jones, G. Blaine	3-10-22	4 - 33N - 75W
Jewell, Martha; Heirs	8- 6-26	23 - 32N - 70W		2-16-20	28 - 32N - 69W
Jewell, William H.	1-24-25	8 - 34N - 71W	Jones, Harrison M.	12- 6-24	22 - 32N - 69W
Jewett, Perry W.	9-10-23	30 - 41N - 72W		11-29-18	32 - 33N - 71W
Johannsen, Fred; Lgl Repr.	3-10-22	6 - 34N - 67W		11-21-19	32 - 33N - 71W
	8-16-22	7 - 34N - 67W	Jones, Henry W.	5-18-25	30 - 40N - 69W
Johanson, David G.	12- 6-27	18 - 33N - 72W	Jones, John	5-31-99	24 - 31N - 74W
John, Elvin F.	10-14-26	31 - 37N - 75W		12- 9- 7	24 - 38N - 61W
John, John	9- 6- 5	2 - 20N - 75W		3-26-91	13 - 31N - 74W
Johnson, Albert	6- 6-27	33 - 40N - 70W	Jones, John H.	7-22-12	31 - 32N - 73W
Johnson, Alice L.	9-10-19	4 - 32N - 68W	Jones, Laura M.	3-26-25	21 - 32N - 69W
	2-17-39	23 - 32N - 68W	Jones, Merton W.	3- 1- 9	17 - 37N - 68W
	11-15-22	4 - 32N - 68W		5-24- 7	1 - 37N - 63W
	12-12-23	33 - 33N - 68W	Jones, William F.	8-17- 8	15 - 38N - 63W
Johnson, Alvin E.	8- 7-22	31 - 40N - 67W	Jones, Zura Marie	2- 2-23	14 - 36N - 72W
Johnson, Andrew	12- 6-27	31 - 29N - 74W		5-10-23	13 - 36N - 72W
	10-26-25	6 - 29N - 73W	Jordan, Glenn	5-10-23	14 - 36N - 72W
	11- 2-25	1 - 29N - 74W	Jordan, Roy	2-20-18	14 - 40N - 77W
Johnson, Anna	3-24-22	5 - 32N - 73W		1- 6-26	29 - 37N - 67W
	3-22-22	5 - 32N - 73W	Jorgensen, Constance	1- 6-26	8 - 36N - 67W
Johnson, Anton	4-22-95	32 - 33N - 68W	Josendal, E. Harold.	6- 5-28	28 - 40N - 75W
Johnson, Arthur R.	10-24-34	28 - 40N - 71W	Joss, Christie	12-19-49	29 - 29N - 76W
Johnson, Carl C.	9-10-19	4 - 32N - 68W		7- 1- 3	3 - 33N - 67W
Johnson, Carl O.	12- 9-21	29 - 38N - 69W	Joss, Clara M.	10-26- 7	27 - 34N - 67W
	12- 9-21	28 - 38N - 69W	Joss/Hitshew, May	6-30- 6	6 - 35N - 65W
Johnson, Clarence R.	8-26-37	26 - 30N - 71W	Joss, Sam	10-19- 8	11 - 34N - 67W
Johnson, David A.	9-15-22	24 - 36N - 75W		1-23-11	25 - 34N - 66W
				6-30- 6	23 - 35N - 66W
				8-22- 2	19 - 34N - 66W
				7- 1- 3	35 - 34N - 67W
				6- 6-10	2 - 33N - 67W
			Joss/Beckwith, Violet	9-26-10	23 - 35N - 65W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Joyce, Clara	12- 9- 7	5 - 33N - 63W	Kimball, Ernest W.	6-25-20	26 - 34N - 71W
Jubar, Adolph	11- 8- 5	5 - 33N - 63W	Kimball, James E.	6-25-20	27 - 34N - 71W
Judson, Arthur; Heirs	12-31- 3	32 - 31N - 74W		9- 9-14	23 - 32N - 75W
Judson, Carl J.	6-16-26	1 - 36N - 75W		4-22-27	14 - 32N - 75W
Judson, Elza C.	7-26-21	6 - 36N - 74W		2-21-27	22 - 32N - 75W
Judson, Ralph A., Lgl Repr.	9-12-28	13 - 37N - 74W		11-23-31	23 - 32N - 76W
	4-13-22	35 - 37N - 75W	Kimball, Lizzie M.	8-17- 8	25 - 32N - 75W
	4-13-22	37 - 37N - 75W	Kimball, Sue M.	3-12- 8	5 - 30N - 75W
	4-28-20	35 - 37N - 75W	Kimball, William A.	4-12-32	19 - 32N - 76W
Judson, Ruth A.	3-25-35	5 - 36N - 74W	Kimball, William C.	1-12-38	24 - 32N - 77W
Koleno, Lewis	6-30- 6	12 - 35N - 66W		8-28-36	24 - 32N - 77W
Kaminski, Joseph S.	7- 8-21	35 - 41N - 77W		1-24-10	5 - 30N - 75W
Kamp, Caroline	2- 3-16	1 - 31N - 68W		10- 2-11	5 - 30N - 75W
Kamp, Edward	6- 8-16	29 - 32N - 67W	Kimball/Brady, Elizabeth A.	10-14-24	17 - 32N - 74W
	5-20-25	4 - 34N - 67W	Kimzy, Dorsa	9-16-24	21 - 40N - 70W
Kapeles, Harry	12-12-23	10 - 27N - 72W	Kincaid, Earl	1-29-34	31 - 29N - 70W
Karston, George A.	10- 7-30	24 - 34N - 77W	Kind, Gustav R.	6-19-19	10 - 31N - 69W
Kateron, Jess	2- 4-26	3 - 39N - 73W		2- 4-26	2 - 31N - 69W
Kay, George E.	9-25-89	4 - 30N - 71W	Kind, William F.	5- 1-12	15 - 32N - 71W
Kearns, Noah G.	6-15-11	26 - 34N - 65W	Kinder, Floyd Otto	11-23-21	29 - 36N - 68W
Keaton, Daniel; Heirs, Assgn.	2-24- 8	2 - 33N - 69W	Kinder, Jesse, Lgl Rpr.	6-22-22	28 - 36N - 68W
Keefe/Finley, Esther A.	2-13-22	25 - 37N - 70W	Kinder, William W.	11-23-21	30 - 36N - 68W
Keefe, Helen F.	2- 3-22	31 - 37N - 69W	King, Dora	9-22-21	17 - 32N - 74W
Keel, Maurice R.	9- 7-29	22 - 40N - 74W	King, Everett Holmes	9-26-27	15 - 40N - 72W
Keeline, H. W. & Sons	12- 5-27	32 - 41N - 70W		9-26-27	14 - 40N - 72W
Keenan, Charles Leonard	1- 8-24	27 - 36N - 78W	King, Francis H.	7- 9- 1	27 - 31N - 74W
	1- 8-24	26 - 36N - 78W	King, Frank W.	5- 4-23	21 - 41N - 74W
Keenan, Henry J.	11-15-23	9 - 34N - 74W	King, Fred P.	6-26-11	5 - 27N - 71W
Keeney, Harold E.	6-27-29	20 - 38N - 67W	King, J. R.; Heirs	4-24-23	1 - 32N - 72W
	8-30-29	17 - 38N - 67W	King, James L.	6-24-30	6 - 32N - 73W
Keepers, Ralph G.	12- 1-21	9 - 32N - 68W		4- 9-23	6 - 32N - 73W
	2- 4-19	8 - 32N - 68W		4- 2-13	1 - 32N - 74W
Keith, Lonnie L.	6-26-23	24 - 34N - 70W	King, Mary A.	5- 24-7	10 - 29N - 71W
	6-26-23	10 - 34N - 70W	King, Otis J.	8- 7-22	6 - 39N - 72W
Keith, William J.	6-30- 6	4 - 31N - 77W	King, Thomas	3-20- 5	28 - 31N - 77W
Keller, John P.	2-13-26	3 - 29N - 73W	Kinney, Annie	7-29-26	27 - 34N - 75W
	9-16-21	3 - 29N - 73W	Kinney, Edward C.	6-11-25	23 - 38N - 75W
Kelley, Charles J.	1-11-92	13 - 31N - 70W	Kinney, Michael H.	8-23-22	25 - 31N - 73W
Kelley, Elizabeth	2- 5-25	32 - 38N - 68W		1-31-25	7 - 30N - 72W
	2- 5-25	4 - 37N - 68W	Kinney/Cargill, Belle	8-23-22	25 - 31N - 73W
Kelley, Joseph P.	9-29-24	31 - 38N - 68W	Kinsman, Anna M.	3- 4-22	27 - 31N - 73W
	7-16-23	5 - 37N - 68W		4-15-20	18 - 34N - 67W
Kelliher, John	1- 8-24	28 - 41N - 69W		2-21-20	18 - 34N - 67W
Kelly, Frank	5-28-35	9 - 35N - 76W	Kinzy, Dorsa	7-28-20	13 - 34N - 68W
Kelly, John W.	12- 1-21	23 - 38N - 74W	Kions, Wilbur E.	9-16-24	28 - 40N - 70W
Kelsey, William H.	2-18- 3	8 - 28N - 71W	Kirkendall, Floyd	2-18-19	22 - 31N - 68W
Kempe, Edwin A.	11-22-21	8 - 38N - 70W		1-27-22	1 - 34N - 76W
Kemper, Frank E.	5-17-32	24 - 39N - 71W		1-27-22	2 - 34N - 76W
Kennard, George A.	2- 6-23	35 - 32N - 72W	Kirkpatrick, Edgar	12- 6-23	11 - 33N - 77W
Kennaugh, Christopher	2-16-22	20 - 34N - 75W	Kirkpatrick, Lawrence	2- 7-18	32 - 31N - 67W
	2- 6-23	8 - 35N - 75W	Kirn, Matt	2-18-18	6 - 32N - 70W
Kennedy, Ellen	12-14-18	6 - 33N - 67W	Kirwan, Anna M.	7-28-22	9 - 39N - 73W
Kennedy, Harry Ellis	3-26-37	21 - 30N - 75W	Kirwan, John W.	3-20-29	28 - 33N - 73W
Kennedy, John A.	6-22-22	28 - 30N - 74W	Kirwan/Hammond, Anna M.	7-28-22	4 - 30N - 73W
	6-22-22	11 - 30N - 74W	Kline, Lamar	12-22-22	1 - 39N - 73W
Kennedy, Joseph H.	5-14-90	5 - 31N - 73W		12-22-22	2 - 39N - 73W
	1-30-24	8 - 31N - 73W	Kluck, Ernest J.	12- 5-23	2 - 39N - 73W
	10-12-23	22 - 30N - 74W	Kniec, Steve J.	4-26-32	24 - 40N - 73W
	1-25- 2	9 - 31N - 73W	Knapp, Argyle M.	10-23-28	28 - 31N - 76W
	8-30-89	6 - 31N - 73W		12-11-22	10 - 36N - 69W
Kennedy, Thomas D.	4- 4-22	17 - 33N - 68W	Kniffin, Lewis H.	12-11-22	2 - 36N - 69W
Kent, James M.	4-29-24	33 - 39N - 73W	Knight, Arthur P.	8- 7-14	6 - 31N - 75W
	4-29-24	28 - 39N - 73W		10-14-20	21 - 36N - 67W
Kenyon, Arthur W.	3-11- 5	11 - 27N - 73W		9- 2-20	13 - 39N - 70W
	12-20-26	26 - 29N - 71W	Knight, Ephraim M.	7- 7-22	25 - 37N - 74W
Kercheval, William B.	10- 9-22	2 - 33N - 69W		7- 7-22	25 - 37N - 74W
Kerley, Thomas Don	9-21-23	5 - 36N - 67W	Knight, John S.	4-11-22	35 - 39N - 75W
Kerr, Hiram, W.	10-27-14	31 - 41N - 70W		4-11-22	35 - 39N - 75W
Kershner, Jess K.	2- 3-22	17 - 40N - 74W	Knighten, Dave	9-13-15	7 - 40N - 76W
	2- 3-22	8 - 40N - 74W		5-20-15	6 - 40N - 77W
	6-20-23	25 - 29N - 75W	Knox, Frederick R.	11- 8-35	26 - 30N - 75W
Ketchum, Razor S.	10-20-21	30 - 31N - 76W	Knox, James M., Assgn.	7-18-21	11 - 36N - 70W
Keyt, Dan W.	1-31-25	7 - 39N - 71W		7-12-21	11 - 36N - 70W
Kiley/Meeker, Bess E.	3-26-23	12 - 37N - 72W	Koch, Jake L.	1-28-26	30 - 41N - 71W
Kimball, Bert	6-16-32	30 - 32N - 76W		1-28-26	2 - 40N - 72W
Kimball, D. E. et al Assgn.	11-20-16	5 - 33N - 76W		1-28-26	35 - 41N - 72W
Kimball, Daniel B. et al	4-16-14	5 - 33N - 76W	Koehnke, Claus M.	12-11-22	29 - 33N - 68W
Kimball, Emerson S.	12- 9- 7	23 - 32N - 75W		12-11-22	30 - 33N - 68W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Kolacny, Ed	12-19-21	29 - 34N - 76W	Landerfield, Conrad	5- 9-12	1 - 33N - 68W
Kolacny, Jerry	9-22-21	22 - 34N - 76W	Lane, William	2- 2-20	22 - 32N - 69W
Kolend, Lewis	5-12- 5	8 - 33N - 67W	Lang, Art	8-30-20	2 - 33N - 70W
Kollars, Anton R.	4- 9-23	21 - 36N - 68W	Langfitt, Robert	12-17-00	27 - 40N - 75W
	4- 9-23	22 - 36N - 68W	Lanich, Harold	1-28-26	18 - 40N - 73W
Killars/Maxwell, Ethel	2-25-28	22 - 36N - 68W	Lanich, I. Delbert	7-11-12	14 - 32N - 67W
	2-25-28	27 - 36N - 68W		12-11-11	14 - 32N - 67W
Kopp, Arthur J.	11-18-24	17 - 34N - 76W	Lanning, Noel R.	8-20-23	21 - 35N - 72W
Kopp, Thomas Raymond	10-29-24	17 - 34N - 76W	Larkin, Miles J.	9-19-23	34 - 35N - 68W
Kornegay, George	1-10-20	28 - 31N - 68W	Larmon, Isabel	4-15-20	28 - 36N - 70W
	5-27-26	20 - 31N - 68W		3-10-20	28 - 36N - 70W
Kothe, George E.	7-13-25	4 - 34N - 76W	Larmon, Mary B.	3-23-23	3 - 35N - 70W
	2-21-27	4 - 34N - 76W	Larsen, Lars P.	3- 1-29	23 - 39N - 73W
Kothe, John	12- 1-21	3 - 34N - 76W		3-10-28	22 - 39N - 73W
Kothe, Perry H.	12- 4-22	2 - 34N - 76W	Larson, A. Henning	7-26-18	30 - 33N - 72W
Kowaleski, Boleslaw	10- 2-11	7 - 32N - 60W	Larson, Alexander L.	9-25-18	26 - 33N - 73W
Krahn, Paul	9- 7-29	35 - 35N - 73W	Larson, Clarence V.	9- 6-35	6 - 35N - 73W
Kramer, Charles E.	5- 9-12	3 - 33N - 68W	Larson, Gus A.	1-17-36	6 - 35N - 72W
Krassow, Elmer E.	3-18-30	25 - 40N - 74W	Larson, Harry	8-27-23	18 - 40N - 72W
Krassow, Harvey W.	4- 9-23	13 - 39N - 73W	Larson, Hilmer S.	4- 8-35	13 - 39N - 77W
Krause, Carroll E.	3-10-22	5 - 40N - 72W	Larson, John R.	6-24-18	25 - 33N - 73W
	8-21-35	4 - 40N - 72W	Larson, Scott W.	9-24-35	3 - 35N - 72W
	3-10-22	5 - 40N - 72W	Larson, Wayhe	8- 6-35	28 - 36N - 76W
	3-10-22	4 - 40N - 72W	Lasher, William J.	8-26-26	27 - 33N - 75W
Krause, Harold P.	11-24-22	8 - 40N - 72W		8-26-26	22 - 33N - 75W
Krause, Victor W.	6-19-22	32 - 41N - 72W	Lass, Alfred	7-28-20	2 - 31N - 74W
	5-17-22	6 - 40N - 72W		7-29-20	1 - 31N - 74W
	5-17-22	5 - 40N - 72W		5-21-14	2 - 31N - 74W
Krebardis, Mamie	9-23-38	8 - 36N - 75W	Lassiter, Milada Kulik	3-22-22	27 - 37N - 69W
Krebs, Carl Frank	3-24-27	3 - 38N - 75W	Latham, Francis E.	12-17-35	1 - 35N - 72W
Krone, Fred	2- 4-20	8 - 32N - 68W	Lathrop, Flossie v.	1-12-34	21 - 36N - 68W
	8-28-25	8 - 32N - 68W	Laudeback, Clara	1-29-19	29 - 33N - 67W
Krouse, Peter M.	2- 3-11	28 - 32N - 67W	Laughlin, Charles J.	10-14-20	17 - 31N - 67W
Kruczek, Stanley	2- 2-38	3 - 38N - 76W	Laumer, Joseph	4-24-11	23 - 31N - 75W
Krueger, Albert	11-22-47	10 - 39N - 76W	Law, Raymond E.	10- 6-21	4 - 38N - 70W
	11- 9-22	10 - 39N - 76W	Lawless, Thomas J.	9-16-21	31 - 33N - 68W
Kube, Arthur Frank	9-11-23	9 - 34N - 73W	Lawson, Emil E.	12-12-28	30 - 36N - 69W
	9-11-23	4 - 34N - 73W		10-16-22	24 - 35N - 71W
Kucera, Bohumil F.	1- 6-26	29 - 29N - 70W	Layton, Albert C.	5-13-24	33 - 34N - 74W
Kugler, John M.	12- 4-22	18 - 39N - 69W	Layton, Francis M.	12- 9-21	5 - 33N - 74W
	12- 4-21	32 - 39N - 71W		12- 9-21	29 - 34N - 74W
Kunze, Leo Paul	8-11-21	1 - 37N - 70W	Layton, Scott E.	4-21-24	32 - 34N - 74W
Kunze, Myron R.	9-11-22	1 - 37N - 70W	Leach, George A.	9-11-23	27 - 34N - 74W
Kurtz, Louis F.	5-27-26	21 - 36N - 73W	Leach, Lewis A.	9-19-23	23 - 35N - 77W
	12-28-21	17 - 36N - 73W		5-10-23	35 - 35N - 77W
Kutzler, William R.	4-23-11	28 - 32N - 70W		5-10-23	34 - 35N - 77W
Kuykendall, Charles Warren	2-14-44	17 - 36N - 67W	Leahy, Gene M.	3- 1-40	3 - 29N - 76W
Kuykendall, Ethel D.	1-24-25	25 - 37N - 71W	Leahy, John J.	12-21-36	9 - 29N - 76W
Kuykendall, G. Clinton	3-24-38	4 - 36N - 71W	LeBar, Artie V.	3-24-23	9 - 32N - 72W
Kuykendall, George G.	11- 5-25	34 - 36N - 71W	LeBar, Carl W.	6-29-27	7 - 34N - 70W
Kuykendall, Verner A.	12-14-25	30 - 37N - 70W		6-29-27	12 - 34N - 71W
LaRue, Anna L.	3-21-34	29 - 40N - 77W	Legar, Paul	5-11-25	18 - 34N - 69W
Ladd, Basil R.; Heirs	8-27-13	20 - 32N - 67W		8- 9-28	15 - 34N - 70W
Ladgin, Joseph	5-27-26	5 - 33N - 67W	Lecamana, Fernando	12- 9-21	4 - 31N - 70W
LaFrentz, F. W.	5-17-89	8 - 33N - 73W	Ledford, Harry	12- 9-24	29 - 35N - 71W
Laitner, Frank	4- 9-23	28 - 37N - 69W	Ledgerwood, Joseph S.	4-15-20	28 - 36N - 73W
Laitner, Raymond	5-28-35	26 - 37N - 69W	Lee, Robert E.	5- 3-21	6 - 35N - 70W
Lakanan, Oscar A.	9-16-25	29 - 32N - 75W		5- 3-21	6 - 37N - 70W
Lakanan, Andrew	10-11-21	29 - 32N - 75W	Leet, Daniel M.	12-14-89	4 - 32N - 71W
Lakanen, Hanna	4-10-23	32 - 32N - 75W		11- 5-90	17 - 31N - 70W
Lakanen, Oscar A.	9-16-25	32 - 32N - 75W	Leet, John E.	11- 5-90	9 - 32N - 71W
Lakso, Jacob	5- 9-22	18 - 32N - 75W		12-14-89	21 - 31N - 70W
Kakso, John	10-13-33	12 - 32N - 76W	Leffler, Jessie	6-24-18	13 - 33N - 70W
	8-10-25	20 - 32N - 75W		9-17-18	8 - 31N - 70W
Lakso, Victor	11-18-20	19 - 32N - 75W	Lehman, Harvey S.	1-23-22	32 - 36N - 73W
	4-15-24	18 - 32N - 75W		1-23-22	31 - 36N - 73W
	11- 6-22	53 - 32N - 76W	Lehner, Mike A.	6-30-26	20 - 36N - 76W
	12-12-32	17 - 33N - 75W	Lehr, Dean	12-10-21	34 - 41N - 73W
Lam, Aurora	4- 1-12	34 - 35N - 75W		12-10-21	27 - 41N - 73W
Lam, Claude W.	6-20-16	2 - 34N - 75W	Leighton, James W.	4- 4-34	34 - 41N - 77W
Lam, Irby	3-26- 8	8 - 30N - 74W	Leitch, Margaret E.	2-27-14	28 - 32N - 67W
Lamb, Annie R.	9-27-37	4 - 32N - 77W	Leman, Bessie M.	10- 6-19	3 - 29N - 75W
Lamb, Bernard M.	11-22- 4	7 - 30N - 74W		7-11-12	35 - 30N - 75W
Lambe, Annie R.	5- 8- 1	4 - 30N - 74W	Leman, Dennis W.	12-16-20	35 - 33N - 75W
Lambe, George I.	7-22-12	32 - 31N - 74W		5-10-22	32 - 30N - 74W
	2-18- 3	9 - 30N - 74W		10- 2-11	3 - 29N - 75W
Lampman, Charles H.	5-19-36	4 - 36N - 75W		4-16-90	11 - 31N - 73W
Lampman, Chester M.	4-12-32	15 - 36N - 75W		2-28-93	11 - 31N - 74W
Lampman, Ned D.	10-11-35	11 - 36N - 75W	Leman, Douglas W.	4-13-11	3 - 29N - 75W
Lancaster, Thomas A.	10-13-33	10 - 30N - 71W	Lennox, Lewis	4-12-32	12 - 30N - 75W
Lander, Henry J.	5- 1-22	32 - 38N - 72W	Lent, Fred A.	11- 1-11	28 - 32N - 68W
	5- 1-22	6 - 37N - 72W	Lenzen, Earl W.	1-27-22	6 - 37N - 71W
				1-11-27	18 - 36N - 74W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Leonard, D. Porter	2- 9-11	10 - 32N - 68W	Lovitt, Wray	6- 4-30	25 - 34N - 70W
Leonard, Harvey A.	1-22-13	14 - 32N - 68W	Low, Clarence C.	2-16-22	35 - 38N - 71W
Leonard, Mark K.	1-12-23	10 - 38N - 73W	Lowndes, Joseph M.	3-19- 8	7 - 32N - 73W
Leonard, Susie Leebrick	2-13-26	29 - 31N - 68W	Lowry, George O.	11-20-16	2 - 35N - 70W
	11- 8-28	19 - 31N - 68W		6-30-24	2 - 35N - 70W
Leonard, Zoe	4-21-23	27 - 37N - 70W		4- 8-12	2 - 35N - 70W
	4-21-23	34 - 37N - 70W	Lowry, George W.	5-16-10	16 - 33N - 72W
Lepper, Joseph A.	1-13-22	6 - 34N - 73W	Lowry, Lellis L.	2- 3-22	33 - 36N - 67W
Leth, Arthur William	10-12-25	14 - 35N - 74W	Lucas, Cecil M.	2-21-27	2 - 40N - 74W
Leuenberger, Albert J.	11-27-23	24 - 34N - 74W	Lucas, James E.	4-29-24	25 - 38N - 73W
	11-27-23	30 - 34N - 73W		4-29-24	24 - 38N - 73W
Leuenberger, Edward F.	1-23-22	18 - 34N - 73W	Lucas, Reuben B.	10- 3-21	12 - 40N - 75W
Leuenberger, Frederick	3-23-23	13 - 34N - 74W		10- 3-21	7 - 40N - 74W
Leuenberger, Jesse P.	12- 9-21	14 - 34N - 74W	Ludden, Robert Leslie	7-28-20	35 - 37N - 70W
Levasseur, Jules	11-17-27	17 - 31N - 74W		7-28-20	26 - 37N - 70W
	1-17- 2	20 - 31N - 74W	Leuth, Arthur	2-20-26	31 - 39N - 73W
	6- 9-20	29 - 31N - 74W	Likanitsch, Edward J.	7-30-23	9 - 40N - 69W
	7-21-21	20 - 31N - 74W		7-30-23	4 - 40N - 69W
	5-12- 3	20 - 31N - 74W	Lund, Martin J.	3-13-23	27 - 35N - 70W
	10-20-21	29 - 31N - 74W		3-13-23	34 - 35N - 70W
Levasseur, Mary F.	5-13- 3	21 - 31N - 74W	Lund/Losbell, Helen	12-15-20	24 - 35N - 70W
	12-16- 7	17 - 31N - 74W	Lundberg, Carl David	4-16-23	30 - 35N - 69W
	4-15-21	29 - 31N - 74W	Lundberg, Felix E.	3-26-23	10 - 34N - 70W
Leveque, Moises	12- 4-22	27 - 39N - 76W		3-26-23	2 - 34N - 70W
Levi, William H.	12-28-21	2 - 30N - 73W	Lundberg, Fred W.	8- 2-28	20 - 35N - 71W
	6- 7-20	1 - 30N - 73W		8- 2-28	18 - 35N - 71W
Lewandoski, Peter O.	10- 9-22	29 - 35N - 68W	Lungclas, Florence I.	2-16-22	23 - 35N - 71W
Lewin, Charles E.	5-25-17	3 - 32N - 71W	Lutcavish, Charles M.	8-17-32	2 - 38N - 71W
	5-25-17	34 - 33N - 71W	Lux, Joseph H.	1-24-27	28 - 34N - 78W
Lewis, Edward J.	5- 5- 4	4 - 35N - 70W	Lyman, Richard M.	7- 9- 2	30 - 30N - 70W
Lewis, John G.	12-20-24	30 - 38N - 71W		1-10- 1	17 - 32N - 71W
Lewis, John I.	2-16-22	20 - 40N - 75W	Lynch, Anna Lenoure	6-18-35	32 - 38N - 71W
Lewis, John R.	7-20-37	26 - 37N - 68W	Lynch, Horace G.	9-15-31	23 - 39N - 71W
Lewis, Louise	8-15-21	35 - 29N - 75W		1-23-22	28 - 38N - 70W
Lewis, Ralph	9-11-23	33 - 29N - 73W	Lynch, William J.	5-18-25	9 - 34N - 72W
	9-11-23	32 - 29N - 73W		5-18-25	10 - 34N - 72W
Lewis, Roy H.	9- 8-25	4 - 34N - 69W	Lynn, Robert J.	8- 8-34	20 - 41N - 76W
	8-24-24	28 - 36N - 69W	Lyon, Charles W.	6-18- 8	26 - 30N - 74W
Liggett, John H.	5-22-36	17 - 36N - 74W	MacDonald, John	12-28-25	9 - 39N - 74W
	3- 9-27	17 - 36N - 74W	Mack, Lucille	6-12-23	25 - 34N - 76W
	6-15-31	17 - 36N - 74W	Macken, John	11-11-22	23 - 40N - 74W
	5-22-36	10 - 36N - 74W	Madden, Peter	10-19-23	7 - 38N - 72W
	9-27-21	10 - 36N - 74W		10-19-23	17 - 38N - 72W
Lindburg, Esther	12-11-22	30 - 37N - 73W	Madden, William	7- 2-90	9 - 33N - 73W
	12-11-22	29 - 37N - 73W	Madsen, J.	3- 8-22	11 - 32N - 72W
Lindeman, Albert A.	12-12-28	19 - 39N - 74W	Madsen, Martin	3-20-29	11 - 37N - 71W
Lindeman, George Everett	7-10-31	32 - 38N - 75W		8-24- 7	11 - 37N - 71W
Linden, James H.	10-14-20	20 - 34N - 69W	Magee, William W.	3-13-23	28 - 31N - 73W
Lindley, Clifford Gray	10- 5-20	2 - 31N - 69W		3-13-23	33 - 31N - 73W
Lindmier, William C.	2-16-20	21 - 34N - 67W	Maier, Richard E.	8-18-16	10 - 31N - 76W
Lindsey, John M.	2- 6-23	34 - 41N - 71W		10-20-21	15 - 31N - 76W
Link, William R.	10-28-20	34 - 29N - 71W		9-11-24	10 - 31N - 76W
Lister, Vannie M.	6-18-24	18 - 34N - 71W	Malesky, Frank P.	3-31-23	12 - 40N - 69W
Loar, James O.	6-21-26	33 - 39N - 71W	Malesky, Edward A.	7-16-23	2 - 40N - 69W
Lockenour, Roy Merle	11-22-21	23 - 34N - 75W	Malesky, Joseph	11-15-23	1 - 40N - 69W
	11-22-21	25 - 34N - 75W	Mann, Joy B.	6-16-32	4 - 39N - 67W
Lockett, B. F.	8- 5-36	6 - 32N - 76W	Mann, Seyner S.	1-30-33	4 - 39N - 67W
	10-25-13	32 - 34N - 76W	Mann/Shinn, Opal	3-28-24	8 - 33N - 68W
Lockwood, Floyd M.	11- 5-90	20 - 32N - 71W		8-11-21	7 - 33N - 68W
Lodder, George	9-19-24	1 - 39N - 75W	Manning, Aubrey W.	4-11-22	23 - 38N - 74W
Lofstead, John E.	9-15-33	7 - 39N - 69W	Manning, Carl L.	6-14-20	14 - 38N - 74W
Logan, Annie C.	5-24- 7	3 - 38N - 71W		5-24-21	11 - 38N - 74W
Logan, Ivan Joseph	1-27-22	25 - 39N - 71W		9-27-21	15 - 38N - 74W
Logan, Kenneth	9-15-32	33 - 38N - 72W		11- 4-20	11 - 38N - 74W
Logan, Leslie R.	5-14-19	25 - 31N - 71W	Manning, Edgar W.	5-12-21	11 - 38N - 74W
	8-13-20	26 - 39N - 71W			
Logan, Louis J.	4-21-23	29 - 39N - 70W		5-12-21	12 - 38N - 74W
Logan, Nettie N.	5-24- 7	19 - 38N - 71W		3-16-21	10 - 38N - 74W
Logan/Morley, Clara	11-20-16	27 - 36N - 72W	Manning, Fred R.	10-29-20	15 - 38N - 74W
Logan/Rutherford, Clara E.	12-21-23	6 - 34N - 71W		9-23-22	15 - 38N - 74W
Long, Donald R.	3-10-22	35 - 35N - 75W	Manning, Harry M.	8-23-22	19 - 39N - 73W
	3-10-22	34 - 35N - 75W	Manning, William	3- 1-22	24 - 38N - 74W
	5-27- 3	34 - 41N - 74W		3- 1-22	13 - 38N - 74W
Long, Effie M.	1- 7-22	21 - 35N - 67W	Manser, David A.	8- 6-26	14 - 35N - 76W
Long, Emma	9-27-21	21 - 34N - 74W	Maple, Clarence	3-21-34	17 - 37N - 75W
Long, Frank Charles	4-29-13	11 - 31N - 72W	Maple, Glen	4-28-38	32 - 37N - 75W
Long, Kirb S.	12- 9-21	25 - 31N - 72W	Maple, Lester E.	2-27-25	3 - 38N - 76W
Long, Opal	3-23-23	33 - 41N - 74W		2-27-25	2 - 38N - 76W
Long, Ralph R.	7-10-34	11 - 36N - 68W	Maple, Mary	7-26-38	26 - 37N - 76W
Lore, Floyd B.	1-18- 9	35 - 33N - 68W	Marble, Francis M.A.	8-30-20	13 - 36N - 69W
Lost Springs Coal Co.	8-18-21	27 - 36N - 69W		8-30-20	18 - 36N - 68W
Louis, T. Henry Douglas	2-14-23	29 - 34N - 70W	Marburger, Albert C.	8- 1-21	34 - 32N - 69W
Lovelace, Flora M.	2-14-23	1 - 33N - 70W	Marburger, George L.	2- 4-20	25 - 32N - 69W
Lovitt, James C.	6-29-29	1 - 33N - 70W	Marchant, William W.	12-14-11	3 - 38N - 73W
	10-26-25	30 - 34N - 69W			
Lovitt, Mary A.	3-31-23	30 - 34N - 69W			



NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Miller, William M.	8- 5-15	30 - 32N - 67W	More/ Lass, Verna Marie	8-12-40	26 - 35N - 75W
	2- 3-22	7 - 38N - 74W	Morgan, Frank J.	5-10-27	15 - 32N - 77W
	2- 3-22	21 - 38N - 75W	Morgan, John H.	7-14- 8	3 - 33N - 76W
Miller/Peterson, Nettie	5-24-23	8 - 31N - 76W	Morris, John W. B.	2-28-94	12 - 33N - 74W
	5-24-23	5 - 31N - 76W	Morrison, Amos C.	11- 6-96	20 - 28N - 72W
Miller/Shaffer, Ella	7-16-19	21 - 32N - 70W		6-20-94	17 - 28N - 72W
Mills, A. Byard	8- 1-21	29 - 36N - 69W	Morrison, Bess E.	12-11-22	28 - 37N - 74W
	8- 1-21	28 - 36N - 69W		12-11-22	21 - 37N - 74W
Mills, Alice	10-31-21	19 - 29N - 75W	Morrison, Egbert E.	11-15-23	4 - 36N - 67W
Mills, Anna	4-13-16	20 - 33N - 67W	Morrison, Harley R.	4-25-21	28 - 35N - 71W
Mills, Frank D.	12-19-21	30 - 36N - 69W	Morrison, John	9-25-89	15 - 31N - 71W
	12-19-21	19 - 36N - 69W	Morrison, John Troy	12- 4-22	29 - 35N - 71W
Mills, George A.	3- 4-22	13 - 29N - 76W		12- 4-22	21 - 35N - 71W
Mills, Jack	6- 1-34	34 - 34N - 77W	Morse, Charles L.	4-15-20	3 - 30N - 73W
Mills, John H.	7- 1-19	9 - 40N - 74W		4-15-20	10 - 30N - 73W
	10-20-21	25 - 29N - 72W	Morse, Emma M.	7-18-21	36 - 30N - 73W
	5-29-20	9 - 40N - 74W	Mortimore, Morton E.	6- 8-16	35 - 33N - 76W
Mills, John T.	7- 6-15	21 - 33N - 67W		11-24-22	10 - 32N - 76W
	12- 9-22	12 - 34N - 67W	Mortimore, Nannie	9-12-27	14 - 32N - 76W
	4-17-16	22 - 33N - 67W	Mortimore, Silas	5-12- 2	15 - 32N - 76W
Mills, Mary L.	2-13-22	31 - 29N - 71W	Morton, Alexander	4-17-22	5 - 29N - 71W
Minnick, Edwin H.	7-22-20	31 - 34N - 71W		6-29-21	24 - 30N - 72W
	3-25-26	32 - 34N - 71W	Morton, Claude A.	7- 8-21	5 - 30N - 71W
Minnick/Ammons, Hattie H.	1-23-35	6 - 36N - 72W	Morton, Edward J.	4-14-36	23 - 33N - 72W
Mitchell, Florence; Heirs	5-14-19	7 - 30N - 73W	Morton, James D.	6- 3-38	8 - 39N - 69W
Mitchell, Harry	10- 4-20	22 - 33N - 70W	Morton, John	6-26-11	8 - 33N - 72W
	6-23-24	21 - 33N - 70W		7-20-11	17 - 40N - 72W
Mitchell, James	10-16-11	20 - 31N - 70W		3-23-11	1 - 32N - 72W
	3- 1-22	20 - 31N - 70W		12-28-25	20 - 32N - 74W
Mitchell, Rutherford R.	2- 3-22	19 - 32N - 69W	Morton, John Robert	5- 4-21	20 - 32N - 74W
Mitchell, Samuel A.	2-10-22	29 - 41N - 75W		10- 2-11	18 - 40N - 72W
	2-10-22	30 - 41N - 75W	Morton, Mary Beulah	2-13-26	5 - 30N - 71W
Mitchell, Walter F.	4-22-27	10 - 32N - 72W	Morton, Mary M.	12-11-14	30 - 33N - 73W
	11-10-22	10 - 32N - 72W	Morton, Mrs. John	10-24-34	4 - 36N - 72W
Moeller, Alonzo H.	3- 4-22	30 - 35N - 76W		5-12-37	25 - 36N - 72W
Moffat, Daniel W.	12- 9-21	23 - 31N - 71W		5-17-20	13 - 32N - 73W
Moffett, Charles H.	8-16-22	26 - 29N - 74W		4-12-31	30 - 36N - 72W
	9-16-22	25 - 39N - 74W	Morton, Virgil S.	2-23-92	9 - 29N - 72W
Moffett, Richard C.; Heirs	9-27-38	5 - 28N - 71W	Morton/Kenyon, Mary P.	9-23-38	1 - 28N - 71W
Moffett, Robert D.	12-12-32	17 - 33N - 75W	Mortons, Incorporated	5-20-33	29 - 36N - 71W
Mohr, Carroll S.	8- 2-28	2 - 36N - 70W		7- 8-35	12 - 34N - 71W
	12-13-30	6 - 37N - 69W		7- 8-37	19 - 38N - 71W
Mohr, Nell S.	10-18-28	19 - 39N - 68W		7- 8-37	4 - 35N - 70W
Mondragon, Edward	10-24-34	20 - 30N - 72W	Moseman, Andrew	1-13-22	21 - 31N - 76W
Montross, Walter S.	3-10-17	34 - 33N - 72W	Moseman, Henry A.	12-10-21	13 - 31N - 76W
Moody, James	10- 2- 5	19 - 35N - 69W	Moss, Leona	6-17-18	17 - 31N - 70W
	10-23- 7	11 - 35N - 69W	Moye, Joseph W.	1-24-25	29 - 40N - 69W
Moody, John	5-24-30	31 - 36N - 74W	Moyer, Doyle D.	6-12-23	31 - 41N - 75W
Moody, John M.	3-27-14	14 - 32N - 71W	Moyer, Edward E.	4-12-23	35 - 41N - 75W
Mooney, Maud Agnes	5-21-28	24 - 37N - 69W	Muck, Abe	8-11-21	12 - 32N - 70W
	1-31-27	4 - 36N - 68W	Muck, Dory A.	8-11-21	11 - 32N - 70W
Moore, Amanda	7- 6-33	7 - 40N - 75W	Muck, James E.	1-27-22	24 - 32N - 70W
	7-26-33	11 - 40N - 74W	Muck, Joseph et al	10- 6-21	11 - 32N - 70W
Moore, Charles A.	2-13-26	1 - 31N - 73W	Muir, James R. C.	7-22-14	4 - 32N - 74W
Moore, Earl	6-16-32	11 - 39N - 71W		6-29-21	17 - 33N - 73W
	4- 2-25	14 - 39N - 71W	Mulhern, Lemuel	2-18-21	29 - 33N - 73W
Moore, Idna I.	6- 5-20	22 - 40N - 77W	Mullen, James J.	7-14-24	30 - 39N - 68W
Moore, Elizabeth B.	12-14-89	3 - 32N - 71W		9-11-17	35 - 34N - 77W
Moore, Frank D.	4-21-23	24 - 34N - 75W	Mullen, Mary	5-17- 9	34 - 34N - 77W
Moore, George G.	4-21-24	34 - 34N - 75W	Mulvihill, Robert	1-27-22	27 - 34N - 77W
	4-21-24	18 - 36N - 75W		2- 9-28	27 - 33N - 77W
Moore, Helen S.	10-12-23	1 - 40N - 76W	Munday, George	2-10-27	34 - 33N - 77W
	3- 2-39	4 - 40N - 76W	Mundy, Thomas P.	3- 8-98	9 - 27N - 72W
Moore, John William	8-15-34	20 - 32N - 76W	Munkres, Lewis	6-29-21	7 - 32N - 69W
Moore, Lee	2- 2-38	11 - 40N - 77W		6-26-14	30 - 33N - 69W
Moore, Leroy	8-14-11	5 - 36N - 68W	Munkres, Louis	11- 8-28	2 - 32N - 69W
	3-27-14	4 - 36N - 68W	Munkres, Louis W.	5-14-19	19 - 33N - 69W
	10-23-41	7 - 40N - 76W	Munsinger, Edwin	6-23-24	30 - 33N - 69W
	7-10-39	23 - 40N - 75W	Munson, Carrie M.	5-18-39	17 - 34N - 75W
	11-16-14	9 - 36N - 68W		9-15-16	21 - 31N - 70W
	3-10-15	4 - 36N - 68W	Murphey, John F.	10-11-21	28 - 31N - 70W
	7-14-39	13 - 40N - 74W		2- 4-19	1 - 32N - 71W
	11-12-12	15 - 35N - 70W	Murphy, Charlie M.	4-15-21	22 - 34N - 70W
Moore, Margarette	3-26- 8	21 - 40N - 61W		5-13-31	32 - 41N - 68W
Moore, Omer E.	2-27-14	32 - 32N - 67W	Murphy, Joseph	5-13-31	23 - 41N - 68W
Moore, Robert F.	10-23-14	12 - 36N - 70W	Murphy, Thomas H.	5-20-32	9 - 33N - 71W
Moore, Spencer	3- 8-19	15 - 32N - 68W	Muselman, Fred E.	11- 4-26	1 - 36N - 76W
Moore, Willard C.	6-22-22	8 - 35N - 69W	Musick, Beryl	12- 1-21	22 - 31N - 69W
Moore, William J.	11-21-23	17 - 35N - 69W	Musick, Eli Edward	11-10-30	10 - 39N - 73W
Moran, Addie	9-24- 3	14 - 31N - 70W		1-12-23	31 - 38N - 74W
More, Charlie H.	1-31-27	31 - 40N - 71W	Musick, Eurie C.	1-12-23	29 - 38N - 74W
More, Jimmie D.	4-25-31	35 - 40N - 72W		3-26-25	22 - 39N - 73W
				4- 2-25	22 - 39N - 73W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Marcy, Hattie M.	10-22-20	34 - 37N - 72W	Matuszewski, George	10- 2-25	22 - 35N - 69W
Mares, Samuel, Lgl Repr.	6-12-20	34 - 37N - 74W	Maurer, Charles F.	9-11-22	11 - 40N - 69W
Margritz, Earl Forrest	7-18-21	4 - 32N - 69W		2-24-13	18 - 33N - 76W
	7-18-21	8 - 32N - 69W	Maurer, Roy	10-25-38	6 - 35N - 74W
Margritz, George O.	4- 8-20	8 - 32N - 69W	Mawhorr, John C.	3- 7-34	10 - 36N - 68W
Markle, J. Bryon	12-12-23	7 - 40N - 71W	Maxwell, Philip	9-28-11	2 - 37N - 73W
	12-12-23	8 - 40N - 71W		2-24-20	2 - 37N - 73W
Marlott, Winfield S.	6-27- 3	3 - 36N - 68W	May, Erwin R.	1-13-22	14 - 37N - 72W
Marquardt, Louis H.	1- 8-24	15 - 37N - 69W	May, Guy S.	4-29-24	21 - 33N - 69W
Marquissee, Alice	7-18-21	34 - 39N - 73W	May, John G.	10-11-21	5 - 38N - 71W
	7-18-21	3 - 38N - 73W		10-11-21	3 - 38N - 71W
Marsden, James	6-19-22	11 - 31N - 72W	May, Robert L.	3-31-26	19 - 31N - 68W
	6-19-22	13 - 31N - 72W		3-31-26	8 - 31N - 68W
Marsden, John W.	11- 5-90	22 - 31N - 72W		11-22-27	29 - 31N - 68W
Marsden, Mary J.	11-12-14	15 - 31N - 72W		4-15-20	8 - 31N - 68W
Marsh, Della Burdett	5-22-24	35 - 31N - 69W	Mayberry, Fred B.	10-16-22	26 - 36N - 71W
Marsh/Pexton, Anna	8-31-28	15 - 38N - 76W	Mayer, Lucy A.	5-11-25	4 - 40N - 75W
Marshall, Orr S.	12-27-95	19 - 30N - 72W	Mayo, Charles P.	5-13- 4	2 - 32N - 67W
Marshall, Ralph M.	9-11-17	3 - 37N - 73W	Mayo/ Nelley, Edith	10-11-15	1 - 34N - 68W
Marsteller, Ivan L.	6- 7-20	33 - 29N - 75W	McCann, William	3- 5- 8	21 - 31N - 76W
Marten, Bert	5-27- 7	13 - 38N - 66W	McCloskey, Charles	11- 5-90	29 - 32N - 62W
	2-16-22	25 - 39N - 76W	McClure, Walter	6- 3-12	34 - 31N - 77W
	9-11-17	35 - 39N - 76W	McCrillis, Mathew S.	2- 3-11	3 - 32N - 71W
	7-28-20	25 - 39N - 76W	McDowell, Arthur E.	10- 9-22	21 - 34N - 70W
Martin, Charles T.	9-30-25	21 - 36N - 74W	McGowen, George M.	10-19- 5	5 - 32N - 71W
Martin, Frank	5-19-36	25 - 40N - 71W	McPherson, Thomas	9-11- 5	7 - 32N - 73W
Martin, George R.	6-27- 3	33 - 31N - 74W	McSweeney, Elizabeth	10- 5-11	35 - 31N - 70W
Martin, Gertrude	6-29-23	29 - 39N - 72W	McBride, Thomas	21-18-24	21 - 40N - 71W
Martin, Lewis B.	9-19-23	32 - 39N - 72W		11-18-24	21 - 40N - 71W
	9-19-23	33 - 39N - 72W	McBride/Lovelace, Flora	9-29-24	29 - 34N - 70W
	9-19-23	33 - 39N - 72W	McCann, John W.	8-11-21	21 - 31N - 68W
Martin, Merle C.	12-20-24	27 - 38N - 71W	McCarten, Dora J.	1-13-22	25 - 36N - 68W
Martin, Prosser R.	2-14-23	7 - 39N - 75W		1-13-22	19 - 36N - 67W
Martin, Ralph J.	2- 4-26	24 - 39N - 72W	McCartney, George H.	2-26-21	25 - 36N - 69W
Martin, Thomas J.	11-16-14	24 - 31N - 77W		2-26-21	23 - 36N - 69W
	10- 9-22	14 - 31N - 77W	McCartney, William W.	1-12-34	11 - 36N - 69W
	7-16- 8	15 - 31N - 77W	McCarty, Jim	6- 8-16	22 - 36N - 69W
Martin, William P.	1- 3-24	4 - 35N - 71W		5-17-20	14 - 36N - 69W
Martindale, Joe	4-14-37	18 - 28N - 71W	McCarty, Thomas F.	11- 5-25	3 - 32N - 70W
Martinez, Josefina	3- 3-32	28 - 36N - 72W		11- 7-23	2 - 32N - 70W
Martinez, Louis	6- 7-40	30 - 36N - 71W	McClaflin, Cloe C.	11-22-40	3 - 37N - 74W
Marts, Dwight	9-11-24	35 - 36N - 73W	McClary, Marion	10-29-30	21 - 32N - 77W
Marts, George E.	6- 7-21	23 - 29N - 76W	McCleary, John	5-21-28	28 - 32N - 77W
Marts, Sylvester J.	6- 9-26	27 - 36N - 73W		2-13-26	33 - 32N - 77W
Marvin, Alve E.	5-13-16	3 - 32N - 72W	McCleary, Marion	10-29-30	28 - 32N - 77W
Masek, John L.	12-21-22	11 - 32N - 69W	McCleary, Raymond	3-16-36	17 - 31N - 77W
	12-21-22	2 - 32N - 69W	McCleary, Fred	11-30-26	2 - 27N - 72W
Mason, Clarence S.	3- 5-41	16 - 32N - 68W	McClune, Paul	8-23-15	26 - 31N - 77W
Mason, Cyrus N.	5-23- 5	9 - 31N - 68W	McClune/Brumbaugh, Elizabeth	12-11-19	26 - 31N - 77W
	5-19- 3	30 - 28N - 72W	McClure, John W.	5-21-14	34 - 31N - 77W
Mason, Fred D.	11- 6-22	23 - 32N - 72W	McClure, William S.	11-18-24	8 - 34N - 73W
Mason, Freeman	5-24-20	20 - 32N - 68W	McClurg, Edgar W.	12- 9-21	25 - 35N - 72W
Mason, Laura D.	3- 7-22	23 - 32N - 72W		12- 9-21	23 - 35N - 72W
Mason, Laurens D.	12- 7-23	26 - 32N - 72W		4-16-26	23 - 35N - 72W
Mason, Lewis J.	5-18-25	34 - 37N - 74W	McClurg/Margritz, Grace	4-15-20	7 - 32N - 69W
	10-26-21	35 - 37N - 74W	McColl, James	6-29-20	17 - 33N - 69W
	5-22-36	35 - 37N - 74W		2-13-26	17 - 33N - 69W
Masterson, Montie	1-20-23	24 - 40N - 75W	McComb, Harry D.	5-26-20	19 - 33N - 70W
	1-20-23	13 - 40N - 75W		8-25-14	25 - 33N - 71W
Mathers, Charles	10- 7-30	25 - 40N - 73W		9-27-21	19 - 33N - 70W
Mathes, Fred Walter	9- 5-23	31 - 30N - 70W	McComb, Loyal G.	4-29-24	13 - 33N - 71W
Mathews, Charles C.	7-18-21	11 - 32N - 74W	McComb, Mollie June	6- 7-20	18 - 33N - 70W
	3- 9-11	11 - 32N - 74W		12- 1-21	7 - 33N - 70W
	7-18-21	2 - 32N - 74W		6- 7-20	18 - 33N - 70W
Mathews, George C.	3- 5-24	29 - 41N - 75W	McComb, Robert C.; Heirs	6-11-13	24 - 33N - 71W
Mathews, George W.	12-14-22	19 - 36N - 68W	McComb, William Grant	6-29-21	13 - 33N - 71W
Matlak, Frank	10-29-23	7 - 34N - 71W	McCool, Paul	2-14-25	35 - 36N - 72W
Matlock, Fred	11-29- 7	3 - 36N - 69W	McCormick, Richard H.	1-13-37	8 - 39N - 74W
Matsel, Charles	3- 1-22	5 - 31N - 75W	McCornish, Daniel J.	5- 4-14	12 - 32N - 68W
	6-27-16	6 - 31N - 75W	McCoy, Benjamin F.	4-10-25	6 - 33N - 69W
	3- 1-22	4 - 31N - 75W		8-30-20	31 - 34N - 69W
Matson, Omer N.	11-22-27	20 - 35N - 70W	McCoy, John B.	6-29-21	31 - 34N - 69W
Matthews, Lee Roy; Heirs	3-13-23	12 - 40N - 77W	McCrary, Carl J.	4-15-24	35 - 40N - 76W
Matthies, Louise	12-12-23	35 - 34N - 76W	McCrary, Earl C.	6-16-31	2 - 30N - 77W
Mattox, John G.	3-22-22	31 - 31N - 69W	McCrillis, John J.	12-23-14	10 - 32N - 71W
Mattox, Robert W.	11-27-23	3 - 37N - 68W	McCurdy, John W.	2- 6-42	8 - 29N - 76W
	11-27-23	4 - 37N - 68W	McDermitt, Herman Ray	1-16-24	32 - 41N - 72W
Mattox/Ritter, Mary C.	10- 7-24	29 - 38N - 68W		1-16-24	30 - 41N - 72W
	2- 7-24	30 - 38N - 68W	McDonald, Dale L.	10-11-35	9 - 40N - 76W
Mattson, Herman G.	2-16-22	4 - 40N - 75W	McDonald, Dick	3-12-24	8 - 28N - 71W
	2-16-22	3 - 40N - 75W	McDonald, Julius, Assgn.	8-17- 7	10 - 28N - 72W
Mattson, Paul Carl	11-21-23	31 - 40N - 76W			

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION TOWNSHIP, RANGE
McDowell, Charlie Gilbert	3-21-34	4 - 28N - 71W
McElhinney, Clare	3-12-25	14 - 34N - 76W
McElhinney, Robert T.	3-16-27	11 - 34N - 76W
	9-24-26	10 - 34N - 76W
McElhinney, Verne	6- 2-25	9 - 34N - 76W
	10-14-26	9 - 34N - 76W
McElroy, William H.	5- 9-14	34 - 32N - 73W
	11-16-14	34 - 32N - 73W
McFall, George Francis	8- 7-22	27 - 37N - 72W
McFarland, George B.	4-15-20	5 - 32N - 68W
	1- 8-24	5 - 32N - 68W
McGehee, George R.	2-16-22	25 - 32N - 69W
	10- 4-19	19 - 32N - 68W
McGehee, Jacob M.	10-17-00	31 - 37N - 67W
McGill, Earl	6- 6-29	20 - 39N - 76W
McGill, Leroy	9-27-21	21 - 39N - 76W
McGowan, George	7-24-19	28 - 33N - 71W
McGregor, G. S., Assgn.	6-12-19	3 - 32N - 72W
	7-29-20	2 - 31N - 71W
McGrew, Delford	5- 9-14	33 - 32N - 67W
McIntosh, Clarence J.	7-18-21	17 - 34N - 72W
McInturf, William F.	10-29-24	23 - 40N - 71W
McKay, William	10-27-20	24 - 34N - 70W
	10-27-20	5 - 34N - 70W
McKay/Neilsen, Abelone	5-24-20	29 - 33N - 70W
McKeegan, Donald B.	11-18-24	18 - 31N - 76W
McKenzie, Benjamin F.	4-12-23	13 - 35N - 72W
McKibben, Milford	2-26-21	18 - 31N - 67W
	8- 5-15	7 - 31N - 67W
McKilligan, Catherine I.	11-11-22	15 - 36N - 76W
McKinney, Harry L.	12-12-29	4 - 36N - 72W
McKinnis, Elmer H.	6- 1-21	29 - 35N - 73W
McKinnis, Lloyd W.	9-19-23	26 - 35N - 73W
McKinnis, Floyd W.	9-19-23	27 - 35N - 73W
McLaughlin, Charles J.	10-14-20	17 - 31N - 67W
McLaughlin, James D.	10- 9-22	2 - 37N - 72W
McLaughlin, John D.	1-12-26	33 - 34N - 70W
	9-16-25	33 - 34N - 70W
McLean, Charles B.	10-13-91	28 - 31N - 69W
McLean, Paul	12-11-22	26 - 38N - 69W
McMahan, Clifford L.	12-19-21	24 - 38N - 70W
McMahan, William H.	1-30-22	24 - 38N - 70W
	1-30-22	28 - 39N - 70W
McMahon, Catherine	9-28-23	30 - 32N - 75W
McMahon, Clifford L.	5-27-11	23 - 38N - 70W
McMahon, James P.	7-23-23	30 - 32N - 75W
McMains, Joseph R.	9-21-25	15 - 34N - 71W
McMickell, Harvey D.	12-18-23	1 - 39N - 77W
McMillan, Annie M.	3- 7-22	30 - 32N - 71W
McMillan, John T.	11-16-26	22 - 36N - 71W
McNaughton, Mista	3-12-24	28 - 41N - 75W
McNaughton, Wyatt	8-16-22	27 - 41N - 75W
McNeil, William	10-28- 4	9 - 33N - 75W
McNeil, William M.	6-29-20	9 - 33N - 75W
McPherson, John	11-22-22	19 - 32N - 72W
	11-22-22	29 - 32N - 72W
McPherson, Maggie Dorr	6-22-22	29 - 32N - 72W
	10- 9- 1	29 - 32N - 72W
McReynolds, Albert	5-27- 7	11 - 30N - 74W
	9-16-12	21 - 30N - 74W
	10- 6-10	10 - 30N - 74W
McReynolds, Bert	9-16-12	21 - 30N - 74W
	10- 6-10	10 - 30N - 74W
McReynolds, Ernest R.	1-16-24	29 - 41N - 73W
McReynolds/Ross, Dora Alma	3-23-23	9 - 41N - 73W
McRoberts, Charles L.	8-30-20	5 - 38N - 69W
McSweeney, Eugene Jr.	5-22-14	25 - 31N - 70W
McVay, Olla	4-25-38	8 - 28N - 71W
McVey, John E.	2-12-18	30 - 31N - 67W
	1-16-17	30 - 31N - 67W
Mead, Forrest D.	5- 3-41	7 - 39N - 72W
	10-19-23	12 - 39N - 73W
	10-19-23	7 - 39N - 72W
Mecham, Vernon R.	6-16-32	10 - 29N - 71W
Meehl, Theresa C.	2- 6-23	22 - 30N - 73W
Meek, Jacob	4-11-12	29 - 35N - 67W
Meigs, James M.	3- 8-19	34 - 31N - 68W
Meinze, Frederick W., Sr.	3- 4-22	23 - 34N - 68W
Meinzer, Arthur C.	10- 9-22	11 - 34N - 68W
	2- 3-22	11 - 34N - 68W
Meinzer, Fred W.	8-11-21	25 - 34N - 68W
Meinzer, Frederick W., Sr.	3- 4-22	13 - 34N - 68W
Meinzer, Lillie A.	12-21-28	22 - 34N - 68W
	3- 7-34	9 - 35N - 67W
	12-21-28	21 - 34N - 68W
Meisner, Thomas J.	2-13-22	15 - 35N - 70W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Meisner, Thomas J.	2-13-22	14 - 35N - 70W
Melberg, Fred	9-16-21	29 - 35N - 76W
Melberg, Arthur H.	5-21-28	28 - 35N - 76W
	7- 6-33	30 - 35N - 76W
Melton, Wiley	12-12-23	17 - 33N - 76W
Mendenhall, Milo S.	11-28-32	33 - 40N - 73W
Menter, Edwin S.	2-20-26	14 - 36N - 69W
	2-20-26	11 - 36N - 69W
Meredith, Nelson W.	9- 5-89	6 - 34N - 69W
Merrill, Addie L.	12-19-21	8 - 33N - 70W
Merrill, Charles W.	2-18-18	32 - 33N - 70W
Merrill, Clifford C.	2-18-18	33 - 33N - 70W
	6-23-21	8 - 33N - 70W
Merritt, John D.	3-22-22	4 - 39N - 69W
	3-22-22	25 - 38N - 70W
Merritt, Vinson S.	9- 8-21	20 - 32N - 70W
	9- 8-21	18 - 32N - 70W
Merwin, Harry J.	5-18-25	2 - 36N - 73W
Messenger, Mary M.	8-26-26	9 - 28N - 71W
Metcalf, George W.	5- 5- 4	35 - 40N - 74W
Metz, Henry	7-29-10	14 - 33N - 73W
Metz, Henry W.	2- 3-16	13 - 33N - 73W
Metz, Louis	2-27- 8	9 - 33N - 72W
	5-26- 8	11 - 33N - 73W
Metz, Oscar	6-25-20	20 - 34N - 68W
Metz, Walter E.	7- 7-24	23 - 33N - 73W
	7- 7-24	14 - 33N - 73W
Mewis, Lillie; Heirs	3- 2-15	2 - 32N - 71W
Meyers, Edgar D.	10- 6-21	34 - 34N - 67W
Middaugh, Elmer F.	5-11-23	24 - 35N - 71W
Middaugh/Manning, Lanore E.	12-14-33	7 - 38N - 73W
Miklos, August	3-28-34	32 - 37N - 76W
Miler, Orvil A.	10-29-24	26 - 39N - 70W
Miles, John T.	5-13-40	5 - 28N - 74W
Miles, Sylvester A.	3-26-23	25 - 35N - 70W
Miles, Thomas G.	8-17-11	10 - 32N - 67W
Miles, William A.	11- 5-25	26 - 35N - 70W
Mill, John	2- 2-38	31 - 29N - 74W
Mill, Sarah	1- 5-16	21 - 33N - 67W
Millburn, Thomas W.	5- 4-14	14 - 32N - 71W
Millen, Melvin E.	5- 8-11	2 - 32N - 72W
	11-10-22	22 - 32N - 72W
Miller, A. Duane	4-30-23	7 - 33N - 69W
	6-19-19	7 - 33N - 69W
Miller, Adaline M.	1- 6-26	18 - 36N - 68W
Miller, Ambrose; Assgn.	10-14-18	4 - 39N - 76W
Miller, Calvin B.	12-27-22	24 - 34N - 69W
	8-30-20	24 - 34N - 69W
Miller, Carlos E.	7-29-26	5 - 36N - 68W
	9-22-21	23 - 34N - 69W
Miller, Charles Fred	10-19-23	3 - 37N - 74W
Miller, Chris J.	11-24-22	15 - 32N - 73W
	11-24-22	13 - 32N - 73W
Miller, Don S.	1-24-18	19 - 28N - 71W
Miller, Elezee, Assgn.	8-22-23	3 - 33N - 74W
Miller, Emily I.	9- 8-19	17 - 33N - 70W
Miller, Guy R.	8- 1-21	17 - 40N - 68W
Miller, Harry A.	3- 5-24	20 - 40N - 70W
	3- 5-24	17 - 40N - 70W
Miller, Harry B.	7-14-24	5 - 28N - 72W
	8-20-30	8 - 28N - 72W
Miller, Harry C.	5-19-36	21 - 34N - 70W
Miller, Henry	2-16-22	10 - 34N - 70W
Miller, Henry C.	2-27-14	15 - 32N - 71W
Miller, Hinton, Lgl. Repr.	6- 5-20	15 - 39N - 68W
Miller, James	8- 2-23	11 - 38N - 76W
Miller, Joanna; Heirs	11-25-16	33 - 33N - 71W
Miller, John	3-30-96	33 - 34N - 75W
Miller, John F.	11- 9-22	15 - 38N - 75W
Miller, John L.	11- 9-22	15 - 33N - 72W
Miller, Kathryn A.	11-22-17	31 - 28N - 72W
Miller, Mary	4- 6-17	33 - 34N - 75W
	2- 9-11	33 - 34N - 75W
Miller, Oscar D.	6-13- 6	23 - 30N - 76W
	6-30- 6	25 - 31N - 76W
Miller, Paul H.	6-16-31	18 - 39N - 67W
	12-17-29	28 - 39N - 67W
Miller, Preston	12-28-25	6 - 31N - 76W
	9-22-17	13 - 31N - 76W
	4-20-11	13 - 34N - 75W
Miller, William F.	11-23-91	18 - 30N - 71W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Musick, James C.	4-10-25	21 - 39N - 73W	Newman, Thomas	2- 6-39	28 - 30N - 77W
	3-26-25	21 - 39N - 73W	Newsom, Ada E.; Heirs	8-19-38	28 - 34N - 74W
Muys, Peter	12-12-23	3 - 38N - 72W	Newsome, Charles	1-20-23	27 - 33N - 75W
Myers, Harriet; Heirs	4-15-20	6 - 31N - 67W	Nicholaysen, Clementina	6-18- 8	6 - 27N - 71W
Nachtman, Fred J.	8- 7-22	26 - 40N - 68W	Nichols, Edgar	11-21-23	2 - 37N - 75W
Nachtman, Harvey J.	8- 7-22	23 - 40N - 68W	Nichols, Emma L.	6-29-21	14 - 37N - 70W
Naggida, Andres	11-15-23	22 - 32N - 76W	Nichols, Garland	9-10-23	12 - 37N - 75W
	11-15-23	23 - 32N - 76W		9-15-22	1 - 37N - 75W
Nagle, Erasmus	4-18-90	8 - 33N - 73W	Nichols, Luella M.	12- 1-21	13 - 34N - 69W
Nance, John	10-16-22	3 - 31N - 68W		12- 1-21	14 - 34N - 69W
Nash, Ann; Heirs, Assgn.	2- 9-14	5 - 30N - 72W	Nichols, Marshall Lee	1-12-26	19 - 37N - 71W
Nason, Mary	4-15-20	9 - 31N - 68W		1-12-26	31 - 37N - 71W
Nauman, Frank E.	8-26-20	34 - 31N - 71W	Nicholson, James P.	6- 1-21	18 - 39N - 72W
	3-17-25	25 - 31N - 71W	Nickelwarth, Michael	10- 1-35	19 - 33N - 68W
Neal, Herbert N.	9-15-22	15 - 34N - 69W	Nicolaysen, Peter C., Jr.	8-20-37	15 - 35N - 77W
Neal, Mahaley E.; Heirs	5-22-24	10 - 35N - 72W	Niece, Gus	3-15-32	26 - 31N - 77W
Neal, Melvine B.	12- 4-22	26 - 35N - 72W	Nielsen, Andrew P.	11-15-23	28 - 33N - 70W
	12- 4-22	23 - 35N - 72W		1- 5-22	28 - 33N - 70W
Neeley, Clinton C.	12-20-20	30 - 35N - 67W	Nielsen, Calmer C.	11-17-33	6 - 39N - 67W
	10-16-19	6 - 34N - 67W	Nielsen, Christian E.	12-20-24	7 - 34N - 72W
Neese, George M.	7- 6-96	30 - 33N - 71W		7-30-23	7 - 34N - 72W
Negley, Seth E.	8-20-30	10 - 34N - 74W	Nielsen, Johannes C.	6- 7-20	34 - 33N - 70W
Negley, Sophia	1-12-23	11 - 34N - 74W		10-14-24	34 - 33N - 70W
	1-12-23	9 - 34N - 74W	Nielsen, Ole H.	5-15-30	29 - 39N - 67W
Neilsen, Sigfred E.	4-30-23	33 - 33N - 70W	Nielsen, Peter	8-17-32	7 - 39N - 67W
Neilson, Chris L.	1-23-22	5 - 38N - 70W	Nielsen, Sigfred E.	8-16-27	4 - 32N - 70W
Neisen, Chris	8-20-23	34 - 41N - 75W	Nierman, Clarence C.	2-24-25	28 - 38N - 75W
Nelson, Chris	6-27-22	9 - 38N - 72W	Nies, George W.; Lgl Repr.	6-29-20	32 - 40N - 67W
Nelson, Edwin F.	11-15-23	30 - 39N - 72W	Nix, Joe E.	5-10-23	1 - 35N - 70W
Nelson, Frances E.	7- 31-7	33 - 32N - 73W		5-10-23	2 - 35N - 70W
Nelson, Frank J.	1-29-19	28 - 32N - 68W	Nix, William D.	2- 5-25	6 - 35N - 69W
Nelson, Horace R.	6-24-30	25 - 39N - 73W	Noble, James W.	11-29- 7	23 - 29N - 75W
Nelson, James C.	7-31-22	21 - 37N - 75W	Noel, William D.; Heirs	6-23-24	17 - 33N - 70W
Nelson, John C.	5-15-96	18 - 33N - 71W	Noll, Henry	8-13-13	4 - 33N - 73W
	11-18- 9	34 - 32N - 73W	Noll, John H.	10-23-14	4 - 33N - 73W
	4- 3-11	4 - 31N - 73W		8-11-21	28 - 34N - 73W
Nelson, Ruben L.	10-11-35	12 - 40N - 77W	Nomer, Asa H.	1-11-23	1 - 33N - 75W
Nelson/Larson, Christine M.	7- 6-33	21 - 39N - 71W	Norcross, Ester	11-27-42	9 - 28N - 71W
Nestel, George L.	2- 6-22	6 - 38N - 75W		11-24-28	9 - 28N - 71W
Newell, Adelia	7-26-99	19 - 28N - 71W	Norcross, Roswell E.	10-21-37	3 - 28N - 71W
	12-30- 5	13 - 28N - 72W	Nordgren, John G.	9- 8-21	13 - 36N - 74W
Newell, Clara M.	5-21-26	10 - 28N - 71W	Norsworthy, Bernard A.	10- 5-20	4 - 40N - 72W
	2-16-40	10 - 28N - 71W		8-11-21	34 - 41N - 72W
	10-15-42	10 - 28N - 71W	Northcott, May I.	6- 4-24	11 - 34N - 77W
	8-26-26	10 - 28N - 71W	Nott, Clarence B.	2-18-18	8 - 31N - 68W
	10-25-26	10 - 28N - 71W	Nulty, James; Heirs	3-11- 9	4 - 34N - 73W
	2-16-40	10 - 28N - 71W	Nulty, Maggie; Heirs	3- 3- 9	6 - 35N - 74W
Newell, Elizabeth Read	8-18-21	30 - 31N - 73W	Numrich, Conrad	2-20-22	14 - 36N - 73W
Newell, Emmett	7-25-96	22 - 28N - 72W		2-20-22	23 - 36N - 73W
	8-26-26	10 - 28N - 71W	Numrich, Johann H.	10-29-24	7 - 36N - 72W
	10-25-26	10 - 28N - 71W		1- 5-22	7 - 36N - 72W
Newell, Ernest	4-19-00	29 - 28N - 71W	Nunn, William G.	9- 2-20	5 - 30N - 71W
	7- 8-21	24 - 28N - 72W		1-20-32	9 - 30N - 71W
	6-12-20	24 - 28N - 72W	Nuttal/Snyder, Catherine D.	9-25-39	3 - 34N - 66W
	6-29-14	29 - 28N - 71W	Nuttal, Maggie	4-25-21	31 - 33N - 72W
Newell, Frank M.	1-23-91	23 - 28N - 72W	Nuttal, William	4-13-89	4 - 33N - 75W
	4-11-21	25 - 28N - 72W	Nylen, Charles	5-15-96	20 - 31N - 69W
	10-29-30	9 - 28N - 71W	Nylen, Ethel Clanahan	6-29-21	35 - 29N - 75W
	6-12-20	24 - 28N - 72W	Nylen, Gustaf E.	5-28-30	34 - 31N - 70W
	8-26-26	9 - 28N - 71W		4-15-20	30 - 31N - 69W
Newell, George	10-21-96	19 - 28N - 71W		10-11-15	25 - 31N - 70W
Newell, Guy H.	8-31- 5	15 - 28N - 72W		7- 8-21	30 - 31N - 69W
	5-14-37	23 - 28N - 72W	Nylen/Clanahan, Ethel	4-29-24	19 - 31N - 69W
	10- 2-26	9 - 28N - 71W		5-27-26	30 - 31N - 69W
	2-23- 9	15 - 28N - 72W	O'Beirn, Karl M.	8- 7-22	15 - 35N - 71W
Newell, Guy H., Jr.	3-10-49	14 - 28N - 72W		8- 7-22	14 - 35N - 71W
Newell, Harrison J.	9-18-94	14 - 28N - 72W	O'Beirn, Martin P.	8- 7-22	15 - 37N - 72W
	11-10- 9	7 - 28N - 71W	O'Beirn/Ostrander, Merle	11- 7-23	2 - 33N - 69W
Newell, Hattie M.	6- 9-26	31 - 28N - 72W	O'Beirn/Garton, Lynn	1-23-24	10 - 40N - 68W
Newell, John	10-28-96	32 - 28N - 72W	O'Brian, Thomas	3-13-11	23 - 33N - 72W
Newell, Luetta	3-19- 4	18 - 28N - 71W	O'Brien, Clarence	9-11-34	30 - 37N - 76W
Newell, Maggie S.	4- 9- 8	34 - 28N - 72W	O'Brien, John D.	2- 3-11	1 - 32N - 73W
Newell, Myrtle L.	11-14-21	21 - 28N - 71W	O'Brien, Martin P.	8- 7-22	15 - 37N - 72W
	10- 2-26	9 - 28N - 71W	O'Brien, Thomas	3-13-11	23 - 33N - 72W
Newell, Sarah J.	2-26-21	12 - 28N - 72W		4- 1-99	1 - 32N - 73W
	5-10-20	14 - 28N - 72W	O'Daniels, Hugh H.	1-23-37	11 - 40N - 77W
Newell, William W.	7-27-96	21 - 28N - 72W		1-23-37	27 - 41N - 76W
	11- 5-90	27 - 28N - 72W	O'Leary, James	4-25-21	21 - 37N - 70W
Newman, Frank O.	12- 6-23	23 - 32N - 73W		9-26-34	29 - 28N - 72W
	9-24-26	22 - 32N - 73W	O'Leary, James P.	4-25-21	21 - 37N - 70W
Newman, Leroy F.	2- 7-24	27 - 36N - 70W		4-25-21	28 - 37N - 70W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
O'Leary, James P.	4-25-21	32 - 37N - 70W	Owen, Charles L.	12-11-22	34 - 39N - 69W
O'Leary, John B.; Heirs	3-31-26	9 - 37N - 70W	Owen, Noble B.	11-30-23	11 - 38N - 69W
	3-21-26	8 - 37N - 70W		11-30-24	12 - 28N - 69W
O'Leary/Conrin, Margaret	3-12-25	29 - 37N - 70W	Owen, John	9- 5- 6	35 - 41N - 70W
	3-12-25	22 - 37N - 70W	Owen, Ross M.	1-23-22	3 - 38N - 69W
O'Neill, Frank	7-18-21	22 - 35N - 74W	Owens, Albert	3-10-26	26 - 36N - 68W
Oak, Wilbert L.	2-13-26	15 - 34N - 70W		3-10-26	25 - 36N - 68W
Oakley, Albert O.	9-27-21	23 - 37N - 70W	Owens, John	1-11- 9	32 - 41N - 70W
Oakley, Anna C.	7-18-21	27 - 37N - 70W	Owens, William	1-14-13	5 - 31N - 72W
	12- 9-22	34 - 37N - 70W		10-20-21	6 - 31N - 72W
Oakley, Charles A.	3-22-22	6 - 35N - 69W		10-20-21	7 - 31N - 72W
	3-22-22	14 - 34N - 69W	Padden, Minnie C.	10-23-28	27 - 32N - 76W
Oakley, Fred C.	10- 3-21	28 - 37N - 70W		2-26-30	27 - 32N - 76W
	10- 9-22	23 - 37N - 70W	Page, David B.	4-12-23	4 - 37N - 69W
Oakley, Mary	9-27-21	22 - 37N - 70W		4-12-23	5 - 37N - 69W
	2- 6-23	26 - 37N - 70W	Page, Ruby	8-20-37	23 - 41N - 71W
Oakley, Wilsey E.	8- 7-22	7 - 35N - 70W	Paisley, John M.	11- 9-14	29 - 41N - 71W
	8- 7-22	17 - 35N - 70W		7-22-19	33 - 41N - 71W
Obeirn/Ostrander, Merle	11- 7-23	22 - 32N - 70W		2-16-22	28 - 41N - 71W
Oberle, George	2-11-28	3 - 34N - 72W	Panchick, Afton; Heirs	4-12-32	9 - 38N - 75W
	2-11-28	9 - 34N - 72W	Panchick, Matthew	3-10-28	21 - 38N - 75W
Obersie, William P.	7-16-23	10 - 40N - 69W		3-29-28	20 - 38N - 75W
Oglesby, Lee M.	3-10-26	20 - 34N - 74W	Parker, Carolyn S.	1-29-20	33 - 34N - 68W
Ohlso, Roy M.	9-11-23	1 - 35N - 73W	Parker, Ethel	2-16-20	31 - 33N - 67W
Olds, Charles W.	2-26-21	11 - 34N - 73W	Perker, George Edward	10-19-31	11 - 39N - 77W
	2-26-21	10 - 34N - 73W	Parker, Gerald E.	12-19-21	21 - 38N - 70W
Olds, Grace B.	5-17-41	13 - 33N - 73W		3-23-28	15 - 39N - 72W
Olds, Ralph M.	2-26-21	10 - 34N - 73W	Parker, Harry H.	10- 9-19	28 - 34N - 68W
Olin, Charles B.	6- 6-14	24 - 31N - 75W		7-31-25	29 - 34N - 68W
	2-16-20	18 - 31N - 74W	Parker, Hubert C.	10- 7-24	24 - 34N - 76W
	12- 6-23	24 - 31N - 75W		10- 7-24	22 - 34N - 76W
Olin, Ed H.	11- 7-23	26 - 30N - 75W	Parker, Orion G.	10-21-38	32 - 33N - 67W
	2-16-20	18 - 31N - 74W	Parker, William E.	12-12-23	9 - 39N - 71W
	8-13-13	19 - 31N - 74W	Parkhill, Lucinda I.	9-15-31	27 - 40N - 73W
	7-23-31	26 - 30N - 75W	Parks, George H.	6-24-19	28 - 34N - 68W
Olin, Erick	7-18-21	25 - 31N - 75W	Parks, James C.	4-28-25	25 - 33N - 77W
	6-10-29	19 - 31N - 74W	Parrish, Mary A.	5-10-23	30 - 33N - 67W
	3-19- 8	4 - 29N - 75W		5-10-23	17 - 34N - 67W
	9- 8- 4	30 - 31N - 74W	Parrish, Orval L.	5-26-38	32 - 38N - 67W
	7-12-21	23 - 31N - 75W	Parrish, Wesley M. Duke	7-13-38	28 - 34N - 67W
Olin, Erick Jr.	7-20-11	5 - 29N - 75W	Partridge, Claude T.	4-26-33	4 - 39N - 71W
	7-18-13	19 - 31N - 74W	Partridge, R. Elbert	4-15-20	2 - 31N - 70W
	9-19-23	28 - 30N - 75W	Partridge, Robert H.	7- 7-22	34 - 32N - 70W
Olin, Martha	8-25- 2	25 - 31N - 75W	Partridge, William J.	2-13-22	30 - 32N - 69W
Olin; Eric L. & Nora	9- 8-61	27 - 30N - 75W		2-13-22	25 - 32N - 70W
Olinghouse, Esrael F.	12- 1-21	2 - 38N - 76W	Pasik, John	1- 4-15	33 - 31N - 77W
	6- 7-20	2 - 38N - 76W	Patrick, Alonzo G.	9-22-21	21 - 34N - 76W
Olsen, Charles G.	3-23-23	10 - 38N - 72W	Patrick, Elzey	2- 7-18	8 - 31N - 76W
Olsen/Schwalm, Anna E.	5- 2-13	22 - 33N - 75W	Patterson, Charles H.	8-18-21	26 - 38N - 70W
	11-20-16	22 - 33N - 75W	Patterson, Gilbert	9-15-22	17 - 38N - 71W
Olsen, Edith	12-11-11	15 - 32N - 67W	Patterson, James	10-20-26	21 - 38N - 74W
Olsen, Carl C.	1- 6-28	7 - 38N - 72W		10-20-26	28 - 38N - 74W
Olsen, Ingjald Sigfrid	5-26-38	30 - 39N - 75W	Patterson, Joe H.	8- 4-59	20 - 38N - 74W
Olson/O'Leary, Catherine C.	12- 1-21	4 - 36N - 70W	Patterson, Lee H.	8-29-34	24 - 30N - 71W
	12- 1-21	33 - 37N - 70W	Patterson, Luke	5- 5- 4	25 - 30N - 72W
Ong, Adalsaka A.	9-26-27	Esterbrook	Patterson, Taylor	6- 7-93	30 - 30N - 71W
Ontiveros, Neives	10-25-35	3 - 29N - 72W	Patterson, Victor D.	2-13-22	21 - 40N - 76W
Onyon, Baxter W., Heirs	8-14-13	2 - 32N - 68W	Patterson, Walter R.	7-26-33	19 - 39N - 76W
Onyon, Chauncey W.	5-22- 7	26 - 32N - 65W	Patterson, William	4-21-23	6 - 37N - 69W
	10-31- 7	14 - 33N - 68W		4-21-23	4 - 37N - 69W
Onyon, Everett F.	2- 4- 9	14 - 33N - 68W		6-19-22	24 - 30N - 73W
Onyon, Sabra A.	10- 8-12	34 - 33N - 68W	Patterson/Forbes, Pauline M.	8- 4-21	19 - 38N - 74W
Onyon, Vera O.	10-13-10	1 - 32N - 68W	Patton, Harold W.	9-27-37	5 - 40N - 73W
Ormsby, Major	3- 6-99	33 - 40N - 75W	Patzold, Oswald A.	6- 6-27	14 - 37N - 75W
	3-22- 9	3 - 39N - 75W	Paul, Henry R.	5-16-10	16 - 33N - 72W
	2-14-23	34 - 40N - 75W	Paul, Morris D.	11-15-21	31 - 35N - 75W
	3-22- 9	15 - 39N - 76W	Paull, Charles F.	1-31-25	27 - 31N - 76W
Ormsby, Orland	3-13-23	25 - 40N - 75W		2-26-21	27 - 31N - 76W
	11-22- 4	14 - 37N - 77W	Paulsen, Sydney	4- 9-23	1 - 32N - 75W
Ortego, Eloy	11-20-28	7 - 31N - 76W		10- 5-31	1 - 32N - 75W
Orth, Joseph	8-30-20	31 - 33N - 70W	Paxton, George O.	10-28-22	31 - 36N - 70W
Osburn, Leslie	1- 5-22	9 - 40N - 72W	Paxton, John W.	4- 9-23	19 - 35N - 69W
	1- 5-22	10 - 40N - 72W	Payne, Charley W.	6-27-22	4 - 40N - 76W
Osgood, William L.	6-29-21	2 - 31N - 70W		6-27-22	5 - 40N - 76W
Oskamp, Clemens	10-29-89	1 - 30N - 73W	Payne, Eddie L.	10-20-21	10 - 40N - 76W
	10-29-89	6 - 30N - 72W		10-20-21	8 - 40N - 76W
Oskins, Cecil	6-26-31	3 - 38N - 71W	Payne, Gene L.	10- 9-19	14 - 33N - 70W
Ostrander, Floyd E.	8-20-23	32 - 34N - 69W		2- 6-23	14 - 33N - 70W
Ostrom, Peter	3-24-22	34 - 33N - 73W	Payne, Hugo F.	1-10-20	15 - 33N - 70W
Pttele, Alvis N.	4- 9-23	8 - 35N - 71W		8-30-20	15 - 33N - 70W
Owen, Charles Clinton	5-14-37	1 - 38N - 69W	Payne, John L.	2-16-20	11 - 33N - 70W
				5-17-20	11 - 33N - 70W



NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Payne, Wess	4-15-21	2 - 33N - 70W	Pfeifer, Louis	5-10-98	9 - 33N - 73W
	5-18-25	2 - 33N - 70W	Pflaeging, William F.	10-28-4	17 - 36N - 73W
Peake, George H.	12-28-21	22 - 38N - 70W	Pfrimmer, Samuel M.	7-21-22	2 - 38N - 70W
Pearsall, Archie	2-6-23	2 - 34N - 75W		7-21-22	3 - 38N - 70W
Peaver, Roil	4-3-29	2 - 28N - 72W	Philbrick, Frank	8-8-27	3 - 31N - 75W
Peebles, Elizabeth B.	9-8-24	31 - 34N - 76W		3-18-9	18 - 31N - 75W
Peinze, Carl E.	8-15-21	15 - 29N - 76W		12-23-7	18 - 31N - 75W
Pellatz, Orville L.	10-14-26	11 - 39N - 70W		6-5-20	10 - 31N - 75W
Pellatz, Vena Ford	1-27-22	11 - 39N - 70W	Philbrick, Oscar N.	6-29-18	13 - 30N - 76W
Pelster, Louis F.	3-19-23	31 - 36N - 68W		10-4-23	22 - 30N - 76W
Pelter, John	12-4-22	3 - 35N - 71W	Philbrick, William N.	5-18-39	11 - 31N - 75W
Penny, Deane L.	1-8-24	27 - 35N - 76W	Philippi, John B.	10-26-25	32 - 38N - 72W
Perkey, Kirtland I.	3-7-46	12 - 32N - 72W		11-4-26	32 - 38N - 72W
Perkins, Clifford T.	7-17-11	18 - 35N - 68W	Phillips, Archie T.	12-11-22	11 - 38N - 73W
Perrine, Frances M.	6-29-21	7 - 29N - 75W	Phillips, Bertha D.	6-29-44	19 - 32N - 76W
Perry, Harry F.	12-13-5	26 - 35N - 70W	Phillips, George H.	6-17-37	10 - 39N - 71W
	3-1-9	3 - 35N - 68W	Phillips, I. G.	4-23-19	17 - 32N - 76W
Perry, Josephine	4-15-20	1 - 32N - 74W	Phillips, Isidario G.	3-30-33	26 - 32N - 77W
	5-18-25	12 - 32N - 74W		5-15-96	19 - 32N - 76W
Perry, Nelson	10-6-94	9 - 30N - 74W	Phillips, Isidris G.	11-11-9	1 - 31N - 77W
Person, Edward C.	2-13-22	29 - 34N - 71W	Phillips, John B.	1-11-9	19 - 31N - 70W
Peters, Ella J.	5-3-11	11 - 32N - 73W	Phillips, Roy; Heirs	2-6-40	34 - 36N - 76W
Peters, Margaret	1-15-13	3 - 33N - 77W	Phinney, Brownie D.	11-28-30	6 - 30N - 71W
Petersen, George William	2-3-22	2 - 38N - 72W		11-11-22	20 - 29N - 73W
Peterson, Agnes E.	2-26-20	27 - 32N - 72W	Phinney, Eleanor	8-4-21	21 - 29N - 73W
Peterson, Allan J.	1-12-23	22 - 38N - 74W	Phinney, Margueritte M.	3-13-23	6 - 30N - 71W
Peterson, Annie	10-31-7	15 - 31N - 71W	Pickering, Read G.	1-8-24	30 - 32N - 72W
Peterson, Charles A.	3-31-22	12 - 31N - 73W		1-8-24	13 - 32N - 73W
Peterson, Clifford J.	8-2-28	30 - 31N - 72W	Pickering, T. Lorena	11-9-22	33 - 31N - 68W
	6-1-34	32 - 31N - 72W		6-29-20	28 - 31N - 68W
	8-2-28	30 - 31N - 72W	Pickert, William	3-15-37	30 - 41N - 73W
Peterson, David O.	11-9-22	12 - 40N - 69W	Pickinpaugh, John W.	2-21-20	12 - 31N - 69W
Peterson, Edward P.	11-30-23	27 - 35N - 72W	Pickinpaugh, Ralph L.	3-2-26	11 - 31N - 69W
Peterson, Elbert B.	6-28-35	7 - 29N - 73W		7-9-36	18 - 31N - 68W
Peterson, Eli M.	10-22-8	22 - 31N - 71W	Picklesimer, Archie	1-10-20	12 - 31N - 69W
Peterson, Emil E.	9-17-18	17 - 31N - 68W		6-29-21	32 - 30N - 71W
	2-4-26	17 - 31N - 68W		6-16-25	31 - 30N - 71W
Peterson, Holden	3-7-12	22 - 33N - 72W	Picklesimer, Edward	4-28-38	7 - 38N - 67W
	11-20-16	22 - 33N - 72W	Pictor, Louis Joseph	2-14-23	26 - 34N - 72W
	3-27-93	10 - 33N - 72W		1-2-25	26 - 33N - 72W
Peterson, John	4-28-27	13 - 38N - 77W	Pierce, Delbert	12-13-5	17 - 35N - 73W
	3-2-22	5 - 32N - 73W	Pierce, Marvin G.	12-1-21	5 - 33N - 68W
	10-20-30	13 - 32N - 74W	Pictor, Louis Joseph	2-14-23	35 - 34N - 72W
	11-11-19	33 - 33N - 73W	Piersall, Charles E.	3-31-23	4 - 39N - 73W
Peterson, John H.	10-19-31	23 - 28N - 72W		6-11-25	4 - 39N - 73W
Peterson, John T.	4-17-22	4 - 40N - 74W	Pike, Frank E.	8-29-14	15 - 29N - 74W
	2-20-22	6 - 40N - 73W	Pilcher, Cora A.	5-14-19	15 - 31N - 68W
Peterson, Lars G.	4-11-22	14 - 31N - 71W	Pinkerton, Clarence A.	4-2-25	33 - 35N - 67W
Peterson/Winkler, Clara E.	4-9-23	28 - 37N - 69W	Pinkerton, Harry O.	10-16-14	17 - 32N - 68W
Petitt, Lela	7-16-25	4 - 39N - 67W	Piper, Benjamin F.	7-27-28	25 - 29N - 76W
Petri, Sarah J.	12-18-23	30 - 39N - 68W	Piraino, Gaetano	9-15-22	17 - 33N - 67W
Pettit, Charles F.	2-13-22	13 - 34N - 71W	Piraino, Guiseppe	12-28-21	19 - 33N - 67W
	2-24-25	13 - 34N - 71W	Plants, Herschel L.	2-16-22	26 - 39N - 72W
Petty, Katie W.	4-5-24	5 - 40N - 76W	Platt, Calvin E.	6-21-19	34 - 32N - 69W
Petty, Thomas C.	4-4-32	13 - 40N - 70W		6-19-22	23 - 32N - 69W
Petty/Dorr, Katie	9-5-22	21 - 32N - 72W	Plummer, Arrie E.	8-24-26	25 - 35N - 77W
	7-6-16	21 - 32N - 72W	Poirot, Emile	2-10-17	29 - 33N - 71W
Pexton, Anna	1-10-20	19 - 32N - 72W	Poirot, Eugene	2-8-27	12 - 33N - 72W
	9-12-16	18 - 32N - 72W	Poirot, Nevada Byxbe	3-16-36	9 - 29N - 71W
Pexton, Glen A., Heirs	8-2-20	33 - 28N - 72W	Poirot, Wilbert M.	12-7-38	33 - 29N - 70W
Pexton, James	3-7-22	9 - 32N - 72W	Poirot/Harris, Lydia M.	6-11-25	18 - 30N - 73W
Pexton, John	3-7-22	9 - 32N - 72W	Polk, Orpheus B., Heirs	5-16-22	3 - 32N - 73W
	10-11-15	17 - 32N - 72W	Pollard, Charles A.	3-25-90	28 - 31N - 71W
	4-15-20	18 - 32N - 72W		8-16-89	4 - 30N - 71W
	3-3-21	18 - 31N - 72W	Pollard, Harry P.	6-4-9	20 - 31N - 71W
Pexton, Leila V.	4-19-21	11 - 27N - 73W	Pollard, Sophia	8-16-89	4 - 30N - 71W
Pexton, Lisle E.	11-21-24	5 - 27N - 72W		8-16-89	33 - 31N - 71W
	11-21-24	28 - 28N - 72W	Pollock, George N.	12-19-10	25 - 32N - 70W
	6-10-29	30 - 29N - 70W		8-20-24	28 - 31N - 69W
	9-16-21	8 - 27N - 72W		8-16-97	20 - 31N - 69W
Pexton, Mary	3-7-22	8 - 32N - 72W		6-21-16	30 - 31N - 69W
	7-19-20	7 - 27N - 72W		6-21-16	29 - 31N - 69W
Pexton, Thomas S.	6-23-21	8 - 32N - 72W	Ponder, John P., Assgn.	11-20-16	21 - 34N - 67W
Pexton, William S.	8-15-21	8 - 27N - 72W	Pope, Emmett L.	2-7-24	15 - 36N - 70W
	3-30-27	32 - 28N - 72W	Popp, Anna E.	2-26-21	18 - 31N - 67W
Pexton/Winkler, Clara E.	4-9-23	32 - 37N - 69W		2-26-21	19 - 31N - 67W
Peyton, Edward F., Heirs	11-22-21	33 - 38N - 72W	Popp, Frank	9-17-18	30 - 31N - 67W
Pfeifer, Andreas	6-19-96	3 - 33N - 72W	Popp, Mike Sr.	12-14-25	20 - 31N - 67W
Pfeifer, Joseph	12-2-21	6 - 33N - 72W	Porter, Floyd F.	1-12-23	8 - 39N - 76W
	10-12-91	20 - 40N - 68W			
Pfeifer, Louis	7-7-10	5 - 33N - 72W			
	11-28-14	9 - 33N - 72W			

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Porter, Grant Howard	9- 8-21	4 - 34N - 75W	Putney, Fred W.	9-16-21	14 - 27N - 72W
Porter, James R.	9- 8-21	34 - 35N - 75W	Quinn, Edna G., Heirs	6- 5-22	4 - 38N - 75W
Porter, Leo S.	8-30-20	26 - 34N - 69W	Raby, Jesse J.	1-12-26	7 - 40N - 72W
	11-28-32	1 - 32N - 70W	Race/O'Brien, Nora	5-21- 8	36 - 33N - 73W
Posay, Bertha, Heirs	3-28-24	18 - 33N - 69W	Rager, Henry H.	3-28-35	18 - 36N - 67W
Post, Alverus B.	8-21-35	14 - 31N - 72W	Rager, Joseph C.	8- 4-24	4 - 37N - 71W
	12-21-23	5 - 34N - 76W	Raitt, John	4-17-33	32 - 41N - 69W
	10-12-23	33 - 34N - 75W		4-17-33	5 - 40N - 69W
Pothe, Guy Raymond	2-10-27	31 - 35N - 76W	Ralph, Anita W.	6- 3-38	17 - 41N - 73W
Potts, William J.	1-24-27	10 - 35N - 74W	Ralston, Edmund	6- 5-22	21 - 34N - 67W
Pou, Robert E.	10-25-35	12 - 33N - 77W		11-20-28	12 - 33N - 68W
Poulson, John A.	12- 2-26	6 - 35N - 68W	Randall, Ralph	6- 5-20	5 - 27N - 72W
	10-22-35	5 - 36N - 69W	Randall, William	10-17-99	17 - 31N - 60W
Pounds, Joel L.	9-22-21	26 - 39N - 76W	Rankin, Will	10-26-25	8 - 40N - 69W
	9-22-21	23 - 39N - 76W	Rankin/McCartney, Julia	1-30-23	27 - 36N - 69W
Pounds, Lewis E.	2- 4-30	33 - 36N - 68W		2-16-20	22 - 36N - 69W
Powell, Clifford R.	6-28-22	19 - 39N - 75W	Rardin, Clinton C.	6- 6-18	12 - 31N - 68W
	6-28-22	10 - 39N - 75W	Rash, George W.	12-14-25	34 - 29N - 71W
Powell, Floyd R.	1-27-22	13 - 40N - 73W	Rash, Ross D.	3- 4-22	29 - 35N - 75W
Powell, Frank W.	3- 7-22	6 - 32N - 72W		3- 4-22	20 - 35N - 75W
Powell, George	4-27-98	9 - 32N - 73W	Rasmussen, Carl J.	2-21-27	21 - 33N - 73W
	10-17-89	10 - 32N - 73W	Rasmussen, Mayn K., Heirs	1-27-22	19 - 40N - 67W
Powell, Homer	6-24-18	11 - 35N - 74W	Rasmussen, Roy	1-13-22	8 - 40N - 67W
	12-12-23	11 - 35N - 74W	Rasseguie, Herbert Lee	7-26-21	20 - 34N - 75W
	3- 5-23	15 - 32N - 72W	Rawles, Ivor E.	2- 6-35	30 - 40N - 70W
Powell, James	11-23-91	15 - 32N - 73W	Raymond, Harry L.	11- 8-28	20 - 28N - 71W
Powell, Lyle S.	1- 7-22	29 - 32N - 70W	Raymond, Robert T.	11- 7-19	17 - 35N - 75W
Powell, Mabel Johnson	6-26-31	26 - 37N - 72W	Read, Charles D.	1-24-27	19 - 31N - 73W
Powell, Maggie	11-30-89	9 - 32N - 73W	Reasonover, Martin C.	5-12-28	21 - 38N - 76W
Powell, Warren W.	3- 5-23	17 - 36N - 73W	Redenbaugh, Clarence E.	9-22-20	29 - 30N - 73W
	3- 5-23	8 - 36N - 73W		3-26-25	31 - 30N - 73W
Powell, William H.	6-21-92	31 - 33N - 72W		3- 4-36	23 - 31N - 72W
Powell/Johnson, Mabel E. B.	7- 6-27	26 - 37N - 72W		4-15-21	21 - 30N - 73W
	7- 6-27	35 - 37N - 72W		7-22-20	29 - 30N - 73W
Powers, Hilary	1-20-38	6 - 37N - 67W	Redenbaugh, Claud M.	11- 1-38	21 - 31N - 72W
Powers, Senada	6- 5-26	7 - 37N - 67W	Redenbaugh, Clemma	7-22-20	30 - 30N - 73W
Powles, John H.	12-26-23	4 - 34N - 67W	Redenbaugh, Martha	4- 9-14	19 - 30N - 73W
Prather, Lee Howard	2- 6-35	26 - 41N - 74W	Redfield, Dorsey C.	1-23-22	5 - 35N - 70W
Pratt, Azro B.	7-13- 4	1 - 30N - 76W		1-23-22	32 - 36N - 70W
Pratt, Irvn G.	2-16-22	10 - 39N - 72W	Redfield, Estella	2-20-22	32 - 36N - 70W
Pratt, Rollie Roy	2-27-25	25 - 34N - 75W		2-20-22	4 - 35N - 70W
Presba, Edna E.	12-15-20	22 - 33N - 71W	Reed, Jacob A.	3-31-22	17 - 34N - 68W
	2- 4-20	21 - 33N - 71W	Reed, John W.	10- 9-19	23 - 33N - 67W
Preuit, Ida	12-26-18	16 - 32N - 68W	Reed, Ralph G.	12-12-28	10 - 34N - 68W
Prevo, William H.	6-20-34	7 - 36N - 76W		2- 6-23	17 - 34N - 68W
Prewitt, William H.	9-11-17	6 - 31N - 68W	Reed, Roy	12-16-31	3 - 37N - 72W
Prezant, Sam	8-26-37	8 - 35N - 76W	Reed, Walter N.	2-13-26	20 - 36N - 68W
Price, James W.	11-12-35	4 - 30N - 77W	Reed, William J.	8-27-35	4 - 37N - 72W
Price, Milo	11- 8-28	5 - 34N - 72W	Reed, Willis F.	8- 7-22	28 - 33N - 68W
	2-25-28	6 - 34N - 72W	Reed/Rissler, Nona M.	11- 2-32	3 - 31N - 77W
	4-26-37	1 - 35N - 75W	Reeder, Dan	12-11-22	29 - 36N - 72W
Price, Roy M.	10- 8-42	31 - 31N - 68W	Reeder, Eva Luella	2-25-36	20 - 36N - 72W
Price/May, Irene	1-26-41	8 - 33N - 71W	Reese, Alice	8- 6-18	33 - 33N - 68W
Prickett, Marcy Arnold	3- 1-22	7 - 29N - 71W	Reese, Asa C.	1-12-26	15 - 29N - 73W
Prickett, Thomas O.	12- 9-21	24 - 32N - 69W	Reese, George L.	2- 4-19	27 - 31N - 68W
Prince, John B., Lgl. Rpr.	6-11- 8	1 - 35N - 72W	Reeves, Clyde F.	5-20-26	18 - 37N - 70W
Prince, Richard L.	1-31-21	29 - 32N - 69W		2-26-21	3 - 37N - 70W
Prokesh, Frank	2-13-24	29 - 32N - 69W	Reeves, Gerald Glenn	8-30-37	33 - 39N - 68W
	3-10-22	32 - 32N - 69W	Rehder, Fritz Henry	5-22-22	35 - 41N - 68W
Prokesh, John V.	3-10-22	30 - 32N - 69W	Reichelt, Fred G.	3-26-25	8 - 36N - 69W
	1-11-15	27 - 33N - 71W		3-26-25	17 - 36N - 69W
Prosser, John	2- 3-15	6 - 30N - 76W		2-15-51	18 - 36N - 69W
Protzman, Agnes	12-15-20	20 - 31N - 76W	Reid, Charles	6- 8- 8	20 - 28N - 71W
Protzman, Joseph J.	4-16-15	20 - 31N - 76W		2-10-20	17 - 28N - 71W
Pruden, Vern V.	6-23-21	13 - 34N - 72W	Reid, Eliza A.	11-16-91	33 - 29N - 72W
Pruitt, Elmer B.	5-18-25	2 - 40N - 77W	Reid, George C.	7-11-12	31 - 30N - 71W
Puckett, David H.	12-28-21	15 - 31N - 70W	Reif, Elmer A.	11-27-23	35 - 40N - 69W
	12-28-21	5 - 31N - 69W	Reilly, Edward	11-13- 5	27 - 31N - 74W
Puckett, Harden	2-19-18	13 - 31N - 70W	Reimerth, Charles H.	5-19-36	19 - 30N - 74W
	7- 8-21	13 - 31N - 70W	Reinhardt, Carl F.	6-29-21	5 - 32N - 69W
Puckett, Lavina	6-21-19	12 - 31N - 70W	Reitnour, Fern A.	6-28-22	23 - 34N - 74W
Puckett, Pearl M.	2- 6-23	35 - 35N - 74W		6-28-22	30 - 34N - 74W
Purcell, Ray Bernard	3-19-20	2 - 31N - 68W	Reitschuster, Geroge J.	10- 9-22	35 - 38N - 72W
Purcell, Robert S.	9-10-19	4 - 31N - 68W	Remaly, Eliza Emily	11-26-20	17 - 31N - 76W
Purinton, Francis R.	8-26-21	18 - 40N - 68W	Remington, Lettie	5-17-22	18 - 33N - 67W
	8-26-21	17 - 40N - 68W	Reno, B. J.	12-14-38	31 - 41N - 72W
Pursehouse, Thomas	11-18-25	28 - 40N - 69W		10- 9-22	35 - 41N - 73W
	11-12-25	28 - 40N - 69W	Renot, Francis	2-21-34	28 - 36N - 67W
Putman, James A.	4- 9-23	21 - 38N - 69W	Renot, Joseph	1-12-34	5 - 35N - 67W
Putnam, John J.	2- 3-11	8 - 32N - 67W	Ressequie, Herbert L.	8-27-23	20 - 34N - 75W
Putnam, Teckla S.	5- 8-36	22 - 41N - 73W	Ressequie/Zeuilner, Anna	6-29-18	10 - 31N - 69W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Reubhar, Charles	5-10-22	10 - 32N - 70W	Robertson, Gilbert J.	8-30-20	34 - 34N - 74W
Reynolds, Henry R.	11- 4-20	20 - 38N - 72W		2-16-22	1 - 33N - 74W
Reynolds, James B.	2- 8-17	28 - 30N - 74W	Robertson, Kittie	3-24-38	12 - 35N - 76W
	11-14-16	33 - 30N - 74W	Robertson, Lewis H., Lgl Rpr.	1- 7-22	26 - 36N - 74W
Reynolds, Joseph	1-31-25	3 - 29N - 71W	Robertson, Thomas C.	4- 6-17	17 - 32N - 69W
	1- 5-22	21 - 38N - 72W	Robertson, William H.	8-29-32	4 - 39N - 71W
	7-28-20	28 - 38N - 72W	Robertson, Wm. H., Jr.	8-12-40	3 - 39N - 71W
	7- 8-20	20 - 38N - 72W	Robins, John H.	11-11-19	20 - 31N - 71W
	1- 5-22	21 - 38N - 72W	Robinson, George L.	8-18-16	29 - 41N - 71W
	8-16-46	18 - 37N - 72W		6-20-23	29 - 41N - 71W
Reynolds, Ray	6- 1-21	23 - 40N - 73W	Robinson, Harry A.	10-18-39	22 - 34N - 74W
	6- 1-21	27 - 40N - 73W	Robinson, John	3-17-25	28 - 34N - 73W
Rhoads, Walter J.	1- 6-23	9 - 33N - 74W		3-17-25	25 - 34N - 73W
	11- 4-20	6 - 33N - 75W	Robinson, Max L.	1-12-23	22 - 36N - 70W
	1- 6-23	7 - 33N - 75W		1-12-23	21 - 36N - 70W
Rice, Almina	12- 2- 7	11 - 31N - 74W	Robinson, Thomas P.	5-17-20	4 - 34N - 70W
	3- 1-22	17 - 31N - 74W		5-17-20	9 - 34N - 70W
Rice, Alva C.	7-25-34	2 - 27N - 72W	Robb, Rosamond M.	1-30-24	34 - 38N - 75W
	4-24-30	19 - 27N - 72W	Rogers, Luther, Assgn.	6-12-19	23 - 33N - 72W
	9-13-15	31 - 28N - 71W	Rodkin, Jacob	4- 5-24	26 - 36N - 75W
Rice, Charles	10-29-20	11 - 31N - 74W		4- 5-24	26 - 36N - 75W
Rice, Charles G.	2-23-92	11 - 31N - 74W	Roe, Carol Windle	9-29-24	25 - 35N - 76W
Rice, Charles W.	11-22-21	34 - 37N - 71W	Roemmick, John J.	1-27-22	23 - 34N - 71W
Rice, Harry S.	1-17- 2	4 - 32N - 76W		2-18-18	34 - 33N - 71W
Rice, Silas A.	7- 3- 9	2 - 27N - 72W	Rogers, Arthur I.	8-24-26	4 - 38N - 72W
Richards, Bartlett	1-16-11	21 - 34N - 67W	Rogers, Byron J.	11-10-22	2 - 32N - 72W
Richards, Clare A.	8- 7-22	25 - 34N - 73W	Rogers, Clyde J.	4- 6-27	14 - 36N - 71W
	8- 7-22	19 - 34N - 72W		4- 6-27	11 - 36N - 71W
Richards, Clifford B.	2-23-32	33 - 37N - 76W	Rogers, Dora E. Snyder	1-27-22	28 - 38N - 69W
Richards, J. DeForest	3-17-10	23 - 29N - 71W		1-27-22	29 - 38N - 69W
	3-17-10	22 - 29N - 71W	Rogers, Edith B.	10- 1-21	15 - 30N - 73W
	12-27- 9	23 - 29N - 71W	Rogers, Frank	1-16-17	22 - 30N - 73W
Richards, Paul S.	11-23-11	30 - 35N - 68W		7- 3-18	22 - 30N - 73W
	3- 3- 9	8 - 34N - 68W	Rogers, Frank L.	11-22-21	6 - 30N - 70W
Richardson, Marcus Russell	11-11-22	5 - 36N - 73W		12-10-20	1 - 30N - 71W
Richardson, Wilbur A.	12-11-36	34 - 28N - 72W		10-11-21	1 - 30N - 71W
Rickbaugh, Lewis I.	10-23-14	22 - 32N - 71W		5-18-25	22 - 30N - 73W
Ricklefs, Karl L.	7-21-22	25 - 34N - 68W	Rogers, Lonnie W.	4- 4-32	28 - 30N - 73W
Ridenour, Margaret	3-16-21	8 - 32N - 72W	Rohrbaugh, Edwin P.	11-19- 6	35 - 38N - 77W
Ridgeqay, Pearl F.	6-12-20	17 - 36N - 72W	Rollins, Edna J.	12-28-21	19 - 33N - 74W
	5-17-20	17 - 36N - 72W		11-18-24	25 - 32N - 75W
Ridgeway, William H.	7-26-21	26 - 36N - 73W	Rollins/Gardner, Beatrice	2- 3-22	19 - 33N - 74W
Ridley, Beatrice M.	8-30-29	10 - 33N - 74W	Romine, Edward C.	7-16-23	31 - 35N - 70W
Riehle, Anna M.	10-31-34	17 - 39N - 68W		7-16-23	6 - 34N - 70W
Riehle, August H.	8- 6-35	20 - 39N - 68W	Rookstook, George	10-23-28	4 - 33N - 71W
Riehle, Jacob	10- 2-25	11 - 37N - 70W		4- 2-24	1 - 32N - 72W
	12- 1-21	2 - 37N - 70W	Roots, George H.	3- 7-92	26 - 32N - 75W
Riehle, Pauline K.	8-21-35	26 - 39N - 68W	Roots, George K.	12-16-90	25 - 32N - 75W
Ries, Adam	12- 9-21	19 - 33N - 74W	Rose, Lansing S.	6-24-30	2 - 31N - 73W
Rife, Thomas D.	2- 6-23	28 - 39N - 69W	Rosenberg, Lucine D.	11- 9-22	23 - 34N - 71W
	4-11-22	21 - 39N - 69W		11- 6-16	4 - 32N - 71W
Rihn, William F.	1-13-22	7 - 38N - 69W		11- 9-22	23 - 34N - 71W
Riley, George L.	9-21-23	28 - 36N - 75W	Roskilly, Rollie J.	2-16-22	2 - 37N - 71W
	9-21-23	27 - 36N - 75W	Ross, Florence	2- 3-22	19 - 38N - 75W
Riley, Grover, E.	10-19-23	33 - 36N - 75W	Ross, George M., Assgn.	1-10-20	14 - 40N - 76W
Riley, Joe P.	1-13-24	19 - 33N - 68W	Rossa, Florence	2- 3-22	19 - 38N - 75W
Ripp, Matthias J.	6-22-22	9 - 37N - 69W	Roth, Ira R.	11-28-23	18 - 35N - 67W
Rissler, George W.	4-23-32	32 - 32N - 77W	Rothenburger, George H.	1-11-23	29 - 37N - 70W
Rissler, William B.	8-23-35	34 - 32N - 77W		1-11-23	32 - 37N - 70W
Ritchlin, Edward	9-21- 8	25 - 31N - 77W	Rothenburger, George H.	1-11-23	32 - 37N - 70W
Rixstine, Jennie H., Heirs	3-20-14	19 - 33N - 73W	Rothleutner, Albert A., Jr.	10-28-29	4 - 39N - 68W
Roak, Thomas J.	9-23-93	11 - 33N - 78W	Rothleutner, Frank A.	10-19-23	34 - 40N - 68W
Robb, Chester N.	2-23-23	7 - 40N - 70W		10-19-23	3 - 39N - 68W
	11-21-19	8 - 40N - 72W	Rothleutner, Hattie J.	3-22-22	33 - 40N - 68W
	1-31-27	33 - 41N - 72W		3-22-22	28 - 40N - 68W
Robb, Margaret A.	4-16-23	15 - 40N - 74W	Rothleutner, Joseph A.	10- 9-23	28 - 40N - 68W
Robb/Taylor, Emma M.	10-18-35	13 - 30N - 76W		10- 9-23	27 - 40N - 68W
Robbins, Charles	6-17-37	18 - 30N - 75W	Rothleutner, Magdalena F.	12-12-28	30 - 40N - 68W
Robbins, Charles E.	4-21-22	7 - 30N - 75W		10-23-28	31 - 40N - 68W
	1- 3-23	7 - 30N - 75W	Rothleutner/Weitzel, Helen	4-14-36	13 - 39N - 68W
	9-27-20	7 - 30N - 75W	Round, Floyd R.	10-29-24	21 - 39N - 67W
	2-23-23	7 - 30N - 75W		10-29-24	19 - 39N - 67W
Robbins, Harry	11-15-23	4 - 29N - 76W	Rountree, Robert J.	12-11-19	31 - 34N - 72W
Robbins, Lorn E.	3-15-19	6 - 32N - 67W		12-11-19	31 - 34N - 72W
Roberts, Farley	11-25-23	22 - 37N - 68W	Roush, Charles L.	10-26-25	2 - 31N - 72W
	11-25-23	22 - 37N - 68W	Roush, Donald Sherman	7-12-35	14 - 40N - 76W
Roberts, William J.	3-10-22	2 - 31N - 70W	Roush, Floyd M.	6-29-29	1 - 31N - 72W
Roberts/Smith, Jessie	6-19-22	18 - 32N - 70W	Roush, Francis Burton	1-13-39	24 - 40N - 69W
	6-19-22	7 - 32N - 70W	Rowe, John A.	5-26-20	14 - 32N - 74W
	12-16-14	11 - 32N - 71W	Rowe, John, Heirs	9-11-36	17 - 40N - 71W
Robertson, Durward E.	4-26-37	5 - 39N - 71W	Rowse, Frank	11-16-26	10 - 31N - 77W
Robertson, Earl W.	5-11-23	15 - 34N - 71W	Royce, Cora	6- 5-20	24 - 39N - 75W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Royce, Cora	7- 8-21	13 - 39N - 75W	Santistevan, Frank	1-23-35	20 - 39N - 71W
Royston, James P.	2- 6-99	4 - 36N - 68W	Santistevan, Joe	8- 4-24	10 - 37N - 73W
Rudd, Thomas H.	9-11-17	8 - 32N - 73W	Santistevan, John F.	9-23-30	1 - 36N - 72W
	4-24-23	8 - 32N - 72W	Sarvey, Harry R.	11- 7-40	31 - 35N - 74W
	4-24-23	9 - 32N - 72W	Sarvey, Thomas	1- 8-24	17 - 29N - 74W
Ruebhar, Charles	5-10-23	10 - 32N - 70W		5-17-20	17 - 29N - 74W
Rufenacht, Werner A.	9-13-39	28 - 31N - 76W	Sarvey, William A.	7-11-39	30 - 35N - 74W
Ruhl, Edwin O.	10-27-14	14 - 32N - 71W	Sater, Henry W.	2-25-28	1 - 37N - 74W
Ruhl, Erastus W.	8- 2-27	28 - 39N - 72W	Saul, Alice A.	3-24-27	7 - 29N - 72W
Ruhsert, Edward	5-23-13	28 - 33N - 68W	Saul, Charles J.	5-26-20	11 - 29N - 73W
Ruley, Granville, Assgn.	10- 8-20	23 - 33N - 72W		9-28-21	10 - 29N - 72W
	4-20-17	3 - 36N - 72W		5-26-20	10 - 29N - 72W
Rumery, Frank C.	1-27-13	7 - 32N - 67W	Saul, Emma S.	5-18- 8	15 - 29N - 72W
Rumery, Luther N.	1-25-26	24 - 36N - 69W	Saul, Henry C.	1-25-22	38 - 30N - 72W
Runice, Hilma	8-29-22	24 - 37N - 71W	Saul, James C.	5-19-17	15 - 29N - 73W
Rupe, Don O.	1-31-27	22 - 39N - 69W		8- 7-22	4 - 29N - 72W
Rupe, Thomas N.	4-25-31	31 - 39N - 69W		9-27-15	17 - 29N - 72W
Rupert, Benjamin F.	11-18-14	19 - 40N - 76W	Saul, Lula Viola	8-17-11	10 - 29N - 72W
Rush, Harry R.	4-21-23	4 - 38N - 67W	Saul, Lulu E.	10-20-21	24 - 29N - 73W
Russell, George W.	11- 5-90	14 - 31N - 76W	Saul, Oliver W.	1-31-24	11 - 39N - 72W
Russell, Harry R.	4-25-21	13 - 39N - 70W	Saul, Willard A.	4-19- 9	15 - 29N - 72W
	4-25-21	23 - 39N - 70W	Savage, George J.	12- 1-21	10 - 34N - 75W
Russell, John B.	1-21-93	5 - 30N - 72W	Sawyer, Charles H.	2-20-22	33 - 35N - 69W
Russell, Libbie S.	6-15-94	32 - 31N - 72W		2-20-22	34 - 35N - 69W
	6-15-94	5 - 30N - 72W		2-20-22	33 - 35N - 69W
Russell, Paul J.	12-22-22	10 - 34N - 72W	Saxton, Clifford W.	4- 2-24	23 - 39N - 75W
	12-22-22	2 - 34N - 72W	Sayles, Rosa M.	10- 1-35	15 - 35N - 76W
Russell, Reno D.	1- 8-24	27 - 36N - 71W	Scanlon, John	10-19- 5	25 - 32N - 70W
Russell, Richard A.	6- 1-23	30 - 38N - 73W	Scheckler, Clarence	1-23-22	18 - 39N - 73W
	6- 1-23	19 - 38N - 73W	Scheib, Leah	8-14-24	31 - 32N - 71W
Russell, William K.	3-22-22	7 - 37N - 69W	Scheib, Melvin F.	2-10-27	31 - 32N - 71W
Rutherford, Annie A.	6-26- 5	27 - 29N - 73W	Schelling, Marvin H., Heirs	2- 9-20	9 - 31N - 70W
Rutherford, Archibald A., Heirs	10- 4-00	10 - 28N - 72W	Scherck, Theresa G.	6-30- 6	2 - 37N - 74W
Rutherford, Della M.	1-30-24	17 - 34N - 72W	Scherck, Frederick	4-10-99	2 - 39N - 74W
	1-30-24	11 - 34N - 72W	Scherer, Forrest C.	6-21-26	1 - 39N - 72W
Rutherford, Archibald A.	4- 9-00	5 - 28N - 72W	Schick, Rose	1-30-23	27 - 39N - 70W
Rutherford, Malcoln B.	5- 8- 1	3 - 28N - 72W		1-30-23	22 - 39N - 70W
	6-22- 3	4 - 28N - 72W	Schinske, Otto	6-12-20	31 - 35N - 70W
Rutledge, Edward M.	3- 9-22	26 - 32N - 72W		6-12-20	32 - 35N - 70W
Ryan, James E.	10- 4-20	11 - 35N - 72W	Schlecty, Roscoe	3-16-21	25 - 38N - 70W
Ryan, John M.	10-27-20	26 - 34N - 70W		3-16-21	31 - 38N - 69W
	9-11-24	35 - 34N - 70W		8-30-29	20 - 38N - 69W
Ryan, Mary J.	5-18-23	34 - 34N - 76W	Schlenske, George P.	2-21-20	5 - 34N - 70W
	5-18-23	27 - 34N - 76W	Schlichting, Henry	1-11-23	14 - 36N - 73W
Ryan, Thomas E.	1-27-27	18 - 33N - 70W	Schlichting, Herman	1-12-23	12 - 36N - 73W
Ryan, Timothy A.	12- 9-21	28 - 34N - 76W		1-12-23	2 - 36N - 73W
	12- 9-21	33 - 34N - 76W	Schllnske, George P.	2-21-20	4 - 34N - 70W
Ryan/Larkin Cecilia T.	12-12-23	33 - 37N - 71W	Schloss, Emanuel	12-17- 6	2 - 32N - 73W
	12-12-23	3 - 36N - 71W	Schloss, John David	4-25-31	26 - 38N - 74W
Sadler, Harvey P.	9-27-35	21 - 40N - 67W	Schloss, Margaret	10-28- 4	25 - 33N - 72W
Sadler, Louis E.	9- 8-25	33 - 40N - 67W	Schloss/O'Brien, Margerite	9-28-98	1 - 32N - 73W
Sadler, Rollie E.	6-22-25	28 - 40N - 67W	Schmidt, Agnes	6-22-22	19 - 33N - 70W
Sager, Josephine, Heirs	3-30-32	35 - 38N - 76W	Schmidt, Frank D.	3- 7-12	3 - 33N - 72W
Sager, Karl F. P.	12-11-22	32 - 40N - 74W	Schmidt, Frank J.	1-30-23	9 - 40N - 73W
Sager, Mary M.	9-27-35	3 - 37N - 76W		1-30-23	4 - 40N - 73W
Salisbury, Edward V.	6-20-16	34 - 32N - 69W		10-29-13	11 - 33N - 72W
	5- 4-21	27 - 32N - 69W		3- 7-12	3 - 33N - 73W
	11- 8- 1	27 - 32N - 69W		11-20-16	1 - 33N - 72W
Salisbury, Samuel C.	4- 8- 2	26 - 31N - 69W	Schmidt, Fred F.	4- 3-29	3 - 39N - 67W
Samson, Stevan D. W.	8- 7-22	3 - 34N - 69W	Schmidt, Gustav J.	6-18-35	2 - 32N - 69W
	8- 7-22	2 - 34N - 69W	Schmidt, John H.	12- 9-22	3 - 33N - 73W
Sanchez, Pedro A.	1-23-22	1 - 37N - 73W		12- 9-22	33 - 34N - 73W
Sandbarg, Olaf A.	2-28-93	13 - 32N - 65W	Schmidt, Julia	3- 4-22	18 - 33N - 71W
Sandell, Gustav A.	2-20-17	21 - 33N - 73W		7-18-29	8 - 33N - 71W
	1-10-21	21 - 33N - 73W		8- 6-18	35 - 33N - 69W
	1-10-21	22 - 33N - 73W	Schmidt, Karl F.	3-31-23	13 - 39N - 68W
Sandell, Theron O.	4- 4-22	24 - 29N - 77W		3-31-23	18 - 39N - 67W
Sanders, Canone S.	4- 3-40	21 - 29N - 77W	Schmidt, Nick	11- 9-10	4 - 33N - 72W
Sanders/Aiston, Katie L.	4-28-24	33 - 33N - 76W		5-24-23	15 - 34N - 72W
	10- 6-26	32 - 35N - 76W		2-26-97	7 - 33N - 72W
Sanders/Engel, Etta	10- 4-20	14 - 32N - 71W	Schmidt, Nick K.	7- 7-22	9 - 40N - 73W
Sandlin, Emily J.	1-15-25	15 - 29N - 71W		7- 7-22	10 - 40N - 73W
Sandlin, Mary H.	10-29-24	3 - 29N - 71W	Schmidt, So-hie	1-15-13	4 - 33N - 73W
Sandford, Anna	4-15-20	21 - 30N - 75W	Schmiedlein, Adam	3- 7-22	8 - 32N - 72W
Sanford, Bert	8- 5-20	6 - 31N - 74W	Schmuck, Charley F.	12-12-23	20 - 37N - 73W
	1-10-20	3 - 31N - 74W		12-12-23	19 - 37N - 73W
Sanford, Peter	4-29-12	18 - 31N - 70W	Schmuck, William H.	3-31-26	30 - 37N - 73W
Santiago, Manuel, Heirs	3-11-36	10 - 40N - 76W		3-31-26	17 - 37N - 73W
	1-10-36	10 - 40N - 76W	Schnase, Frederick A.	7-26-21	27 - 31N - 68W
	3-11-36	10 - 40N - 76W		7-26-21	22 - 31N - 68W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Schnase, Gustave, Heirs	8-16-22	34 - 31N - 68W	Shane, William G.	3- 4-22	5 - 37N - 74W
Schneider, Cora A., Heirs	2-13-26	26 - 31N - 70W	Shankula, Johann	8-11-21	31 - 31N - 74W
Schneider, Edward L. C.	12- 2- 7	23 - 31N - 70W		5-24-20	31 - 31N - 74W
	9- 2-20	23 - 31N - 70W	Shanley, Lee	2-13-26	22 - 39N - 68W
	11-20-99	23 - 31N - 70W	Sharp, John	7-31-22	8 - 34N - 74W
Schneider, Eva	11- 8-19	11 - 31N - 76W		7-31-22	7 - 38N - 74W
	10- 6-19	12 - 31N - 76W	Sharp, Samuel K.	6-13-22	6 - 38N - 74W
Schneider, Fritz	9-19-18	27 - 31N - 70W	Sharp, Theodore L.	8-27-23	18 - 38N - 74W
Schneider, Jacob	4-15-20	27 - 31N - 70W	Sharp, William Henry	10- 9-22	20 - 37N - 71W
	9-10-19	27 - 31N - 70W		10- 9-22	10 - 37N - 71W
Schneider, John W.	3-13-11	22 - 31N - 70W	Sharp, William P.	7- 7-22	1 - 38N - 75W
	5-10-23	15 - 31N - 70W	Shaughnessy, James H.	10-19-31	2 - 36N - 76W
	8-17-11	22 - 31N - 70W	Shaw, Clay D.	6-26-18	17 - 31N - 68W
Schneider/Hopkins, Cora A.	2-19-18	23 - 31N - 70W	Shaw, Elizabeth D.	7- 3-97	34 - 31N - 69W
Schnert, Frederick V.	4-21-23	34 - 40N - 72W	Shaw, Eva	8- 8-22	21 - 35N - 70W
Schnider, John W.	1-31-95	22 - 31N - 70W		1-27-22	8 - 35N - 70W
	6-22-11	22 - 31N - 70W		9-11-14	9 - 35N - 70W
Scholder, John	8-12-23	22 - 38N - 75W	Shaw, James C.	5-15-96	27 - 31N - 69W
	1-28-26	22 - 38N - 75W		6- 2-90	27 - 31N - 69W
Schooling, Joseph F.	12-19-21	19 - 37N - 69W		5-15-96	27 - 32N - 69W
Schoonover, Arthur E.	3-20-22	2 - 35N - 73W		6- 2-90	27 - 31N - 69W
Schroder/Bigelow, Frances	5-24-23	30 - 38N - 70W		5-15-96	27 - 32N - 69W
	5-23-23	29 - 38N - 70W		5-12- 3	26 - 31N - 69W
Schroeder, Clarence A.	12-19-21	15 - 35N - 72W	Shaw, James M.	6-18-12	34 - 34N - 72W
Schuller, Ludwig	4-30-23	20 - 34N - 73W	Shaw, Patti W.	5- 4-26	32 - 31N - 69W
Schultz, Carl	7-18-34	10 - 31N - 72W	Shaw, Paul N.	1-27-22	22 - 31N - 69W
Schwartz, Fred	5-16-10	25 - 33N - 73W		9-12-27	28 - 31N - 69W
	10- 6-94	20 - 33N - 71W		2- 8-28	24 - 31N - 69W
Schwiezer, William	7-31-22	9 - 33N - 75W		2-14-19	11 - 32N - 69W
Scoggin, Myrle R.	3- 6-28	4 - 31N - 71W	Shaw, Robert O.	12-17-15	20 - 35N - 70W
Scott, Arthur L.	3-26-23	29 - 38N - 71W	Shaw, Roscoe N.	7-27-31	1 - 29N - 71W
Scott, Frank	12- 9-21	17 - 33N - 74W	Shaw, Tom H.	9-15-32	26 - 39N - 71W
Scott, Frank P.	1- 2-35	3 - 36N - 69W	Sheckler, Clarence	1-23-22	17 - 39N - 73W
Scott, Fred R.	11- 8-21	33 - 33N - 74W		10-24-63	18 - 39N - 73W
Scott, George H.	8- 8-34	5 - 35N - 75W	Sheckler, George	3- 4-22	6 - 32N - 71W
Scott, Harry	10-14-20	18 - 33N - 74W		6- 6-18	6 - 32N - 71W
	9-29-31	14 - 33N - 75W	Sheetz, Fred L.	9-28-23	8 - 39N - 69W
	9-16-21	5 - 29N - 73W		9-28-23	5 - 39N - 69W
Scott, Iona	5-19-36	9 - 36N - 69W	Shelden, Burr C.	10-14-26	22 - 37N - 72W
Scott, J. Ralph	8-15-21	5 - 29N - 73W	Shelden, Clarence F.	10-21-37	8 - 37N - 72W
Scott, James J.	2-13-22	22 - 33N - 70W	Shelden, Leonard	2- 7-24	13 - 37N - 72W
	6-22-22	27 - 33N - 70W		2- 7-24	1 - 37N - 72W
	10-20-21	12 - 30N - 73W	Shelden, Roy	1-23-22	3 - 37N - 71W
Scott, Jefferson Newton	6-29-21	13 - 30N - 73W	Shelley, Charles C.	4- 4-22	31 - 31N - 68W
Scott, John Paul	7-20-37	3 - 38N - 68W	Shepard, Charley	8-21-19	6 - 27N - 72W
Scott, Leroy A.	12-12-19	12 - 38N - 72W	Shepard, John	9-19-19	5 - 31N - 67W
Scott, Thomas G.	7- 8-21	25 - 34N - 68W	Shepard, Loyal B.	6-21-19	4 - 31N - 67W
	2-14-23	30 - 34N - 67W	Shepard, Lucy C.	4- 6-17	4 - 31N - 67W
Scott, William O.	11- 9-22	18 - 40N - 68W	Shepard, Sarah	3-28-17	10 - 27N - 73W
Scott/Stansbury, Florence	12-18-37	4 - 36N - 69W	Shepard, Thomas W.	3-28-17	5 - 27N - 72W
Scruggs, Thomas	5-14- 9	22 - 40N - 76W	Shepard, William L.	3-23- 8	17 - 27N - 72W
Sculley, Ayres C., Assgn Carlton	8-17-11	26 - 37N - 70W	Shepherd, Edwin	7-15- 1	3 - 32N - 72W
Scully, Ayers C.	11-20-16	23 - 35N - 71W	Shepherd, Thomas	1-30-23	22 - 34N - 72W
	1-26-11	23 - 36N - 71W	Sherer, Louis W.	8- 1-21	28 - 28N - 71W
	4-13-11	19 - 37N - 69W		8- 1-21	18 - 28N - 71W
	4-13-11	32 - 38N - 69W	Sherman, Charles H.	10-20-21	23 - 29N - 75W
Scully, Mary E.	8-28-15	18 - 32N - 75W	Sherill, Noah Ben	9-29-30	29 - 31N - 73W
Sears, Martha B.	1-10-21	8 - 38N - 73W		6-10-29	25 - 33N - 73W
Seawalt, Oscar	2-26-21	31 - 38N - 69W	Sherwin, Waldo E.	12- 1-98	6 - 32N - 72W
Seckman, Archibald F.	6-29-21	12 - 37N - 70W	Shields, Clifford M.	9-11-22	3 - 36N - 73W
Secord, Charles W.	5-24-23	19 - 38N - 73W		12-19-21	34 - 37N - 73W
Seegrist, Jacob W.	6-21-19	1 - 31N - 68W	Shiley, John S.	2-20-22	7 - 38N - 70W
Seegrist, Robert Ray	3-23-21	1 - 31N - 68W	Shipman, Harry C.	5-17-22	9 - 38N - 69W
Sehnert, Fredrick V.	4-21-23	3 - 39N - 72W	Shipp, John L.	5-22-36	9 - 36N - 74W
Seneski, Frank J.	4-20-26	31 - 41N - 67W		8-11-21	4 - 36N - 74W
Senna, Victor	3-10-37	5 - 37N - 76W	Shippen, Albert L.	10-28-20	7 - 29N - 75W
Seckman, Archibald F.	3-30-27	30 - 39N - 67W	Shippen, Cody	9-11-14	34 - 33N - 67W
Seckman, Joseph F.	2-21-27	30 - 39N - 67W		12- 9-21	34 - 33N - 67W
	7-18-21	12 - 37N - 70W	Shirley, John S.	2-20-22	7 - 38N - 70W
Severin, Frank J.	8-30-20	9 - 32N - 70W	Shockey, Francis Orville	1-30-23	7 - 34N - 74W
Severson, Leroy B.	1-11-92	3 - 33N - 69W	Shoopman, Delmar A.	8- 7-22	1 - 32N - 69W
Seymour, Charles E.	1-29-19	32 - 32N - 68W	Shoopman, John C.	6-14-24	27 - 34N - 72W
Shaddox, Lonnie	7- 9-36	23 - 37N - 76W	Shores, Ward A.	2-20-22	21 - 40N - 75W
Shaddox, Pluma M. Pratt	3-13-35	26 - 38N - 76W	Shonsey, Michael	11- 5-90	13 - 30N - 72W
Shade, Edward C.	2-16-22	27 - 33N - 73W	Showalter, Paul F.	12- 1-21	27 - 37N - 72W
Shadel, Melvin A.	5-15-30	32 - 41N - 71W		12- 1-21	21 - 37N - 72W
	5-12-30	4 - 40N - 71W	Shrader, Clarence D.	3-22-22	23 - 38N - 70W
Shaffer, Alphonzo	11- 5-90	19 - 31N - 74W	Shrader, Claude L.	9-30-25	18 - 38N - 69W
Shaffer, Arnold F.	2-13-22	31 - 32N - 69W		11-11-22	19 - 38N - 69W
Shaffer, Nina R.	6-10-29	4 - 36N - 74W	Shrader, Lafe E.	1- 3-22	30 - 38N - 69W
			Shrader, Nathaniel L.	2-26-21	19 - 38N - 69W



NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Shrader, Ross V.	8-16-22	30 - 39N - 69W	Slocumb, Bernard L.	12-28-21	32 - 36N - 69W
	1-13-28	23 - 39N - 70W	Slocumb, Raymond E.	12-11-22	29 - 36N - 69W
Shriver, Fannie	12-22-22	22 - 41N - 74W		12-11-22	33 - 36N - 69W
Shugart, William G.	4-17-32	19 - 40N - 68W	Slonaker, Bell C.	1-12-34	7 - 40N - 75W
Shurtz, Ray	1-29-19	26 - 31N - 68W	Smith, Allen M.	2-21-20	12 - 32N - 71W
Sierke, Herman	9-21-17	34 - 32N - 74W		8- 6-14	11 - 32N - 71W
Silver, Sarah A.	12-17-35	33 - 31N - 72W	Smith, Alta E.	1-10-36	2 - 36N - 77W
	1-24-25	27 - 32N - 71W		8-21-28	14 - 37N - 77W
	1-24-25	22 - 32N - 71W	Smith, Andrew	9-30-25	11 - 39N - 73W
Silver, William R.	7-22-20	28 - 32N - 71W	Smith, Byrle W.	6-12-23	4 - 39N - 68W
	12- 6-29	3 - 31N - 72W		6-12-23	3 - 39N - 68W
Silvers, Benjamin C.	7-10-18	34 - 33N - 73W	Smith, Carl M.	1- 2-25	14 - 39N - 73W
Silvers, Clarence	6- 5-20	6 - 27N - 72W	Smith, Charles	11- 5-90	2 - 31N - 75W
Simmons, Bernard	10-20-21	23 - 37N - 71W	Smith, Clarence L.	4-21-23	7 - 33N - 74W
Simmons, Kenneth G., Heirs	5-14-19	13 - 32N - 70W	Smith, Clarence Leonard	8- 7-22	15 - 30N - 76W
	1-27-22	13 - 32N - 70W	Smith, Clarence R.	2-23-23	12 - 35N - 75W
Simms, Edward	3-10-15	7 - 28N - 71W	Smith, Claud A.	4-13-22	1 - 33N - 69W
Simpson, Sadie E.	10- 9-22	11 - 35N - 71W	Smith, Cogley	2- 4-20	34 - 33N - 68W
	4- 4-22	11 - 35N - 71W	Smith, Davis	2-27-14	30 - 33N - 69W
Sims, Albert G.	3-17-25	1 - 29N - 74W		5-29-20	25 - 33N - 69W
	4- 8-12	25 - 33N - 71W	Smith, Durward J.	6-29-21	23 - 33N - 68W
	5-25- 8	22 - 31N - 73W	Smith, Earl C.	4-16-23	35 - 36N - 75W
	3- 1-22	3 - 29N - 74W	Smith, Earl J.	2-28-24	7 - 35N - 68W
	5- 2-13	14 - 38N - 69W	Smith, Edward	12-17-19	10 - 31N - 75W
	3-23-11	35 - 33N - 71W	Smith, Edward C.	12-11-14	2 - 35N - 70W
	9-27-21	25 - 33N - 71W	Smith, Edward W.	2-14-23	11 - 34N - 75W
	9-27-21	26 - 33N - 71W		3-24-27	14 - 31N - 77W
Sims, Arthur M.	11-20-16	35 - 33N - 71W	Smith, Edward, Assgn.	7-20-28	3 - 30N - 76W
Sims, Cecil R.	11- 4-27	28 - 35N - 67W	Smith, Edwin C.	7-23-90	10 - 32N - 73W
Sims, Chester A.	9- 5-23	26 - 30N - 74W		1-11-92	10 - 32N - 73W
	5-22-11	2 - 32N - 71W	Smith, Eleanor	2-20-18	20 - 30N - 75W
	9- 5-23	1 - 32N - 71W		7-20-28	7 - 30N - 76W
Sims, Della M.	6- 9-20	21 - 35N - 67W	Smith, Elizabeth	12- 6- 9	4 - 33N - 76W
Sims, Hattie	5-14-19	29 - 33N - 69W	Smith, Ernest M.	12-16-22	4 - 39N - 68W
	8-26-21	28 - 33N - 69W		12-16-22	5 - 39N - 68W
Sims, Millard F.	10-31- 7	31 - 34N - 68W	Smith, Frances	1-15-27	9 - 35N - 75W
Sims, Nelle Prill	2-21-27	13 - 29N - 74W		1-15-27	4 - 35N - 75W
Sims, Rease	10-14-22	28 - 32N - 73W	Smith, Frances R.	8-26-26	1 - 31N - 75W
Sims, Susan C.	7-26-18	34 - 30N - 74W		5-25- 8	4 - 30N - 75W
	4-21-23	26 - 30N - 74W	Smith, Frank	6- 9-32	4 - 40N - 74W
	8-27-17	2 - 29N - 74W	Smith, Frank M.	12-17-00	22 - 32N - 70W
Sims, William S.	3- 4-22	1 - 34N - 69W	Smith, Frank Raymond,		
Sims/Prill, Nelle	6- 6-14	14 - 29N - 74W	Lgl. Repr.	2-26-21	8 - 28N - 72W
	3-13-15	13 - 29N - 74W	Smith, Fred W.	10-27-20	35 - 34N - 70W
Singer, Elwood	11-24-26	23 - 34N - 72W		9-24-26	2 - 33N - 70W
	11-24-26	24 - 34N - 72W	Smith, Geroge A.	12-16-31	5 - 39N - 75W
Singleton, William C.	10-14-24	32 - 40N - 71W	Smith, George B.	2- 6-25	19 - 33N - 76W
Singley, Edward H.	7-12-22	8 - 31N - 69W	Smith, George W.	1-26-20	24 - 35N - 74W
Sinn, John E.	5- 9-18	29 - 32N - 68W		2- 3-11	2 - 35N - 70W
	9-11-17	32 - 32N - 68W		4-12-00	6 - 32N - 71W
Sinnard, Frank	5-24-30	18 - 38N - 75W		11-20-16	2 - 35N - 70W
	6- 1-34	11 - 36N - 77W	Smith, Guy O.	2- 9-20	23 - 37N - 77W
Sipple, George H.	9-15-22	20 - 38N - 70W	Smith, Hallie	1- 8-24	12 - 30N - 71W
Skeeu, James R.	10- 2-90	21 - 36N - 71W		2-13-24	7 - 30N - 70W
Skinner, Charles C.	12-12-17	9 - 31N - 67W	Smith, Harley E.	11-21-23	35 - 38N - 75W
	11-23-11	7 - 33N - 74W	Smith, Howard W.	12-22-22	17 - 34N - 67W
Skinner, Lewis	11-18-20	28 - 32N - 75W		12-22-22	17 - 35N - 67W
Skinner, Melvin	3- 4-12	1 - 31N - 71W	Smith, Ira M.	6-16-31	7 - 32N - 76W
Skinner, William	11-18-20	21 - 32N - 75W	Smith, Isabelle	1-30- 8	27 - 32N - 75W
Skipp, Charles H.	11-11-22	5 - 34N - 68W	Smith, Jay	9-27-15	35 - 34N - 76W
	11-11-22	8 - 34N - 68W	Smith, Jay R.	5-19-17	17 - 30N - 75W
Slates, John B.	3-31-23	6 - 35N - 68W		8- 2-18	9 - 31N - 75W
	2- 3-22	22 - 36N - 69W		4-29-13	9 - 31N - 75W
Slaymaker, Samuel	9- 5-89	36 - 32N - 74W		7-20-28	15 - 30N - 76W
	2-23-92	26 - 32N - 74W	Smith, Jesse B.	9-16-24	14 - 35N - 77W
Sleight, Laura	9-19-23	19 - 32N - 72W		9-29-24	13 - 35N - 77W
Sleight, Laura, Heirs	6-28-37	30 - 32N - 70W	Smith, John D.	7-18-10	7 - 30N - 73W
Slichter, Jess E.	2- 1-11	9 - 33N - 73W	Smith, Joseph T.	12- 4-90	4 - 33N - 75W
Slichter, Charles R.	11-23-16	23 - 33N - 73W	Smith, Laurence M.	9-21-25	1 - 34N - 71W
	7-29-26	23 - 33N - 73W		9-21-25	11 - 34N - 71W
	12- 2-13	23 - 33N - 73W	Smith, Lemuel Jr.	9-25-89	25 - 33N - 74W
Slichter, Ida E.	2-20-13	14 - 33N - 73W	Smith, Leroy	4-26-37	3 - 29N - 77W
	11-20-16	14 - 33N - 73W	Smith, Lewis M.	10-26-21	23 - 34N - 69W
Slichter, Jesse E.	11-20-16	15 - 33N - 73W	Smith, Lucy S.	1-31-25	13 - 34N - 73W
	10-22- 8	9 - 33N - 73W		2-18-30	7 - 35N - 73W
	7-23-13	15 - 33N - 73W	Smith, Lucy S.,		
Slichter, John	10-22- 8	9 - 33N - 73W	Wm. J., et al	12-14-38	5 - 34N - 73W
Slichter, Sarah A.	5- 2-13	14 - 32N - 73W	Smith, Marie V.	4- 5-23	12 - 38N - 76W
Sloan, Wood	5-13-31	2 - 40N - 74W	Smith, Mark W.	7-26-21	14 - 34N - 73W
Slocum/Evans, Florence	1- 8-24	4 - 40N - 73W		7-26-21	10 - 34N - 73W
Slocumb, Bernard L.	12-28-21	34 - 36N - 69W	Smith, Marvin J.	1-30-24	14 - 35N - 77W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Smith, Nellie A.	9-21-25	24 - 33N - 68W	Spencer, John O.	12- 8-36	13 - 35N - 73W
Smith, Nelson C.	6-19-22	20 - 32N - 75W	Spencer, Lewis W.	4-28-20	28 - 32N - 70W
	11-15-21	20 - 32N - 75W		12-21-23	21 - 32N - 70W
Smith, Pearl M.	6-29-27	1 - 34N - 71W	Spies, Oscar W.	1-13-22	20 - 32N - 71W
Smith, Ralph S.	10-11-21	14 - 35N - 74W		1-13-22	35 - 30N - 73W
	10-11-21	23 - 35N - 74W	Spiewak, Teofil	1-31-21	18 - 34N - 70W
Smith, Robert C.	11- 2-32	13 - 35N - 77W		1-31-21	17 - 34N - 70W
	5- 2-53	5 - 35N - 76W	Spillman, Albert	11- 2-25	4 - 35N - 73W
Smith, Robert L.	12-28-21	6 - 34N - 68W		11- 5-25	5 - 35N - 73W
Smith, Roland R.	2- 3-22	8 - 35N - 67W	Spillmann, Eula B. Parrish	3- 3-21	4 - 35N - 73W
Smith, Roy E.	8- 1-21	8 - 39N - 73W		3- 3-21	33 - 36N - 73W
	8- 1-21	15 - 39N - 74W	Spinks, Charles T.	8-12- 9	17 - 33N - 70W
Smith, Sarah A.	1-26-16	3 - 33N - 76W	Spinks, Raleigh B. L.		
Smith, Stanley S.	2-24-25	34 - 36N - 75W	Assgn.	4-13-11	26 - 33N - 74W
Smith, Thomas	3-21-34	4 - 35N - 76W		3-22-13	24 - 31N - 72W
Smith, Ulysses G.	1-12-26	3 - 33N - 69W	Spoeneman, Albert F.	5-28-30	35 - 37N - 71W
	1-12-26	4 - 33N - 69W	Spracklen, Wilhelmina,		
	9-11-31	5 - 31N - 71W	Heirs	10- 5-11	35 - 31N - 74W
Smith, William	11-12- 1	10 - 33N - 75W	Spracklen, Charles V.	2- 6-23	34 - 40N - 73W
	5- 6-13	10 - 33N - 75W		6- 9-19	3 - 39N - 73W
Smith, William J.	10-30-35	23 - 34N - 76W	Spracklen, Frank	10-18-18	15 - 28N - 72W
	10- 4-55	2 - 35N - 75W		10-28-22	20 - 28N - 72W
Smith, William Joshua	7- 8-26	25 - 35N - 74W		10-28-22	21 - 28N - 72W
	7-29-42	27 - 35N - 73W	Spracklen, George H.	6-13- 6	20 - 30N - 74W
Smith/Castle, Ella	10-28-15	11 - 32N - 71W	Spracklen, Gladys E.	11-14-21	17 - 28N - 72W
Smolik, Charles	12-10-20	13 - 31N - 69W	Spracklen, Guy V.	12-27-27	10 - 28N - 72W
Smolik, Katie	11-18-20	13 - 31N - 69W		1-30-23	2 - 28N - 72W
Smoot, William C.	9-27-26	9 - 31N - 69W	Spracklen, John S.	2-13- 8	17 - 30N - 74W
Smull, George	2-14-25	25 - 39N - 72W		8-18-21	10 - 28N - 72W
	6-11-25	17 - 39N - 71W		1-18-23	14 - 28N - 72W
Smyth, Edward	11- 8-21	24 - 40N - 76W		1-18-23	11 - 28N - 72W
	6- 6-14	24 - 40N - 76W	Spracklen, Ruby A.	7- 8-20	22 - 28N - 72W
Smyth, Maud M.	2-27- 8	2 - 31N - 75W	Spracklen, Willis R.	12-23-22	13 - 29N - 72W
Snively, Homer	7- 2-15	11 - 31N - 70W	Spracklen/Olin, Hulda	5- 3-11	25 - 31N - 75W
Snively, John Homer	10-11-21	23 - 31N - 69W	Spradling, Ethel Stuart	12-19-21	3 - 35N - 73W
Snodgrass, Arthur, Heirs	6-22-27	6 - 40N - 74W		12-19-21	2 - 35N - 73W
Snodgrass, Robert C.	4-21-20	23 - 29N - 76W	Spradling, Floyd R.	4-28-30	4 - 35N - 73W
Snook, John H.	7-18-21	12 - 32N - 72W	Sprague, Mary J.	11- 8-28	20 - 35N - 70W
	7-18-21	6 - 31N - 72W		11- 8-28	7 - 34N - 70W
	12-20-21	6 - 31N - 72W	Spriggs, Kenneth S.	2-14-25	3 - 40N - 76W
Snow, Curtis I.	11-22-22	3 - 33N - 71W	Sprittles, Charles	6-22-22	12 - 32N - 71W
Snow, Edwin M.	3-20-14	28 - 33N - 67W	Spurgeon, Jeremiah, Assgn.	11-20-16	30 - 33N - 76W
	5-13-15	28 - 33N - 67W	Spurhawk, Frank A.	6- 4-89	8 - 33N - 73W
Snow, John	3- 5-23	21 - 32N - 72W	Staddler, John T. Jr.	6-24-19	35 - 31N - 68W
Snow, John A.	10- 4-13	34 - 33N - 71W	Stalder, Edgar F.	7- 7-22	7 - 38N - 69W
	7-13-25	21 - 32N - 72W		5-18-25	9 - 38N - 71W
Snyder, J. Wesley	9-19- 6	14 - 31N - 70W	Stalder, Edwin F.	1-28-26	14 - 38N - 71W
Snyder, Paul L.	4-10-25	13 - 36N - 70W		2- 6-23	14 - 38N - 71W
Sobotka, Jacob J.	4-11-22	22 - 31N - 67W	Stamatis, James J.	12-21-23	3 - 27N - 72W
Sobotka, John Jr.	1-22-20	28 - 31N - 67W	Standage, Merrill S.	5-22-22	30 - 30N - 72W
Sobotka, Joseph	5-17-20	21 - 31N - 67W		5-22-22	31 - 30N - 72W
	1-29-19	29 - 31N - 67W	Stanford, David G.	10- 8-20	23 - 33N - 72W
Socia, Edward G.	4-30-23	2 - 34N - 75W	Stansbury, Florence	12-18-19	17 - 28N - 71W
Sorum, Henry U.	1- 7-22	14 - 40N - 73W	Staples, Hobert A.	5-22-24	30 - 40N - 75W
Sothman, Claus	8- 3-99	17 - 33N - 66W	Staples/Barry, Katie E.	5-15-26	29 - 40N - 75W
Southard, James L.	11-14-21	24 - 34N - 76W	Stark, James A.	8-21- 7	15 - 37N - 71W
Sowers, Thomas A.	3-19-20	34 - 32N - 68W	Stark, Mary E.	4-15-20	34 - 34N - 68W
Sowers/Kirby, Myrtle C.	12-22-22	13 - 34N - 69W	Starke, Edward T.	6-19-19	28 - 34N - 68W
	12-22-22	18 - 34N - 68W	Starke, Newman B.	1-25-17	1 - 37N - 71W
Sparks, James L.	10-29-24	9 - 37N - 71W		12-15-20	1 - 31N - 71W
Sparling, Christopher C.	9-27-21	30 - 35N - 73W		4-17-16	1 - 37N - 71W
Spaugh, Addison A.	12-14-89	31 - 33N - 64W	Starkey, Willis L.	2-15-23	15 - 36N - 74W
	12-14-89	6 - 32N - 64W		6- 9-19	15 - 36N - 74W
Spaugh, Mary E.	4- 7-16	9 - 34N - 67W		5-22-36	15 - 36N - 74W
	8- 1-12	9 - 34N - 67W	Starr, Ray	10-29-24	32 - 41N - 74W
Spauton, Nancy A.	12-22-19	32 - 33N - 73W		10-19-23	29 - 41N - 74W
Spears, Jay	3-10-37	19 - 35N - 73W	Starrett, Silas A.	4-13-22	14 - 36N - 70W
Speed, Lafayette	3-14-10	4 - 38N - 68W	Stauffer, Frank M.	12-10-20	7 - 31N - 72W
Speggers, Henrik	4- 5-24	32 - 35N - 69W		5-18-25	18 - 31N - 72W
Spehr, Paul	4- 5-24	22 - 32N - 73W		12-18-30	1 - 31N - 72W
	4- 5-24	23 - 32N - 73W	Stearns, Rollin A., Assgn.	2- 1-18	14 - 40N - 77W
Speiker, Nannie	1-10-39	14 - 39N - 77W	Steckley/Phillips, Velma E.	4-26-40	29 - 40N - 70W
Spellman, Alvin T.	1-29-34	14 - 38N - 74W	Steeves, Glenn M.	4-21-24	1 - 29N - 73W
Spellman, Charles L.	10- 6-21	5 - 38N - 74W	Steffen, John J.	11- 5-90	32 - 33N - 63W
Spellman, George B.	11-18-24	6 - 38N - 74W	Steffen, Louis V.	4-11-22	30 - 30N - 73W
Spellman, Henry L.	8-24-18	24 - 34N - 68W	Stefens, Blanche Edna	7-13-38	19 - 41N - 75W
Spellman, Jesse H.	9-17-18	12 - 31N - 68W	Steiner, Carl F.	12- 9-21	19 - 34N - 73W
	3- 1-22	12 - 31N - 68W	Steiner, Leslie Earl	7-26-21	7 - 37N - 72W
Spellman, Pearl H.,			Steinle, Ernest W.	6-16-25	28 - 39N - 70W
Lgl Rpr.	9-28-23	33 - 39N - 74W		6-16-25	21 - 39N - 70W
Spence, Fannie B.	10-12-14	12 - 34N - 70W	Steinle, Fred Otto	3-16-27	9 - 38N - 70W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Steinle, Gustave A.	1-13-22	10 - 38N - 70W	Strand, Oliver	3-10-22	5 - 36N - 68W
Stelter, Claude O.	1-13-22	15 - 38N - 70W		1-10-20	5 - 36N - 68W
Stenley, Levi	6-24-30	4 - 39N - 76W	Strand, Waldon E.	10-12-36	17 - 36N - 68W
Stennett, Albert H.	9- 5- 6	34 - 41N - 70W	Stratton, Walter S. Jr.	2- 6-23	5 - 36N - 72W
	12- 6-24	31 - 35N - 71W	Straub, Edward	2-26-21	21 - 38N - 70W
Stephens, Blanche Edna	12- 6-24	29 - 35N - 71W	Straup, Erastus	3-14-10	7 - 32N - 71W
Stephens, E. J.	6-20-38	1 - 40N - 77W	Strey, Fred A.	3-10-22	26 - 37N - 75W
	7-19-60	2 - 32N - 76W		3-10-22	25 - 37N - 75W
	1-23-53	5 - 32N - 76W	Strickland, Leland H.	1-13-22	14 - 40N - 69W
Stephens, Harvey C.	1- 2-25	15 - 40N - 73W	Strickler, Albert	11-22-22	29 - 37N - 74W
	1-15-20	10 - 40N - 73W	Strickler, Charles	9- 5-23	33 - 37N - 74W
Stephenson, Warner Rae	11-19-31	7 - 36N - 74W	Stricklett, James P.	12-15-10	23 - 31N - 74W
Sterling, James A.	9- 8-25	24 - 33N - 77W	Stringham, Alfred E.	12- 6-29	32 - 32N - 74W
	10-14-24	24 - 33N - 77W		12- 9-21	32 - 32N - 74W
Sterling, Manuel L.	2-15-24	24 - 33N - 77W	Strock, Leonard J.	4-10-25	26 - 29N - 73W
	2-15-24	26 - 33N - 77W		4-10-25	12 - 39N - 72W
Stevens, James M.	2-10-27	24 - 38N - 71W	Stuart, Howard T.	8-30-22	10 - 35N - 73W
Stevenson, Athol V.	4-16-20	35 - 33N - 67W		8-30-22	15 - 35N - 73W
Stevenson, Brougham	4-16-20	6 - 32N - 67W	Stuart, Olive M.	1-13-22	10 - 35N - 73W
Stevenson, Edward L.	2- 7-24	3 - 36N - 77W		1-13-22	11 - 35N - 73W
	12-27-15	2 - 36N - 77W	Stults, James J.	2-21-23	23 - 30N - 73W
	4- 9-17	35 - 37N - 77W		2-26-21	24 - 31N - 73W
Stevick, Harry	4- 9-23	9 - 40N - 72W	Stump, Charles D.	2-10-27	24 - 36N - 76W
	4- 9-23	4 - 40N - 72W		2-10-27	23 - 36N - 76W
Stevick, Harry, Agnes	4-26-39	3 - 40N - 72W	Stump, Guy G.	8-27-23	11 - 36N - 76W
	5-14-37	32 - 41N - 72W		2-24-25	10 - 36N - 76W
Stewart, Albert R.	5-28-35	26 - 36N - 77W	Sturgeon, Frank J.	6-29- 1	32 - 30N - 73W
Stewart, Elvin	2-25-36	9 - 36N - 76W	Sturgeon, Robert J.	2-24-45	11 - 27N - 72W
Stewart, Frank	1-23-24	24 - 31N - 71W	Sturgis, Orville A.	8-20-30	15 - 27N - 73W
	1-23-24	19 - 31N - 70W	Sughroue, Clarence B.	4-16-23	2 - 40N - 75W
Stewart, James E.	5- 1-29	25 - 38N - 75W	Sullivan, John	3- 3-44	35 - 31N - 75W
Stewart, Raymond A.	10-30-19	2 - 37N - 73W		10-21-38	33 - 31N - 75W
	5-29-20	1 - 37N - 73W	Sullivan, John M.	3-25-26	13 - 30N - 75W
Stickle, Arthur R.	3- 4-22	29 - 36N - 73W		6-25-20	2 - 30N - 74W
Stieber, Anthony	2- 4-20	13 - 31N - 73W		9- 2-20	15 - 30N - 75W
	7-29-26	33 - 31N - 72W	Sullivan, Michael	10-30-22	22 - 39N - 72W
Stilphen, George F.	10- 2-11	21 - 31N - 77W		10-30-22	27 - 39N - 72W
Stimson, Lona	7-29-26	23 - 36N - 75W	Sullivan, Nora	3-29- 2	34 - 31N - 75W
Stine, Elmer M.	12-14-25	21 - 39N - 72W		11-20-99	27 - 31N - 75W
Stine, George	9-21-23	21 - 39N - 72W	Sullivan, Phyllis D.	4-22-27	3 - 30N - 75W
	9-21-23	17 - 39N - 72W	Sullivan, Thomas	3- 1-22	6 - 30N - 74W
Stinson, John M.	7-18-21	4 - 31N - 74W		3- 1-22	1 - 30N - 75W
	3-26-25	8 - 31N - 74W	Sullivan, William C.	8-25- 2	27 - 31N - 75W
Stinson, Melvin I.	12- 6-27	2 - 31N - 73W	Sumner, Lizzie Kimball	5-21-28	22 - 32N - 77W
Stinson, Ruth C.	4-30-47	28 - 31N - 74W	Sunley, Benjamin F.	3-19-25	28 - 37N - 68W
Stivers, Claud	6- 5-26	5 - 37N - 67W		3-19-25	4 - 36N - 68W
Stivers, Eveline	5-26-25	8 - 37N - 67W	Sunset Coal Co.	4-17-11	26 - 34N - 68W
Stock, August F.	9-11-23	33 - 31N - 70W	Suplee, George R.	10-14-20	3 - 29N - 74W
	2-18-18	15 - 31N - 68W		4- 4-22	11 - 30N - 74W
	7-25-34	10 - 31N - 68W	Suthard, Charles G.	3- 1-22	5 - 29N - 73W
Stock, Leona	10- 6-32	7 - 31N - 71W		3- 1-22	17 - 29N - 73W
Stock/Moss, Leona	7- 7-22	17 - 31N - 70W	Sutphin, Clara	10-10- 2	31 - 32N - 75W
Stocke, Frank E.	3-10-26	6 - 38N - 68W	Sutphin, Claud	8-10-11	23 - 31N - 74W
	3-10-26	5 - 38N - 68W	Sutphin, Derrick R.	10-26- 7	6 - 31N - 75W
Stocks, Fred L.	11- 2- 3	33 - 29N - 77W		10- 2-90	8 - 30N - 71W
Stoddard, James M.	7- 9- 1	31 - 33N - 71W	Svensden, James J.	10- 4-20	18 - 34N - 76W
Stoddard, Lee C.	10-26-25	17 - 35N - 67W		10-11-21	19 - 34N - 76W
Stolt/McGehee, Elta L.	10-18-39	7 - 31N - 76W	Swainson, Herbert L.	5-22-24	22 - 35N - 73W
Stone, Harry	12- 4-22	28 - 38N - 71W		5-22-24	22 - 34N - 73W
Stone, Milton A.	2-23-23	34 - 38N - 71W	Swanson, Anna M.	1-30-23	3 - 38N - 73W
Stone, William J.	2-14-23	11 - 31N - 73W	Swanson, Arthur W.	7-28-20	24 - 37N - 70W
Stone/Hylton, Alta	10-12-25	7 - 38N - 71W	Swanson, August P.	11-20-16	14 - 34N - 70W
Stoner, Albert B.	1-10-20	4 - 31N - 69W		3-23-21	14 - 34N - 70W
Stoner, Columbus E.	9-17-18	5 - 31N - 69W	Swanson, Ida H.	1- 7-22	11 - 34N - 70W
Stoner, Edison S.	9-17-18	3 - 31N - 69W	Swanson, Johann Felix	12- 9-21	24 - 35N - 74W
	2-29-34	3 - 40N - 70W	Swanson/Granlund, Sophia V.	4-29-12	2 - 34N - 69W
	6- 2-19	8 - 31N - 69W		2- 2-23	7 - 34N - 69W
Stoner, Etna, Heirs	12- 4-22	9 - 36N - 74W	Swartz, Elmer S.	2-15-23	11 - 34N - 70W
Storer, Charles E.	5-22-36	9 - 36N - 74W	Swartz, Mabel	6-26-11	25 - 38N - 74W
	12- 4-22	3 - 36N - 74W	Swickhamer, George L.	1-13-37	30 - 33N - 72W
Storment, James W.	9-16-25	33 - 37N - 68W	Swickhamer, John	7-14-14	34 - 33N - 68W
Storms, Ole R.	2-21-27	17 - 39N - 73W	Swickhamer, John G.	2-16-20	14 - 32N - 68W
Stortz, John C.	5- 3-88	5 - 32N - 71W		5-19-21	30 - 32N - 68W
Story, Thomas O.	1-23-22	11 - 35N - 69W	Swope, William H.	6-27-36	25 - 32N - 69W
Stout, Clyde O.	11-18-25	33 - 41N - 70W	Swormstedt, Richard	11-24-22	14 - 40N - 72W
	8-26-21	33 - 41N - 70W	Sybrant, Bert M.	2-21-34	22 - 35N - 70W
Stoutenburg, Martin	4- 8-12	33 - 34N - 72W	Sybrant, Ross F.	6- 1-34	27 - 41N - 68W
Stover, Paul E.	4- 4-33	21 - 41N - 70W	Tachovsky, Frank A.	5-24-30	34 - 41N - 69W
Stowell, Harold C.	1-15-25	29 - 29N - 75W	Tachovsky, Stanley V.	8-27-30	13 - 39N - 71W
Strachota, Emil	5-28-35	6 - 39N - 70W	Tanner, Avis A.	10-12-31	13 - 29N - 71W
Strand, Oliver	4-30-23	5 - 36N - 68W	Tardy, William C.	3- 4-22	1 - 30N - 72W
				5-17-17	4 - 31N - 76W
					9 - 31N - 76W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Tardy, William C.	8- 7-22	5 - 31N - 76W	Thompson, Luella I.	4-21-22	10 - 34N - 71W
Tardy, William Crawford	6-19-19	4 - 31N - 76W	Thompson, Mary	5-24-20	27 - 33N - 71W
	11-26-15	9 - 31N - 76W		10-12-11	21 - 35N - 67W
Tarrant, Gilbert	5-10-23	6 - 34N - 69W		3-30-16	27 - 33N - 71W
Tate, Beaford Cameron	11- 4-20	10 - 34N - 77W	Thompson, Nathan Howard	12-19-21	17 - 31N - 67W
Tate, Daniel M.	9-11-23	3 - 34N - 77W	Thompson, Walter G.	10-29-24	34 - 41N - 74W
	8-30-20	3 - 34N - 77W		10-29-24	27 - 41N - 74W
Tate, John L.	10- 4-23	2 - 34N - 77W	Thompson, William L.	7- 7-22	11 - 38N - 71W
Taunt, William M.	1-15-16	19 - 29N - 74W		12-12-28	11 - 38N - 71W
Taylor, Alva C.	5-20-31	5 - 40N - 73W	Thomson, John R.	5-31-23	22 - 37N - 67W
Taylor, Frank O.	3- 8-26	21 - 27N - 72W	Thoren, Harry W.	9-15-22	13 - 35N - 71W
Taylor, Fred G.	3-14-23	24 - 41N - 73W	Thorngren, Earnest L.	4-13-22	2 - 35N - 71W
	10-16-22	1 - 40N - 74W	Thorngren, Earnest S.	11-22-22	2 - 35N - 71W
	10-16-22	7 - 40N - 73W		10-19- 8	17 - 31N - 69W
Taylor, Harry J.	1-25-25	14 - 35N - 68W	Thorpe, Henry		
Taylor, Henrietta A.	12-14- 6	13 - 37N - 66W	Thrasher, William J.	7-16-23	10 - 39N - 68W
Taylor, Jennie H.	7- 8-14	15 - 31N - 76W		7-16-23	11 - 39N - 68W
Taylor, Joseph S.	4-22-91	22 - 33N - 74W	Thrasher, Sidney James	10-11-21	8 - 34N - 69W
Taylor, Louis G.	10-28-38	6 - 28N - 76W	Throphilus, Richard	4-25-21	33 - 38N - 70W
Taylor, Lyman H., Assgn.	11-21-17	11 - 40N - 74W	Tice, John J.	2-16-22	9 - 39N - 73W
Taylor, Minnie A.	7- 8-14	15 - 31N - 76W	Tillard, Andrew J.	11-12-25	22 - 38N - 72W
Taylor, Ray R.	5-18-25	12 - 35N - 73W	Tillard/O'Leary, Angelina	6-29-21	5 - 36N - 70W
	12- 9-21	11 - 35N - 73W	Tillard, Emma	10-13-39	26 - 38N - 72W
Taylor, Stephen W.	9-25-36	7 - 35N - 72W	Tillard, Rhea	12-13-30	28 - 38N - 72W
Taylor, Sylvester	3-22- 9	10 - 31N - 75W	Tillard, Rhea Nelaon	9-25-18	27 - 38N - 72W
Taylor, Sylvester L.	3-23- 8	3 - 31N - 75W		9-16-21	27 - 38N - 72W
Taylor, William G.	3-13-23	13 - 40N - 74W	Tillard/O'Leary, Angelina	6-29-21	5 - 36N - 72W
	3-13-23	7 - 40N - 73W	Tillatson, William Leslie	5-13- 4	21 - 40N - 68W
Taylor, William L.	6- 1-34	32 - 41N - 73W	Timbrel, Amos M.	11-27-23	2 - 33N - 74W
	6- 1-34	2 - 40N - 73W	Tinkham, Frank, Heirs	3-20-29	5 - 39N - 71W
Taylor/Keel, Laura J.	9-19-23	20 - 40N - 74W	Tinsley, Addison F.	2-16-22	35 - 39N - 70W
	9-19-23	21 - 40N - 74W		2-16-22	34 - 39N - 70W
Tebbs, Bert	11- 5-25	18 - 39N - 71W	Tinsley, Oswald L.	2-13-22	34 - 39N - 70W
Tebbs, Leonard Theodore	2-23-23	35 - 32N - 68W		2-13-22	3 - 38N - 70W
	2-23-23	14 - 31N - 67W	Tipton, Cal	10-11-21	12 - 34N - 75W
Tebbs, Rolla	12-18-23	13 - 39N - 72W	Tipton, John W.	8-30-20	32 - 34N - 68W
Teeters, Albert	5-12- 3	28 - 32N - 74W		2-23-23	23 - 34N - 68W
Templeton, John D.	6-19-22	10 - 36N - 75W	Tipton/Pattin, Carrie L.	12- 1-21	6 - 33N - 68W
Terrell, Robert M.	4-21-23	15 - 36N - 73W	Titterington, Walter E.	9-10-20	31 - 33N - 69W
Terry, C. E.	5- 8-22	15 - 32N - 72W		10- 9-19	31 - 33N - 69W
Terry, Emma Mae	12- 4-22	15 - 32N - 73W	Tobin, Joseph W.	10-11-21	31 - 31N - 68W
Thatcher, Frank W.	8-28-24	8 - 35N - 68W	Todd, Roy R.	9-24-35	5 - 40N - 73W
Thayer, Isaac H.	11- 5-90	2 - 32N - 75W	Toliver, Albert C.	9- 6- 2	3 - 33N - 75W
	12-20-92	1 - 31N - 76W	Tolle, Earl S.	12- 9-24	31 - 36N - 72W
	6-30-92	2 - 32N - 75W	Tolle, Susanna	1-31-25	34 - 38N - 68W
Thayer, Walter H.	10- 6-94	2 - 32N - 75W	Tompkins, Charles S.	1-25-26	10 - 36N - 73W
Thayer, Walter J.	11- 5-90	1 - 31N - 76W		3- 4-22	10 - 36N - 73W
Theophilus, Ora Matteson	5- 3-21	32 - 38N - 70W	Tompkins, Clifford B.	6-19-22	14 - 39N - 72W
Theophilus, Richard	4-25-21	28 - 38N - 70W	Tonkinson, Lee	6-27-22	2 - 39N - 74W
Thetford, Ray W.	2-20-26	17 - 35N - 72W	Tony, Bert	10-23-28	29 - 40N - 68W
Thomas, Arthur M.	5-15-26	21 - 36N - 75W	Torbert, Carl A.	3-22-22	23 - 39N - 72W
Thomas, Claud	1-10-38	14 - 32N - 76W		3-22-22	24 - 39N - 72W
Thomas, F. W.	3- 3-38	3 - 32N - 68W	Townsend, Francis M.	10-26-21	9 - 31N - 69W
Thomas, Flora	6-22-20	20 - 32N - 72W		2- 3-16	9 - 31N - 69W
	1- 5-16	20 - 32N - 72W		5- 4-34	4 - 31N - 69W
Thomas, Frederick W.	6-21-19	3 - 32N - 68W		10-26-21	9 - 31N - 69W
Thomas, George H.	3- 1-22	13 - 38N - 71W	Townsend, George E.	11- 8-21	8 - 31N - 69W
Thomas, George W., Heirs	6-29-16	23 - 31N - 76W		9-21-17	8 - 31N - 69W
Thomas, Harriet R.	12- 1-21	2 - 32N - 68W	Townsend, Martha F.	5-17-20	9 - 31N - 69W
	7- 8-21	3 - 32N - 68W	Tracy, James M.	4- 6-27	24 - 39N - 68W
Thomas, Howard W.	3-28-24	2 - 35N - 72W	Tracy, Samuel d.	5-24- 7	3 - 38N - 71W
Thomas, John D.	10- 9-22	31 - 37N - 70W	Trainer, James J.	7-13-15	3 - 32N - 69W
Thomas, Mary	7-22-20	20 - 32N - 72W	Trainer, John J.	4-15-20	3 - 32N - 69W
Thomas, May	1- 5-16	20 - 32N - 72W	Traulsen, Johann H.	3- 8-22	12 - 32N - 72W
Thomas, Philip M.	12-11-22	18 - 37N - 73W	Traut, John B.	4-12-16	7 - 31N - 77W
	12-11-22	19 - 37N - 73W	Traver, Dewitt C.	3- 9-22	14 - 32N - 72W
Thompson, Andrew L.	2-19-18	30 - 32N - 68W	Traver, Walter H.	12- 1-21	26 - 34N - 76W
Thompson, Charles B.	9-16-21	5 - 30N - 73W	Travis, James	10-25-13	2 - 33N - 72W
	9-16-21	6 - 30N - 73W	Treece, James W.	12- 2-26	32 - 34N - 76W
Thompson, Clarence W.	7-29-26	17 - 34N - 71W	Trego, Guy E.	6-20-23	33 - 39N - 71W
Thompson, Claude B.	2- 6-23	6 - 34N - 70W		6-20-23	4 - 38N - 71W
	1-27-22	11 - 34N - 71W	Trethewey, Iva M.	3-27-59	Esterbrook
Thompson, Edward Merle	11-11-22	3 - 33N - 72W		8-20-57	Esterbrook
Thompson, Felix	8-24-18	3 - 38N - 75W	Trethewey, John	11- 4-26	1 - 27N - 73W
Thompson, Herman S.	10-21-22	19 - 34N - 70W	Trevethick, Robert	10- 8-21	9 - 28N - 71W
	10-21-22	18 - 34N - 70W	Triggs, Lee F.	11-24-22	2 - 36N - 70W
Thompson, Jens C.	6-19-19	31 - 32N - 68W	Trimble, Robert	11- 5-25	25 - 40N - 70W
Thompson, Joseph	7-26-21	34 - 39N - 73W		8-29-32	1 - 35N - 77W
	7-26-21	27 - 39N - 73W	Trolson, Bertha J., Heirs	3-16-21	29 - 38N - 70W
Thompson, Luella I.	2- 6-23	10 - 34N - 71W			

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Trosper/Presba, Edna E.	7-31-25	17 - 35N - 70W	Vincent, Robert M.	6-13-93	21 - 31N - 69W
Trough, Wellington A.	8- 9-17	2 - 29N - 77W	Virden, Edward W.	11-12-14	14 - 31N - 75W
	8- 9-17	1 - 29N - 77W		12-26-23	21 - 31N - 75W
Troxel, Raymond O.	5-19-33	31 - 41N - 73W		4- 6-17	14 - 31N - 75W
Trumble, Agnes	2- 7-24	9 - 38N - 74W		10-21-22	25 - 31N - 76W
Trumper, Benjamin F.	1- 7-22	21 - 37N - 69W	Virden, Estella E.	6- 8-16	24 - 31N - 75W
Trumper, Vera M.	9-27-21	32 - 37N - 69W	Virden, Frank H.	5- 1-12	14 - 31N - 75W
	9-27-21	22 - 37N - 69W		11-11-19	18 - 31N - 74W
Tubbs, Ernest E.	9-15-22	17 - 31N - 70W		11-11-19	17 - 31N - 74W
Tubb, Hulbert	3-15- 9	3 - 33N - 68W		11-11-19	7 - 31N - 74W
Tubbs, Joseph H.	8- 3- 8	34 - 34N - 68W		7-11-12	5 - 31N - 73W
Tubbs, Leonard B.	3- 1- 9	6 - 32N - 67W	Virden/Johnstone, Hannah	1-13-22	5 - 31N - 73W
Tubbs/Leffler, Jessie	2-21-20	8 - 31N - 70W		1-13-22	9 - 31N - 73W
Tucker, Ovesten W.	3- 1- 9	4 - 32N - 72W	Virden, Peter R.	6-27-22	32 - 31N - 75W
Tully, William A.	2-14-23	28 - 35N - 73W		12-13-15	23 - 31N - 75W
	6- 9-26	21 - 35N - 73W	Virden, Sallie A.	5-13- 4	5 - 31N - 73W
Tumilty, Edward N.	2- 7-18	27 - 32N - 68W	Virden, Thomas B.	1-22-46	14 - 30N - 74W
Tupper, Walter C.	4-21-24	32 - 35N - 75W	Virden, Willard	11-23-91	24 - 31N - 74W
	3- 4-22	28 - 35N - 75W	Vitek, Anton	3-26-23	15 - 33N - 73W
Turner, Clarence	12- 4-22	24 - 37N - 74W	Vogel, Conrad H.	3- 4-22	30 - 37N - 74W
Turner, Elmer E.	1-24-22	35 - 33N - 67W		3- 4-22	19 - 37N - 74W
	1-24-22	4 - 32N - 67W	Vogler, Herman	7-17- 7	31 - 38N - 69W
Turner, Eva R.	5-26-38	7 - 37N - 73W	Vollman, Fredrick R.	1- 6-23	22 - 36N - 73W
Turner, Floyd M.	6-13-22	3 - 36N - 74W	Vollman, William R.	10-21-22	27 - 36N - 73W
	6-13-22	10 - 36N - 74W		6-27-29	28 - 36N - 73W
Turner, Ray V.	1-11-23	20 - 33N - 68W	Von Appen, Henry E.	1-10-20	18 - 33N - 71W
	1-11-23	17 - 33N - 68W		3- 3-27	17 - 33N - 71W
Turner, Thomas Glenn	10-25-35	20 - 38N - 73W		3- 3-27	16 - 33N - 71W
Tvaruzeke, Joseph	4- 6-17	9 - 32N - 75W	Voyles, John, Assgn.	4-13-11	21 - 34N - 65W
Twiford, Harry G., Assgn.	1-10-41	5 - 30N - 72W	Waarlo, Wiegert	3- 4-22	3 - 34N - 69W
Tyler, John W.	11-21-23	3 - 37N - 69W		3- 4-22	32 - 35N - 69W
	5- 4-26	1 - 37N - 69W	Wadsworth, Cash F.	9-12-27	6 - 31N - 71W
Tyler, Austin	2-20-22	5 - 40N - 74W	Wagner, Charles E.	2- 3-16	15 - 31N - 76W
Tyler, John	4-28-38	4 - 40N - 74W	Wagner, Frank	7-17-20	27 - 33N - 73W
Tyler, Neal A.	8-31-28	24 - 36N - 77W	Wagner, Henry E.	3-25-13	1 - 32N - 71W
	4-14-31	19 - 36N - 76W	Wagner, William F.	11-27-23	14 - 38N - 69W
Ullman, Eliza A.	11-18-29	28 - 29N - 71W		11-27-23	11 - 38N - 69W
Ullman, George	10-29-30	27 - 29N - 71W	Walbridge, Frank F.	3-21-31	11 - 31N - 77W
	11-30-17	30 - 29N - 70W	Walden, William W.	10- 9-22	2 - 40N - 76W
	10-29-30	27 - 29N - 71W		10- 9-22	3 - 40N - 76W
Underwood, James et al	7-12-78	7 - 33N - 75W	Walker/Hanson, Bessie	10- 4-20	21 - 33N - 68W
Underwood, Sophia A.	12-20-21	30 - 41N - 67W	Walker, Floyd A.	1-30-22	1 - 37N - 71W
Unland, W. E.	3- 8-22	11 - 32N - 72W	Walker, George	4-21-10	8 - 32N - 60W
Urban, Albert	1-20- 3	26 - 31N - 74W	Walker, Harry H.	1-28-38	1 - 39N - 77W
	10-23- 7	2 - 30N - 74W	Walker, Leslie E.	9-19-23	29 - 34N - 75W
	12- 6-24	1 - 30N - 74W	Walker, Thomas H.	5-26-20	17 - 35N - 73W
Urban, Sophia M.	1-27- 8	26 - 31N - 74W	Walker, William F., Jr.	7-16-23	12 - 32N - 69W
	7-31- 7	35 - 31N - 74W	Walker/Moody, Emma D.	10-29-24	29 - 39N - 68W
Valentine, William	1-24-25	17 - 35N - 76W	Walker; Stanley D., Sharon	12-29-67	27 - 27N - 71W
Van Dusen, Agnes	11-27-23	2 - 37N - 75W	Walkinshaw, Edward	1-23-35	21 - 32N - 76W
Van Loon, Ernest R.	5- 4-32	31 - 39N - 67W	Walkinshaw, Fred G.	6-19-22	20 - 32N - 75W
Van Pelt, John	6-16-32	23 - 37N - 72W		10- 1-39	12 - 32N - 76W
Van Tassell, Renslaer S.	7-21-90	7 - 31N - 76W		10-11-21	30 - 32N - 75W
Van Velzen, William J.	12-17-35	28 - 39N - 76W	Walkinshaw, Robert B.	3- 4-22	19 - 32N - 75W
Van Vleet, James W.	10-27-20	13 - 32N - 71W		3- 4-22	24 - 32N - 76W
Vandeghist, Ruella	1-29-41	5 - 40N - 71W	Walkinshaw; George, Sarah	8- 8-34	8 - 33N - 75W
Vandegrift, William C.	9-11-22	15 - 33N - 69W		7-30-34	8 - 33N - 75W
Vanderveen, Garard	4-12-23	4 - 33N - 70W	Wallace, Frank	9- 9-38	10 - 38N - 76W
Vanderwalker, Fred	12-19-21	29 - 35N - 67W	Wallace, Isaac V.	10-29-24	8 - 37N - 70W
Vandine, William	12-19-21	19 - 35N - 67W		8-16-22	2 - 37N - 70W
Vanish, Frank	6-12-14	4 - 32N - 67W	Wallach, Frank	11- 5-90	13 - 40N - 75W
Vanskike, Samuel Carl	7-24-39	29 - 35N - 75W	Waller, John L.	10-21-22	6 - 37N - 74W
Vasgaard, John P.	6- 9-20	8 - 33N - 75W		10-21-22	6 - 37N - 74W
	9-27-21	11 - 35N - 70W	Wallherr, Elizabeth K.	7-16-23	6 - 31N - 72W
	9-27-21	14 - 35N - 70W	Waln, George	10- 6-26	12 - 29N - 71W
Vaughn/Smith, Edna G.	4-15-20	15 - 31N - 75W	Walsh, John J.	5- 4-25	19 - 29N - 70W
Veasey, Olive	5- 1-12	13 - 31N - 75W	Walter, Edmund L.	6-29-21	9 - 32N - 69W
Veeder, Paul E.	12-16-22	13 - 30N - 71W	Walter, Ezra, Assgn.	10-17-17	10 - 28N - 72W
Vermillion, Rosa Lee	4-14-30	23 - 29N - 72W	Walton, Guy A.	2-27-25	32 - 36N - 74W
Vernal, Charles	2- 7-24	25 - 41N - 77W	Walton, William S., Assgn.	2-24-20	1 - 37N - 71W
Vernon, Willard C.	5-27-26	24 - 35N - 69W	Walton/ Williams, Rose L.	10-20-26	33 - 36N - 74W
Vesey, Glen	12- 1-21	28 - 35N - 69W		10-20-26	34 - 36N - 74W
Vest, Lawrence	6-16-32	15 - 40N - 69W	Waltz, John H.	5-17-20	21 - 37N - 67W
Vetter, James	6- 6-29	1 - 36N - 69W	Walworth, Henry	12- 1-21	35 - 35N - 76W
	10-27-20	30 - 37N - 69W	Walz, Frances T.	3-28-24	19 - 37N - 67W
Vincent, Charles A., Heirs	12-11-14	31 - 33N - 69W		3-28-24	24 - 37N - 68W
Vincent, Judson O.	3-21-34	25 - 32N - 76W	Walz, Frank V.	3-11-53	7 - 37N - 67W
Vincent, Louis N.	5-25- 8	1 - 33N - 68W		11- 9-22	7 - 37N - 67W
Vincent, Raymond	2-26-21	13 - 38N - 74W		7-22-20	6 - 37N - 67W
	8-29-19	11 - 38N - 74W			



NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Walz, Lawrence R.	8-30-20	17 - 37N - 67W	Werner, Herman	2-14-23	15 - 39N - 76W
	8-13-20	8 - 37N - 67W	Werner, Inc.	4- 3-69	21 - 36N - 75W
Walz, Otto G.	1-13-22	7 - 37N - 67W	Werner, Margaret	10-22-23	2 - 33N - 73W
	3-19-20	6 - 37N - 67W		8-20-26	7 - 33N - 72W
Walz, Rosa J.	12-19-21	13 - 37N - 68W	Werner, Mary	11-20-16	2 - 33N - 73W
Wamsley, James W.	10- 9-22	20 - 36N - 70W		5-28-14	2 - 33N - 73W
Wanek, Joseph	12-21-23	33 - 33N - 67W		11- 9-14	6 - 33N - 72W
Wanek, William M.	3-29-13	26 - 33N - 67W	Werner, Mary E.	10-31-41	10 - 36N - 69W
Ward, George C., Assgn.	11-20-16	15 - 35N - 70W	Werner, William	11-12- 6	5 - 33N - 72W
Ward, Leo A.	11-22-22	13 - 38N - 72W		9-28-98	7 - 33N - 72W
Warden, Arthur	1-22-20	29 - 31N - 68W		3-21-96	2 - 33N - 73W
Ware, Frederick H.	3-22-22	29 - 38N - 74W		12-12- 4	8 - 33N - 72W
Warren, Ira Gilbert	5-17-32	12 - 34N - 76W	Werner/Bryan, Grace A.	5-21-28	3 - 39N - 75W
Waring, Laurence C.	8- 1-21	10 - 39N - 74W	West, Clyde c.	1-23-22	13 - 36N - 75W
	8- 1-21	15 - 39N - 74W		1-23-22	24 - 36N - 75W
Waring, Lorie	2-26-21	4 - 33N - 69W	West, Pemberton B.	1-18-90	1 - 33N - 77W
Warn, Lewis O.	6-19-22	28 - 37N - 71W		1-18-90	6 - 33N - 76W
	6-19-22	33 - 37N - 71W	West, William M.	5- 1-29	28 - 36N - 74W
Warner, Geroge W.	4-14-26	33 - 34N - 71W	Weston, Abner	10- 9-22	29 - 36N - 71W
	8- 2-28	5 - 33N - 71W		10- 9-22	21 - 36N - 71W
	4-14-26	32 - 34N - 71W	Weston, John	2-26-21	27 - 36N - 71W
	7-17-22	10 - 29N - 75W		2-26-21	28 - 36N - 71W
Warner, Roy M.	8-15-21	14 - 29N - 75W	Westwick, George	2-28-93	23 - 31N - 72W
Warner/Combs, Helen M.	6-14-28	19 - 34N - 71W	Westwick, James	7-11-92	20 - 31N - 71W
Warnke, William L.	2- 4-26	17 - 36N - 71W	Westwick, William	5-22-24	8 - 31N - 72W
	2- 6-23	17 - 36N - 71W	Wharton, Frank R.	1-29-34	18 - 35N - 76W
Warren/Peppiat, Florence N.	1-16-26	26 - 41N - 69W		3-22-24	18 - 35N - 76W
Warren, Ira Gilbert	5-17-32	6 - 34N - 76W	Wheaton, Charles	10- 7-24	25 - 39N - 74W
Warren, Joseph A.	2-16-22	5 - 34N - 67W		10- 7-24	19 - 39N - 73W
Warren/Peppiatt, Florence N.	1-16-26	35 - 41N - 69W	Wheeler, Forest, Heirs	2-27-35	11 - 40N - 71W
Wasserman, Morris	9- 4-89	2 - 33N - 77W	Wheeler, Harry C.	11-27-23	14 - 35N - 76W
Waterman, Charles R.	9-27-21	18 - 32N - 70W	Wheelock, B. E.	1-26-20	23 - 33N - 73W
Waters, Robert B.	4-25-40	11 - 27N - 73W	Wheelock, Benjamin C., Heirs	3-17-21	30 - 33N - 72W
Watkins, Marie C.	8-20-23	12 - 32N - 68W	Wheelock, Benjamin E.	8- 2-18	31 - 33N - 73W
	11-24-26	27 - 33N - 68W		9-16-18	29 - 33N - 72W
Watson, Daniel C.	2-16-20	2 - 31N - 69W	Wheelock, Francis J.	2-17- 8	32 - 33N - 72W
Watson, James V.	3-30-27	8 - 36N - 68W	Whitaker, Percy G.	6-19-19	35 - 31N - 68W
	3-30-27	30 - 37N - 68W	Whitaker, Walter W.	3-13-23	22 - 31N - 73W
Watson, Luna	1-29-34	1 - 38N - 68W	White, Asher A.	2- 2-20	13 - 31N - 68W
Watson, William	6-12-36	5 - 30N - 70W		4- 4-22	7 - 34N - 67W
Watson, Willie W.	6-13-22	29 - 37N - 68W		7-27-51	7 - 34N - 67W
	10-26-25	29 - 37N - 68W	White, Edith	7-14-14	32 - 32N - 67W
Weaver, John D.	3-26-25	12 - 36N - 70W	White, Eliza V.	7-13-17	3 - 30N - 76W
	12-21-28	3 - 30N - 77W		11-16-14	13 - 31N - 75W
	12-21-28	2 - 30N - 77W	White, Elizabeth	2- 3-22	1 - 31N - 75W
Weaver, Ray F.	8-27-35	19 - 36N - 74W		2- 3-22	12 - 31N - 75W
Webb/Harold, Clara C.	9- 9-13	14 - 38N - 75W	White, Emma Cornelia, Heirs	8-20-23	6 - 31N - 74W
Webber, Charles T.	9-15-22	11 - 36N - 74W	White, Henry N.	4- 6-17	22 - 32N - 68W
	5-22-24	14 - 36N - 74W	White, Mary	4-29-24	8 - 35N - 73W
Webber, Eliza A., Heirs	6- 7-40	5 - 33N - 74W		4-29-24	17 - 35N - 73W
Webel, Charles C. P.	2-12- 2	22 - 33N - 77W	White, Mollie Frances	6-18-16	11 - 31N - 75W
Weber, Alexander W.	10- 5-31	34 - 30N - 77W		11-16-14	12 - 31N - 75W
Weber, Frank	2- 5-15	30 - 33N - 73W	White, Ray C.	9- 6-35	12 - 39N - 69W
Webster, Donelly G.	11-15-23	29 - 34N - 69W		1-19-39	23 - 30N - 77W
	1-31-25	29 - 34N - 69W	White, Willard H.	9- 2-20	13 - 31N - 75W
Webster, Lenore Perky	3- 9-22	12 - 32N - 72W	White, Mary	4-29-24	8 - 35N - 73W
Weiss, Grover C.	6-29-21	8 - 38N - 69W	White, Willard H.	6- 6-12	13 - 31N - 75W
Welch, Gilbert L.	6- 4-15	33 - 31N - 67W		3-27-13	10 - 31N - 75W
Welch, John	12-12- 4	3 - 38N - 75W	White/Richardson, Orrille C.	11-11-22	6 - 36N - 73W
Welch, Perry F.	4- 7-24	26 - 40N - 69W	Whiting, Marion F.	2- 7-24	1 - 34N - 69W
Welin, Gilbert C.	2-18-18	23 - 31N - 68W		8- 8-17	1 - 34N - 69W
Weller, Fred E.	4-25-38	20 - 32N - 69W	Whitley, Jasper	10-17-89	12 - 34N - 76W
Wells, Edmund J.	2-15-90	33 - 34N - 75W	Whitlock, William S.	4- 6-17	25 - 33N - 68W
Wells, James B.	11-18-20	17 - 32N - 75W		10-11-21	26 - 33N - 68W
	3-19-23	15 - 32N - 75W	Whitmore, William H.	6-14-23	18 - 34N - 72W
Wells, Mary	6-11-25	8 - 32N - 75W	Whitney, Leon R.	10-26-25	26 - 40N - 77W
Welty, John P.	1-22-22	15 - 34N - 75W	Whitney, Thomas C.	9-11-90	19 - 31N - 70W
Weltz, John P.	1-23-22	14 - 34N - 75W	Whitney, William	6-15-23	14 - 40N - 76W
Wensel/Fitzhugh, Bertha E.	9- 6-35	32 - 31N - 71W	Whittaker, Luther I.	6- 6-29	5 - 38N - 72W
Werner, Alice	3-19-23	12 - 39N - 76W	Whitticar, William W.	2-25-36	28 - 32N - 75W
	3-19-23	11 - 39N - 76W	Whittle, Harry G.	1-13-22	3 - 35N - 70W
	5-26-25	21 - 30N - 72W		1-13-22	4 - 35N - 70W
Werner, Benjamin, Heirs	1- 8-24	1 - 33N - 73W	Wickwire, Fred	9-19-23	25 - 33N - 70W
Werner, Edmund	11-24-25	2 - 33N - 73W		4-15-20	26 - 33N - 70W
	11-24-25	1 - 33N - 73W	Wickwire, Fred A.	6-14-24	27 - 33N - 70W
Werner, Frank Joseph	4- 2-24	32 - 40N - 75W		11- 4-20	26 - 33N - 70W
Werner, Herman	4- 2-37	6 - 39N - 75W	Wickwire, Leland A.	6-29-20	35 - 33N - 70W
	1-14-49	8 - 39N - 74W	Wickwire, Nellie	7-25-40	27 - 33N - 69W
	7-14-31	33 - 40N - 75W	Wiedeke, Fred J.	9-30-25	7 - 32N - 74W
	9- 8-39	7 - 39N - 75W		2-24-25	7 - 32N - 74W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Wiederanders, Charles F.	12-16- 9	15 - 31N - 71W	Wilson, Bayard C.	12-20-21	35 - 31N - 69W
	3-10-26	2 - 28N - 72W		2-18-22	28 - 31N - 69W
Wiederanders, Charles L.	3-10-26	35 - 29N - 72W	Wilson, Charles M.	2-16-28	17 - 31N - 69W
Wiederanders, Lydia E.	6-16-25	23 - 29N - 72W		9- 9-12	33 - 32N - 73W
Wiker, Miller K.	12-31- 3	28 - 36N - 69W	Wilson, Charley	12-21-23	27 - 40N - 71W
	11- 5-25	17 - 32N - 74W	Wilson, Clarence	2- 6-23	35 - 35N - 72W
Wiker, Wesley K.	5- 5-10	24 - 38N - 72W	Wilson, Fred	6-19-19	5 - 36N - 69W
	6-28-13	21 - 35N - 68W		1-31-21	3 - 36N - 69W
Wilbourn, Ballard L.	5-10-23	20 - 37N - 71W	Wilson, George L.	7-11-12	30 - 32N - 64W
Wilbrandt, Mary A.	9-21-23	12 - 39N - 75W	Wilson, Isabel M.	6-30- 6	22 - 33N - 67W
	9-21-23	7 - 39N - 74W	Wilson, Ivan L.	1-16-17	5 - 32N - 72W
Wilburn, Ballard L.	5-10-23	20 - 37N - 71W	Wilson, Ivan S.	3-22-22	5 - 32N - 72W
Wileman, Harry	3-31-22	9 - 35N - 68W	Wilson, J. G.	9-19-46	36 - 31N - 69W
Wileman, Joseph L.	7- 7-24	17 - 35N - 68W	Wilson, James B.	1-27- 8	21 - 32N - 73W
Wileman/Walker, Loretta L.	10-26-25	5 - 35N - 69W		3-12- 8	18 - 32N - 71W
Wiley, Claude I.	3-12-25	21 - 35N - 76W	Wilson, James M.	5-12- 3	30 - 28N - 72W
	3-17-25	28 - 35N - 76W	Wilson, Laura	12- 4-22	34 - 30N - 72W
Wilgus, John	8-26-20	7 - 32N - 68W		8-26-21	4 - 29N - 73W
Wilgus, John W.	4-13-27	7 - 32N - 68W	Wilson, Lee	11-11-22	10 - 29N - 73W
Wilkinson, Harold M.	6-19-22	15 - 34N - 73W	Wilson, Mary A.	11-15-23	14 - 34N - 77W
Wilkinson, Isaac N.	2-20-24	31 - 35N - 69W		6-21-19	28 - 35N - 76W
Wilkinson, J. Errett	12- 9-21	22 - 34N - 73W		7-13- 5	5 - 28N - 72W
Willan, J. H. Douglas	4-18-90	13 - 31N - 71W	Wilson, Pearl E. B.	9-19-23	11 - 33N - 71W
	2-21-90	18 - 31N - 70W	Wilson, Thomas C.	5-15-26	14 - 34N - 77W
	4- 8-12	7 - 32N - 67W		2-20-13	33 - 34N - 77W
Willey, Ralph C.	5-10-23	29 - 38N - 75W		5-15-26	34 - 34N - 77W
Williams, Carl C.	5-10-23	20 - 38N - 75W	Wilson/Markland, Clara	7- 6-25	23 - 41N - 75W
Williams, Carl T.	9-19-23	1 - 34N - 73W	Winder, John E.	8-20-24	6 - 31N - 69W
	6-22-20	1 - 34N - 73W		8-20-24	31 - 32N - 69W
	12-18-19	22 - 37N - 73W	Wingert/Howard, Edith M.	3-28-35	8 - 27N - 72W
Williams, Charles	12-19-10	1 - 32N - 72W	Winiker, Albert F.	10-22- 3	35 - 34N - 77W
Williams, Elizabeth P.	2- 6-25	25 - 37N - 73W	Winkler, Arthur M.	7-18-21	20 - 37N - 69W
	6-29-21	25 - 34N - 73W	Winkler/Cinek, Clara M.	12-12-23	5 - 36N - 69W
Williams, Fred E.	1-28-26	27 - 36N - 68W		12-12-23	30 - 37N - 69W
Williams, George E.	8-27-35	9 - 36N - 68W	Winslow, Warren R.	3- 8-22	11 - 32N - 72W
	11-15-23	34 - 34N - 75W	Wintermote, Clarence E.	10-12-25	14 - 31N - 69W
Williams, J. Walter	5- 4-17	21 - 35N - 68W		8- 7-22	14 - 31N - 69W
Williams, John T.	6-20-93	9 - 32N - 71W		9-15-32	23 - 31N - 69W
	7-11-12	10 - 32N - 71W	Wintermote, Ellsworth V.	2- 4-20	15 - 32N - 69W
Williams, John W.	1-12-23	30 - 38N - 75W	Wintermote, E. V.	12-12-52	15 - 32N - 69W
Williams, John Walter	9-27-21	20 - 36N - 67W		4-21-24	15 - 32N - 69W
Williams, Joseph	6-18-33	34 - 29N - 75W	Wintermote, Lee R.	7-22-20	21 - 32N - 68W
	5- 7-35	10 - 28N - 75W		6-19-19	21 - 32N - 68W
Williams, Minerva, Assgn.	8-22-23	3 - 33N - 74W	Wintermote, Martin L.	2- 4-19	19 - 32N - 69W
Williams, Mose	4-12-32	5 - 35N - 77W		10- 9-22	19 - 32N - 69W
Williams, Robert V.	5- 9-22	32 - 32N - 75W	Wintersteen, Carrie M.	11-22- 4	25 - 39N - 73W
Williams, Ross E.	7-13-11	3 - 32N - 63W	Wintersteen, Fred H.	6-27- 3	15 - 39N - 73W
Williams, Roy T.	8-21-35	14 - 30N - 77W	Winzinger, Lawrence T.	1- 8-24	31 - 35N - 73W
Williams, Thomas D.	6-20-17	3 - 31N - 71W	Wise, Frank	2-13-22	22 - 39N - 76W
	4-15-20	10 - 31N - 71W	Witt, Oliver P.	10-22- 3	26 - 31N - 73W
	12- 1-21	9 - 29N - 73W		5-29-20	22 - 31N - 73W
Williams, Verne D.	6-19-22	14 - 31N - 71W	Witt, William H.	2- 3-22	20 - 38N - 69W
	10- 6-21	10 - 31N - 71W		3-16-21	20 - 38N - 69W
Williamson, Glen H.	12-15-10	33 - 28N - 72W	Wittenburg, John C.	2- 3-22	20 - 38N - 69W
Willis, Charles A.	10-13-10	3 - 35N - 68W		1-31-27	3 - 33N - 70W
	2-16-11	5 - 35N - 68W		12- 1-21	10 - 33N - 70W
	9-11-18	21 - 32N - 71W	Wittke, August R.	10-13-10	34 - 31N - 75W
	11-20-16	3 - 35N - 68W	Wohlford, Claude	2-16-22	6 - 38N - 70W
	11-20-16	5 - 35N - 68W	Wohlford, Jonathan	11- 8-21	1 - 38N - 71W
Willis, Warren R.	12- 1-21	27 - 29N - 76W	Wolcott, Adelaide V.	3- 8-90	2 - 32N - 76W
	11-18-24	13 - 29N - 77W	Wolcott, Francis E.	12- 4-93	35 - 33N - 76W
	4-10-25	22 - 29N - 77W		1-30-92	26 - 33N - 76W
Willox, James	10-14-20	19 - 30N - 72W	Wolf, Edward C.	3- 4-22	10 - 37N - 75W
	4-29-93	15 - 29N - 73W	Wolf, Henry J.	12- 9-21	34 - 34N - 70W
Willox, James C.	12-30-21	22 - 30N - 72W	Wolfe, Alonzo R.	12- 1-21	28 - 35N - 67W
	3- 1-22	20 - 30N - 73W		12- 1-21	27 - 35N - 67W
	6- 4-29	23 - 39N - 73W	Wollen, Byron E.	3-12-25	26 - 39N - 69W
	9- 9-38	23 - 29N - 73W	Wollhers, Elizabeth K.	7-16-23	6 - 31N - 72W
	5-27-37	18 - 30N - 72W	Wolvington, Earl	3-10-26	24 - 35N - 77W
	3- 6-52	11 - 29N - 73W		3-10-26	25 - 35N - 77W
Willox, Nellie F.	3-26- 8	10 - 30N - 73W	Wood, Elmer E.	4-23- 8	28 - 32N - 75W
Willox/Blomquist, Evalene	12- 2-38	18 - 30N - 72W		7-30-15	27 - 32N - 75W
Wills, J. F.	10-25-35	23 - 31N - 72W		4-10-23	32 - 32N - 75W
Willson, Edna L.	3-17-25	3 - 33N - 67W	Wood, George Gregg	10-12-91	6 - 32N - 65W
Willson, Eugene P.	2- 4-26	28 - 34N - 67W	Wood, Lares Perry	1-13-22	21 - 35N - 74W
Willson, George L.	1-27- 8	28 - 34N - 67W	Wood, Lars Perry	1-23-22	21 - 35N - 74W
Willson, Howard F.	4-26-33	10 - 33N - 74W	Wood, Malcolm E.	2-14-34	17 - 29N - 76W
Willson, Kenneth M.	7-13-25	27 - 34N - 67W	Wood, Mary E.	8-31- 7	17 - 31N - 75W
Wilson, Albert E.	3-26-25	14 - 31N - 73W		2-18- 3	8 - 31N - 75W

NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE	NAME	PATENT DATE	SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE
Wood, William B.	8-25- 2	17 - 31N - 75W	Young, Noah, Jr.	3-27-14	5 - 33N - 75W
	2-18- 3	17 - 31N - 75W		11-20-16	5 - 33N - 75W
	6-17-95	30 - 33N - 73W	Yowell, Clark S.	8-26-21	5 - 37N - 71W
Woodring, William C.	4-21-23	33 - 34N - 73W	Yungclas, Florence L.	2-16-22	23 - 35N - 71W
	4-21-23	32 - 34N - 73W	Zaichkin, Annie	4- 1-31	7 - 32N - 72W
Woodruff, John D.	5-12-10	26 - 34N - 77W	Zaichkin, Constantine	4-15-20	23 - 31N - 75W
Woods, Edward F.	6-19-22	31 - 34N - 75W		1-20-20	24 - 31N - 73W
Woodward, Daniel T.	11- 8-15	15 - 32N - 68W	Zaichkin, Elizabeth E.	6- 6-41	6 - 33N - 71W
	6-29-21	11 - 32N - 68W	Zaichkin, Peter	7-18-21	19 - 31N - 72W
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